



**Statement from the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network on the passing of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela**

It is with profound sadness that the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN) offers its heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the Madikizela-Mandela family and the people of South Africa on the unfortunate passing of Ms Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe Madikizela-Mandela.

A stalwart of the African National Congress (ANC), Madikizela-Mandela played an integral part in the movement against apartheid in South Africa. Her formidable contribution to fighting for freedom in the country stemmed from her early conscious experience of the inequality that surrounded her in a rural Eastern Cape village called Bizana and later in Johannesburg, where she fully bore witness to the brutality of the apartheid system.

The SAHRDN remembers Madikizela-Mandela as a courageous and fearless struggle giant who continued to fight in the face of imprisonment, torture and banishment. Following the imprisonment of her late ex-husband and former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, Madikizela-Mandela continued to fight tirelessly against the injustices of the country despite the countless harassment that she and her two young daughters received from the apartheid regime.

Madikizela-Mandela's resistant spirit, her never-ending determination to free her people and the powerful radical voice that she brought to the struggle will continue to inspire us and many generations of activists to never stop fighting for justice and equality.

**Arnold Tsunga:**

**Chairperson: SAHRDN**