

Three Freedom Fighters

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There are many wars and conflicts 1 (go) _____ on in the world today. Some people 2 (tend) _____ to see violence as the best means to solve a conflict. However, there are other ways; freedom and justice 3 (achieve) _____ also by peaceful means. Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela are prominent examples of how freedom and democratic rights 4 (win) _____ through non-violent methods.

Mahatma Gandhi

During the first half of the 20th century the British Empire began to decline and the colonies 5 (gradually - give) _____ their independence. India, which 6 (know) _____ as "The Jewel in the Crown" among the British colonies, 7 (win) _____ its independence in 1947. The fight against British rule in India 8 (lead) _____ by a little man 9 (dress) _____ in a loin cloth and 10 (wear) _____ sandals. Mahatma Gandhi lived for nearly 25 years in South Africa 11 (work) _____ as a lawyer, after which he returned to India in 1914 and started his work for a free India. What he 12 (see) _____ and 13 (experience) _____ during his time in South Africa formed the basis for his philosophy. He was devoted to a non-violent struggle and his ideas of passive resistance influenced many activists 14 (fight) _____ for a free and independent India. Because of his political activity and resistance against the British, he 15 (imprison) _____ many times; his policy of non-cooperation and pacifist ideals made his movement difficult to fight with traditional means. He lived to see the end of British rule in India, but the political turmoil after the British withdrew had two results: the controversial division of India into Islamic Pakistan and Hindu India in 1948, and the tragic assassination of Gandhi by a fanatic Hindu nationalist in New Delhi. Gandhi's spiritual influence and ideals 16 (give) _____ inspiration to people and political leaders all over the world, 17 (include) _____ Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King was one of the many leaders who 18 (inspire) _____ by Mahatma Gandhi. He 19 (become) _____ the front figure in the fight for equality and civil rights for the black people of the southern states in the USA. The segregation and open racism which 20 (prevail) _____ in the south 21 (rule) _____ unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1954, a verdict that 22 (inspire) _____

many activists to take up the fight against racism and segregation. King grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and 23 (**experience**) _____ discrimination and racism at first hand. He 24 (**preach**) _____ non-violent resistance even when faced with brutal opposition. In the early sixties, many Blacks, 25 (**include**) _____ Dr. King, were impatient with the speed of desegregation.

Dr. King led nearly 250,000 people in a peaceful protest march on Washington D.C. in 1963 where he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Gradually, his work and efforts produced results, and he 26 (**award**) _____ Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Despite this prestigious recognition, racist attitudes of many white people in the south were hard to deal with and in 1968 he 27 (**assassinate**) _____ outside his hotel in Memphis.

During the fight for equal rights, protest marches 28 (**often – meet**) _____ with brutal force by the police and many of King's co-activists 29 (**also – kill**) _____. However, the struggle 30 (**win**) _____ little by little, and one of the prime results was that in 2008 the USA elected the first black president in history.

Nelson Mandela

The white population of South Africa were mainly descendants of British and Dutch colonists and maintained their power over the black population by a brutal segregation policy 31 (**call**) _____ apartheid. As in the southern states of the USA, the Blacks 32 (**keep**) _____ down by the white rulers and 33 (**discriminate**) _____ against in every possible way. Nelson Mandela (born 1918) 34 (**train**) _____ as a lawyer and became an activist and leader of the African National Congress (ANC) - a movement 35 (**fight**) _____ for the rights of the black people of South Africa. In 1964, he 36 (**arrest**) _____ for his activities and 37 (**imprison**) _____ on Robben Island, where he **was to spend** the next 27 years. But even from his cell his work continued and he became a symbol of the liberation process and an icon of the struggle for freedom for people all over the world. He 38 (**released**) _____ in 1990 after continuous international pressure 39 (**include**) _____ the embargo and boycott of South Africa. He then took up negotiations with the apartheid regime and an agreement was reached in 1992 which included the first election where all South Africans were free to vote. In 1994, he 40 (**elect**) _____ the first black president of the Republic of South Africa in the first free election ever.

Mandela was an admirer of both King and Gandhi, but he saw non-violence as one of many practical means and not as an absolute principle. He, after all, 41 (be) _____ in his early career the leader of the ANC's military wing.

Today, Mandela is still a highly praised and admired key figure in the fight for justice and democracy. He 42 (honour) _____ with many prizes including the Nobel Peace Prize and is an attraction wherever he 43 (go) _____ in the world 44 (give) _____ speeches to inspire people never to give up the fight for freedom.

These three strong leaders 45 (be) _____ and still are role models for many people around the world. They 46 (give) _____ massive inspiration to everyone who 47 (protest) _____ against injustice and discrimination.