

## **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ON APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., always saw the Civil Rights Movement in the United States in its broader context and stressed that “the struggle for freedom forms one long front crossing oceans and peoples.” Despite the difficult struggle in the United States, he spoke out against racism and war beyond the national borders. He showed particular concern over the situation in South Africa where the racist government was “engaged in a grim war against its own Black people”.

For him, there was not only the bond between Black Americans and Africa, but an additional spiritual connection- non-violent resistance, in the form of Satyagraha, was born in South Africa under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi who used these methods in the independence movement in India. Dr. King was a student of Gandhi's philosophy and political actions in India.

Dr. King wrote in his last major work, *Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?*

“Among the moral imperatives of our time, we are challenged to work all over the world with unshakeable determination to wipe out the last vestiges of racism...”

“Racism is no mere American phenomenon. Its vicious grasp knows no geographical boundaries. In fact, racism and its perennial ally - economic exploitation - provide the key to understanding most of the international complications of this generation.

“The classic example of organised and institutionalised racism is the Union of South Africa. Its national policy and practice are the incarnation of the doctrine of white supremacy in the midst of a population which is overwhelmingly Black. But the tragedy of South Africa is virtually made possible by the economic policies of the United States and Great Britain, two countries which profess to be the moral bastions of our Western world.”

Dr. King sought to build “an international alliance of peoples of all nations against Racism” and to promote non-violent action to quarantine the regime in Pretoria.