



## Nelson Mandela's fellow ex-prisoners honoured for anti-Apartheid struggle

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Ahmed Kathrada and Denis Goldberg, who between them served 48 years in prison in South Africa were awarded the Freedom of the City of London for their dedication to the cause, even when then they knew they faced a possible death sentence.

During a ceremony at London's Guildhall on Wednesday, Lord Joel Joffe and George Bizos, the lawyers who defended them during the Rivonia Trial in 1963-1964, were also presented with the title.

Mr Kathrada and Mr Goldberg's comrade, Andrew Mlangeni, was also due to receive the title but could not attend due to ill health. It is hoped he will receive it when he is well enough to travel to London.

Reflecting on their struggle, Mr Goldberg, now aged 82, said: "In only 21 years we have come a tremendously long way in undoing what the Apartheid government did. But the racial segregation was burnt into the minds of every South African. There is still a long way to go."

Mr Goldberg was arrested with his comrades after police discovered their plan for a 7,000-strong uprising against the government.

However, being the only white defendant in the case, he was kept in a separate "whites only" prison in Pretoria.

He said: "I still don't know how we got caught - probably through our own

carelessness. We were all certain we were going to be hanged.

"Had we remained undiscovered for even a week longer, by which time we would have actually begun producing weapons, we most likely would have been."

Mr Kathrada, now 86, worked alongside Mr Goldberg as part of the African National Congress to organise protests, even after government orders to shut down the group.

He said: "Even when we were banned we knew we had to carry on our work in some form or other."

The formal Freedom ceremony was attended by Nelson Mandela's daughter and granddaughter, and the son of Mr Mlangeni.

Denis Goldberg, a former member of the African National Congress (ANC) military wing, was sentenced to four life terms in prison after being convicted of armed resistance to Apartheid in 1964.

He served 22 years in a "whites only" prison in Pretoria.

Kathrada, aged 86, joined the passive resistance campaign of the South African Indian Congress when he was 17, which led to his first arrest and prison sentence for defying laws discriminating against Indians.

It was in 1952 that he met Mandela and joined his fight against Apartheid laws.

In 1962 he was put under house arrest but was found to be breaking orders by continuing his campaign underground.

He spent 26 years in prison, 18 on Robben Island, before his release on October 15 1989.

But despite their many years in prison, the comrades said they always knew they would win their fight.

Mr Goldberg said: "Nelson Mandela always said it would be a long walk to freedom, and we always knew we were going to succeed.

"We didn't want to die, but we felt that if we had to, then so be it.

"Now we have a flourishing society now where people can speak out in the streets and protest."







