

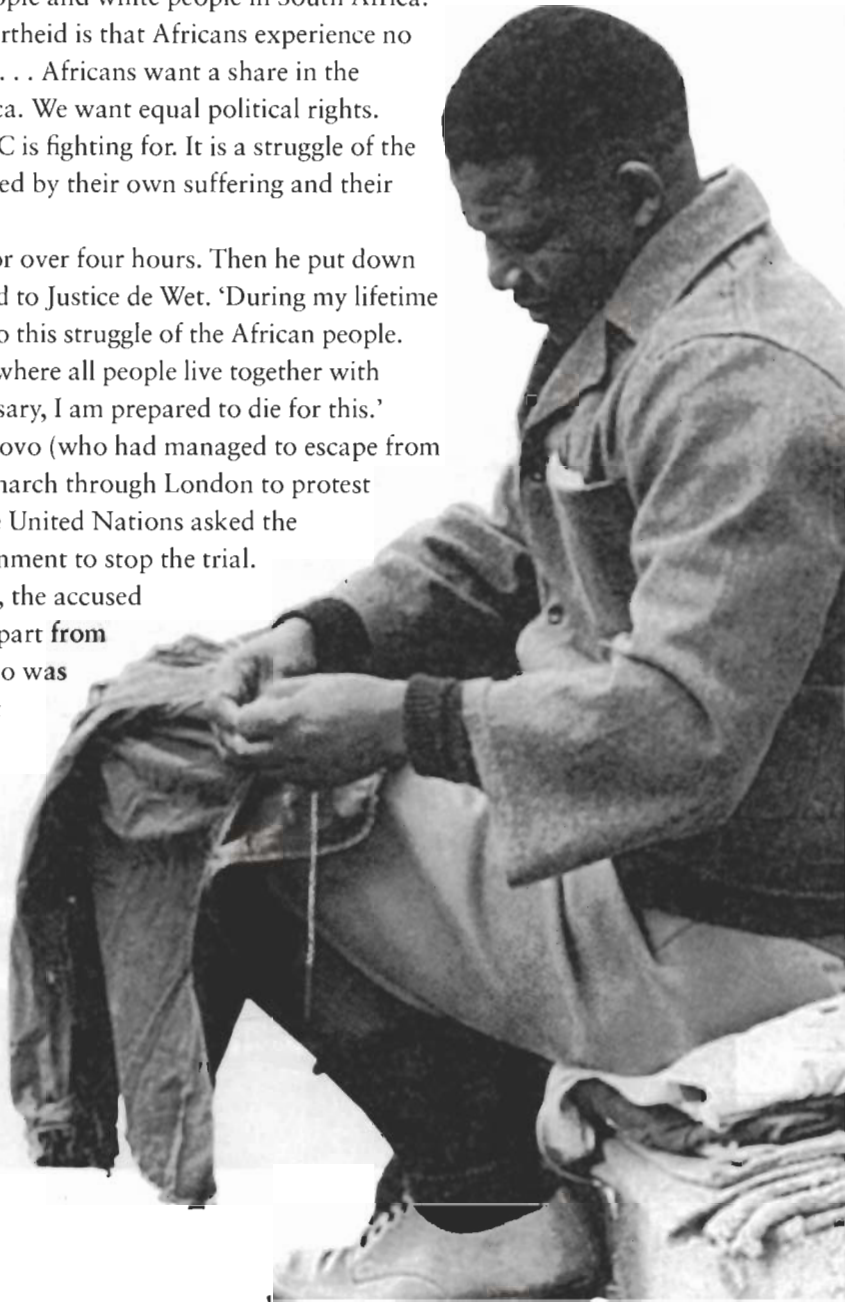
wasn't a communist himself, the Communist Party was the only political group in South Africa which believed in the equality of Africans. Mandela spoke about the difference in the lives of black people and white people in South Africa: '... the result of apartheid is that Africans experience no dignity in their lives ... Africans want a share in the whole of South Africa. We want equal political rights. This is what the ANC is fighting for. It is a struggle of the African people, caused by their own suffering and their own experience.'

Mandela spoke for over four hours. Then he put down his papers and turned to Justice de Wet. 'During my lifetime I have given myself to this struggle of the African people. I believe in a nation where all people live together with equal rights. If necessary, I am prepared to die for this.'

In London, Joe Slovo (who had managed to escape from South Africa) led a march through London to protest against the trial. The United Nations asked the South African government to stop the trial.

On 11 June 1964, the accused were found guilty (apart from Lionel Bernstein, who was released). That night they prepared themselves for the death sentence. The next day, they stood before the judge. Justice de Wet told the court: 'The sentence for all the accused will be life in prison.' The Rivonia Trial was over.

Mandela doing prison work



■ In 1963, Looksmart Solwandle Ngudle, a member of the ANC, became the first political prisoner to die while the police were questioning him. During the 1960s, the police began using torture while questioning prisoners.

In the street, Winnie waited with their two daughters for a last sight of her Nelson, but the crowd was too great. She drove home to Orlando and put the children to bed. Only then did she sit down and cry.

The prisoners were taken back to Pretoria Prison. Every night in the prison, African prisoners sang freedom songs. Before they slept someone always shouted '*Amandla!*' and hundreds of voices replied '*Ngawethu!*' That night was no different, but in the middle of the night Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, Mhlaba, Motsoaledi, Mlangeni and Kathrada were woken and taken from the prison. They were flown to Robben Island to begin their sentence. (As a white man, Dennis Goldberg was kept in Pretoria Prison because there were only black prisoners on Robben Island.)

Robben Island

