Miss K Edwards

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30.01.1991

Mr F.W. de Klerk

Parliament of South Africa

120 Plein Street

Cape Town

South Africa

Dear Mr de Klerk,

I am writing this letter to implore you to end the imprisonment of Mr Nelson Mandela. This man, who has dedicated his life to fighting hard for racial equality and justice, has endured twenty seven years on Robben Island. Twenty seven years. Take a moment to look back over the last twenty seven years of your own life and all the things you have been able to do. Imagine swapping all of this for a 6m by 5m prison cell. Surely you understand why the suffering of a righteous man needs to be ended immediately.

First and foremost, the main reason why Mr Mandela must be released with immediate effect is because he has suffered for far too long on Robben Island. Did you know that he and his fellow African prisoners have had to campaign for trousers? Trousers – a basic need during the brutal South African winters – of all things! This is only one example of the racism that exists in this establishment. In addition to this, it has been proven that African prisoners get a different diet of food to other inmates – because of the colour of their skin. This abhorrent treatment needs to stop right now.

Secondly, if Nelson Mandela is released, I think he will have a positive impact on this nation’s future. He needs to be placed firmly in the driver’s seat to move this country forward and out of its wretched ways. Imagine a South Africa where black people and white people are not separated. Imagine a South Africa where African people can have a say in how they want their rightful nation to be governed. Imagine a South Africa where we look back on the past and say ‘we will never allow that to happen again.’ Isn’t that the South Africa that you would want to live in?

In conclusion, I believe with all my heart that Nelson Mandela, along with his fellow political prisoners, must be released immediately. We need a new South Africa that is free from racism. We need a future where South Africa becomes a symbol of hope for the rest of the world. You know what you must do to make this happen.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Edwards