

# Now that Madiba is Dead...: Remember to Remember that Icons created by Oppressors will Never Liberate the People

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Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [History](#)

Now that Madiba is dead...

beware the icon makers  
they will say he was great  
they will laud his calls for peace  
they will wring their hands and cry  
speaking only of the man  
disregarding the people  
explaining away the movement  
pretending the revolution was won  
they will deny their guilt  
denying their privilege  
obscuring his birth in the pains and the blood of his people  
denying the capital crimes  
of neoliberal friends of apartheid still alive  
now that Mandela is dead

they will say no one else will come  
they will wink that we still organize  
they will pretend that de Klerk was his friend  
they will ignore the birth pangs in Jo'burg today  
pretending to honor him with deceitful silence  
in the face of Capetown shanties and Manenburg misery  
and Durban oppression  
while former murderers still prey  
and bougie negros still play  
while lying bishops still pray  
and corporations still rape  
and the people in South Africa still die  
like people across the Global South  
as the Revolution dies as Madiba's children live in squalor  
as the wine growers awake in shacks  
as the homeless sleep beneath the floors of stores—after hours  
when they will not be seen while they are still being sold

beware the speakers of phrases that lie  
they will disremember liberation struggles  
that have yet to be won  
they will pretend that Mandela belonged to them  
denying the people to whom he belonged

remember to remember Chris Hani  
remember to remember Robben Island  
remember to remember the South African Charter  
remember to remember that icons created by oppressors

will never liberate the people  
remember to remember that they are still killing Martin  
remember to remember that they are still killing Malcolm  
remember to remember that Assata still lives  
remember to remember that our liberation will be sold to us for profits  
unless we work for it with our minds and our actions  
then we will remember Mandela as he was  
for he will live inside us  
and the lies will no longer deceive  
because the struggle will continue  
and the last will be first at last

From M Thandabantu Iverson, <http://on.fb.me/1ildvAc>

Forwarded by Ezili's Haitian Lawyers Leadership Network

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