



EFF CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF HARRY BELAFONTE!

Wednesday, 26 April 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) celebrates the life of Harry Belafonte, a politically conscious Activist and brilliant Musician who embraced and promoted South African Musicians and Music during the difficult years of apartheid. He gracefully died at the age of 96 on the 25th of April 2013.

Belafonte is a 3 times Grammy winner (including a Lifetime Award) who was born in New York to Jamaican parents and grew to become one of the most successful politically conscious and involved Artists in the music history of the US and the world. Belafonte's discography include 30 studio albums, 8 Live recordings, 3 Compilation albums and 8 Collaboration Albums.

Politically, Belafonte was part of the Civil Rights Movement alongside Martin Luther King, was an active participant in the anti-apartheid movement, opposed the illegal US trade embargo in Cuba, openly celebrated Comandante Fidel Castro, and actively opposed George Bush's War Mongering foreign policy.

During his life, Belafonte made it his mission to embrace and promote emerging African Musicians in the United States of America. South Africa's most successful Musician Miriam Makeba gained massive global

attention after being featured in a 1960 song by Belafonte called One More Dance. In 1965, Belafonte collaborated with Miriam Makeba to release *An Evening with Belafonte/Makeba*, which went on to win a Grammy Award for Best Folk Performance or Best Folk Recording in 1965.

South Africa's Musical Icon Hugh Masekela was signed to Harry Belafonte's productions and went on to achieve international recognition and acclaim.

Belafonte mentored and gave practical support to many African musicians in the US, including Icon Caiphus Semenya. In 1972, Belafonte collaborated with South African artist Letta Mbulu to release one of the most successful albums which included songs such as Mamani, Mahlalela, Nonqonqo, and Qonqoza.

Despite these very successful projects, Belafonte also worked with Jonas Gwangwa, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and one of Nigeria's most successful Musician Fela Kuti. His interest in and promotion of African and particularly South African music raised levels of awareness about the brutality of apartheid in South Africa.

In 1988, Harry Belafonte released his final album called *Paradise in Gazankulu*, which highlighted the plight of black people under apartheid South Africa. In 2014, Harry Belafonte was awarded a South African National Order of the Companions of O.R Tambo in recognition of his consistent and distinguished contributions in the struggle against apartheid.

Harry Belafonte's life is worth celebrating, and his contribution in raising global awareness against apartheid and his promotion of African and South African musicians is commendable. The EFF salutes Harry Belafonte and will forever cherish his contributions! He lived a well-meaning and generous life!



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