

Shine Brighter Première

SnapFile 11 “My camera is my weapon”

Doc 1. Audio p. 104 – What is Apartheid? *Speakeasy News*, 2026

Voiceover: Apartheid comes from the Afrikaans word meaning “apartness”. It was a legal segregation system in South Africa which lasted for several decades.

From 1948, the apartheid system was implemented by the South African government. It legally classified every South African as white, black, coloured, or Asian, and gave them different rights. Black people had fewer rights than anybody else and lived in dire conditions. They were forced to live in “homelands” where the agricultural land was poor, or in “townships” – ghettos outside the big cities or near mines or other places where black people worked. They had to carry a pass to travel from one place to another, couldn’t vote and had limited access to education. They couldn’t sit or eat in the same places as other people and had to follow the instructions on signs that could be found all over the country.

Different organisations opposed apartheid. The African National Congress became the most important. In 1964, Nelson Mandela and many other ANC leaders were arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. Nelson Mandela was not released until 1990. Many activists had to flee their country, and apartheid was firmly condemned by several other countries.

Finally, in 1991, apartheid was abolished. The first democratic elections were organised, and, in 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected the first black president.

What is Apartheid? *Speakeasy News*, 2026

Doc 3. Video p. 106 – Peter Magubane on June 16, *SABC News*, 2017.

Peter Magubane: This was in Alexander township. I was covering, I was covering June 16. When the police saw me, they didn't like what I was doing. They arrested me. I went to trial. I was given a suspended sentence, but I continued with my work. That's the first day of June 16, when they didn't want me to take their picture and I had to say to them, a struggle without documentation is no struggle. Please let everybody do their work, then you will win the struggle. If you don't let anybody come and do whatever to take pictures, really, when they want to take pictures, then you are losing. One in the middle of them said "No, we know him, we know him". Then they said okay. I said no, not just for me, for everybody who has a camera whether he's black, white or green, let them do their work. I had to show the world how South Africa was living, how apartheid was working. The world had to see how apartheid was working through my pictures.

Peter Magubane on June 16, *SABC News*, 2017.