

Thursday 28th January, 2021.

L1: I can change text from first person to third person.



After Sharpeville, the government banned the ANC and other organisations fighting for freedom. They did not want to share South Africa with black people. Our peaceful marches had not worked, but we were not giving up. We decided that the only way to get our freedom was to fight the government in the same way as they were fighting us – with guns.

The ANC formed an army which we called Umkhonto we Sizwe, which in Xhosa means "The Spear of the Nation". I was sent abroad on a secret mission to ask other countries to help us fight apartheid. I also went to train as a soldier.

In 1962 I returned to South Africa, using a false passport and calling myself David Motsamayi. I stayed in hiding for many months while the police searched everywhere for Nelson Mandela . . .

Then, one day in August, I was stopped in my car and arrested. I was sentenced to five years in prison for leaving the country illegally and for inciting workers to strike. Later the police also arrested a group of my comrades, including my old friend Walter Sisulu. Just nine months into my five year sentence, I was told I would stand trial again. We were all charged with planning to overthrow the government. If we were found guilty, we could be sentenced to death.

