

## Africans share in grief over passing of Dr. Maya Angelou

Written by GIN

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May 28 (GIN) – Legendary poetess Maya Angelou was renowned in Africa much as she was beloved in the country of her birth.

Comments on the website of the *Mail&Guardian* newspaper were already posting Wednesday morning as the news of her passing went worldwide.

“Rest in peace daughter of the soil,” wrote “Hlambamanzi” on the M&G website. “ You will forever live in our memories and consciousness. We thank God, our ancestors for giving us such a wonderful and caring mother.”

“May the family of Maya Angelou be comforted in this moment of grief. You are in our prayers.”

It was preceded by a post by 1Moithuti0 who recalled her poem “Still I Rise...” and wrote: “Phenomenal Woman and she'll live forever.”

Angelou’s African connection was said to have begun during her time as Northern Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Council where her anti-apartheid activism developed. She connected with Vusumzi Make, a South African civil rights activist and lawyer. The two moved in 1960 to Cairo, Egypt with their son Guy where Angelou worked as an associate editor at the weekly English-language newspaper *The Arab Observer*.

In 1962 she and Guy moved to Accra, Ghana, staying there until 1965. She became an administrator at the University of Ghana, and was active in the African-American expatriate community. She was a feature editor for *The African Review*, a freelance writer for the *Ghanaian Times*,

wrote and broadcast for Radio Ghana, and worked and performed for Ghana's National Theatre. She performed in a revival of *The Blacks* in Geneva and Berlin.

Her stay in Ghana brought her together with Malcolm X during his visit in the early 1960s. Angelou returned to the U.S. in 1965 to help him build a new civil rights organization, the Organization of Afro-American Unity; he was assassinated shortly afterward.

Later, she wrote: “For Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No

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man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place.”