

## Nonviolent Means For Conflict Resolution

Pope John XXIII, through the power of words and his ability to communicate between Soviet communist leader Khrushchev and United States President John F. Kennedy, he was able to prevent a major catastrophic event for the human race, the Cuban missile crisis. Pope John's role in the resolution of such crisis is greatly overlooked but it was very important. Through the mediation process, a disastrous event was avoided. The psychological aspect of mediating through the use of words and not actions has been a great factor in modern societies to prevent tragedies of all sorts.

The use of violence by the afflicted many times counteracts the actions of government officials and the results are not pleasant for those who try to have their voice heard. As stated in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, freedom of speech is an inalienable right and can be used by anyone. Unfortunately, people believe that by having freedom of speech, they can rebel against government and disturb the peace. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. have exemplified that through discussions of certain topics, events can be handled in a peaceful and civilized manner.

The fight for equality on behalf of Martin Luther King Jr., became an inspiration to citizens who at the time were not supportive of the desegregation movement. His "I Have a Dream" speech became a national inspiration to all since the impact that words had on all of those spectators was immense. Martin Luther King demonstrated that equality could be reached through non-violent means, through peaceful actions such as the Montgomery Buss Boycott of 1955. Similar to Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi exemplified his beliefs of fighting for India's independence through peaceful

reforms and by taking violence out of the picture. Gandhi's decision of working through love, truth and nonviolence became the leading factors of such legacy he had not only in India but in the world as announced by Martin Luther King Jr. "Gandhi was probably the first person in history to lift the love ethic of Jesus above mere interaction between individuals to a powerful and effective social force on a large scale."

It is now a matter of time in which government officials will embrace the methods that international leaders like Gandhi, Luther King Jr. and Pope John XXIII lived by. And in the process of doing so, the utopian ideology that there will be world peace could be achieved. It is not in the ideology that each political party or leaders of nations believe in, it is in the actions they take through their use of words and their diplomacy. Their goals will not be achieved through wars neither by creating political reforms in which affected groups will rebel against the government but through the mediation method that will allow both parties to be satisfied. The physical power that weapons of mass destruction possess do not compare to the power that words have in a person and the psychological impact that it creates. Words will become the peace agent of this world.