

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Zubeida Jaffer is a journalist, author and activist. She is a graduate of the University of Cape Town and Rhodes University. She also holds a masters degree from Columbia University in New York where she won the best foreign student award in 1996. She is presently Writer-in-residence at the University of the Free State and associated with the Communication Science Department.

She started her career at the Cape Times in 1980 and also spent a short stint at the Rand Daily Mail in Johannesburg in the same year.

At the same time, she volunteered in developing the community newspaper Grassroots that helped bring together local community organizations. These organizations grew and eventually combined to form the United Democratic Front that led the uprising against apartheid. In 1981, while still at the Cape Times, her passport was withdrawn and she was not allowed to travel for nine years. During the eighties, she was detained and tortured twice and continues to be hampered by the after effects of these horrendous experiences that many journalists endured under apartheid.

Her work has earned her numerous local and international awards. These include the Muslim Views Achiever Award as well as the Honor Medal for Distinguished Service to Journalism from the University of Missouri in the USA.

In 1994 she was selected as one of seven media professionals in the country to help oversee the relationship between political parties and the media during this country's first democratic elections.

Her memoir, *Our Generation*, eloquently tells the story of her emotional journey through the years of South Africa's turbulence into a new democracy. It has been translated into Arabic. Her second book, *Love in the Time of Treason* has been described as a "tour de force" and is published internationally under the title, *On Trial with Mandela*.

*Beauty of the Heart, The life and times of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke*, is her third book and tells the story of South Africa's first black female graduate.

She is the publisher of The Journalist ([www.thejournalist.org.za](http://www.thejournalist.org.za)), a multimedia website designed to tell the stories of forgotten pioneers of journalism in her country and on the continent. She has a personal website that carries some of her writings. ([Www.zubeidajaffer.co.za](http://www.zubeidajaffer.co.za))

She hopes to publish her research into *What Decolonisation Means for Journalism Education* in 2018.

Her only daughter is a teacher and is doing her honours in education part-time at UCT. She lives in Wynberg, Cape Town where her family has resided for close to 60 years.