

## Winnie pushes for ANC power

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Winnie Mandela launched a bid for power Sunday in the African National Congress by accusing its leaders, including her estranged husband, Nelson Mandela, of failing the black masses and setting the stage for civil uprisings.

In what could mark the start of a bitter political war pitting Winnie against ANC President Nelson Mandela, Winnie made clear she had no desire to form a new party and hoped to engineer a powerful ANC role for herself.

"I am not about to abandon the ANC to the mercies of elitist politicians," she wrote in a column that appeared in Sunday newspapers. "Because the leadership is failing the people, it does not mean the organization has failed. That leadership can, and will, be changed by the people."

"If I have support, I will locate that support within the ANC," she said. "The speculation that want to form a new party is way off the mark."



Winnie Mandela

Winnie Mandela was a fiery activist with a strong following in the ANC during Nelson Mandela's 27-year imprisonment for anti-apartheid activities. She gave up her leadership posts in the organization last year after separating from Mandela and after her conviction in the kidnapping and assault of four youths.

But she remains an ANC member, and her comments were likely to strike a nerve with militant, young blacks who consider the elderly, ANC leaders too moderate and conciliatory to the governing National Party in their rush for power.

In particular, they are angered over top ANC leaders' decision to share power with the National Party and rival black groups in a post-apartheid government, even if the ANC wins the most votes.

Unemployed South Africans last week charged that the white-run government is giving cars and other perquisites to top ANC leaders.