

Assassination of Martin Luther King, 1968



Reference

DUKAS_87722998_POL

Title

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Creation date

19680408

Caption

April 8, 1968- Memphis Tennessee, United States: Coretta Scott King and James Abernathy lead a Silent March in Memphis following the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. Andrew Young, on the right. Thousands gathered to honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. who was gunned down on the balcony at the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. King had traveled to Memphis in support of striking African American city sanitation workers who had staged a walkout to protest unequal wages and working conditions. Several sanitation workers had been killed on the job due to unsafe working conditions. The American clergyman and civil rights leader, was fatally shot as he stood on the balcony of his motel room. He was rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m. King, a prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was known for his use of nonviolence and civil disobedience. Despite the urging for calm by many leaders after his death, a nationwide wave of riots erupted in more than 100 cities. After the assassination, the city of Memphis quickly settled the strike on favorable terms to the sanitation workers. James Earl Ray, a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary, was arrested on June 8, 1968, in London at Heathrow Airport, extradited to the United States, and charged with the crime. On March 10, 1969, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary; he died in prison on April 23, 1998, at the age of 70. (Art Shay/Polaris) (FOTO:DUKAS/POLARIS)

Special instructions

City

Memphis

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Original references