



## H.Res. 1090 – Honoring the esteemed former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1090 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative William Jefferson (D-LA) on April 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1090 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1090 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday on July 18, 2008, and extends best wishes to him and his family;
- Honors his many accomplishments;
- Congratulates him for his efforts to promote dialogue to peacefully resolve conflicts between people in Africa and around the world; and
- Celebrates his contributions to South Africa, the United States, and the international community.

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### BACKGROUND

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918 in Transkei, South Africa. Mr. Mandela was educated at University College of Fort Hare and later at the University of Witwatersrand where he earned a degree in law in 1942.

In 1944, Mr. Mandela joined the African National Congress (ANC) which was the party in opposition to the ruling National Party. Through the ANC, Mr. Mandela became engaged in resistance efforts against the apartheid policies of the National Party. After the ANC was banned in 1960, Mr. Mandela became a proponent for the establishment of a military wing within the ANC. The ANC decided to not oppose this movement and the Umkhonto we Sizwe was established as the military wing of the ANC.

Along with other ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe members, Mr. Mandela was arrested in 1962. He was sentenced to five years of hard labor, and in 1963 was brought to stand trial for the plotting to overthrow the government by violence. On June 12, 1964, he was sentenced to life imprisonment along with eight other accused conspirators. From 1964 to 1982, Mr. Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island Prison off of Cape Town and later at Poolsmoor Prison. Mr. Mandela never changed his political opinion or position during his imprisonment, even to obtain freedom.

Mr. Mandela was freed on February 11, 1990, and was elected President of the ANC in 1991. The practice of apartheid was ended over a series of negotiations from 1990 to 1993, and ended in 1994 with the South Africa's first election with universal suffrage. Mr. Mandela has been internationally recognized for his stance against apartheid and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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