

Photographs, Sound and Video Archives on Nelson Mandela

The vast majority of photographs, audio and video footage on Mandela is NOT held by the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and therefore the NMF cannot supply these to third parties.

Below is a synopsis of what there is.

1918 to 1937

We have not found anything from this period – no photograph or sound recording.

1937 to 1941

There are only three photographs of Mandela in this period

- Two Healdtown College class photographs, 1938; photographer unknown
- Mandela with his first suit, 1939; ©PKA Gaeshwe/Black Star
- Mandela with Bikitsha, c1941; photographer unknown

1942 and 1962

Photographs are held by various photo agencies, and photographers. The NMF have a small collection of photos from the period in which Mandela was underground.

There are two recordings from this period

- The interview by GBJ Hiltermann for the Netherlands television broadcaster, AVRO, which was broadcast in January 1961
- The interview by Brian Widlake for ITN, May 1961

1964 - 1990

Mandela's famous speech from the dock on 20 April 1964 has been digitised and the audio recording of the entire speech is available from the National Archive and Record Service of South Africa.

In prison, Mandela was photographed a few times

- 1964 on Robben Island by Cloete Breytenbach for the Daily Express. Only three photos exist Mandela sewing, talking to Walter Sisulu and breaking stones in the courtyard

- 1977 also on Robben Island. The Apartheid government organised a media junket to the Island. Photographers unknown. There is also film footage from two sources. One by the SABC and the other by filmmaker David Oosthuizen from Namibia
- 1989 at Victor Verster Prison; photographer unknown
- 1990 meeting with President PW Botha by Ters Ehlers (private secretary to former President PW Botha)
- 1990 receiving a gift from Kobie Coetsee, photographer unknown

February 1990 until 2004

These are held by various agencies, media houses and photographers, and include all the iconic photos of this period such as Mandela's release from Victor Verster Prison, the first speech in Cape Town, Voting in 1994, taking the oath as President of South Africa. The NMF does not hold copyright to any of these images and footage.

2004 – Dec 2013

The NMF holds some footage and photographs; others are held by various agencies and photographers.