

## Obama Kicks Off Mandela's 100th Birthday Celebration

South  and freedom fighters around the world celebrated the birth and life of Nelson Mandela this Wednesday. Mandela's  has been recognized as Mandela Day since 2010, but this year marked 100 years since the former South African president's birth. Barack Obama kicked off the celebration in Johannesburg with a lecture reflecting on past  and honouring Mandela's legacy in promoting democracy and human rights. In Obama's first major appearance since leaving office, he used the  to comment on today's "uncertain times," calling the current news cycle "head-spinning and bizarre" and warning that human progress is at risk. Obama ended on a positive note, telling young people to "Keep . Keep marching. Keep building. Keep raising your voice."