



# ZENZILE MIRIAM MAKEBA

March 4, 1932 -  
November 9, 2008

South African singer, songwriter, actress,  
United Nations goodwill ambassador, and  
civil rights activist

She brought African music to a Western audience and popularized the world music and Afropop genres.

She made several popular songs critical of apartheid, becoming a symbol of opposition to the system, particularly after her right to return was revoked.

The 1977 song "Soweto Blues", written by her former husband Hugh Masekela, was about the Soweto uprising.