

Beat: News

## stood among the elite figures who shaped the course of civil rights

### Jackson, Passes Away

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#### USPA NEWS - Jackson, Passes Away

The world is mourning the loss of one of the most influential civil rights leaders of modern history. Reverend Jesse Jackson, widely regarded as one of the greatest living legends and champions of civil rights, passed away on the morning of Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in Chicago, United States. His death marks the end of an era defined by an unyielding struggle for justice, equality, democracy, and human dignity, said Shazada Hayat President UICF (UK) and international community welfare campaigner.

Reverend Jackson stood among the elite figures who shaped the course of civil rights and human freedom, often mentioned in the same breath as President Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela. Like these towering figures, Reverend Jackson devoted his life to challenging injustice and uplifting the oppressed. A protégé of Dr. Martin Luther King, Reverend Jackson rose to prominence during the height of the American civil rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King recognised his talent and dedication, praising his outstanding work in the field and promoting him within the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The two men developed a close bond built on trust and shared vision. On April 4, 1968, Reverend Jackson was present in Memphis, Tennessee, standing below the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, speaking with Dr. Martin Luther King moments before the tragic assassination that shocked the world. That defining moment would forever link Reverend Jackson to the legacy of his mentor.

Shazada Hayat went on to say, After Martin Luther King's death, Reverend Jackson dedicated his life to carrying forward the dream and vision of equality and justice. His tireless campaigning for civil rights, freedom, democracy, and human rights became the hallmark of his public life. He founded organisations, led protests, and became a powerful advocate for marginalised communities not only in the United States but across the globe. Though his primary focus was the empowerment and liberation of Black Americans, his message resonated far beyond national borders.

Reverend Jackson also broke new political ground. Believing that meaningful change required political power, he encouraged minorities to seek high office and participate fully in democratic systems. He himself ran twice for the presidency of the United States, making history as one of the first Black candidates to mount serious national campaigns. Although he did not win, his campaigns paved the way for future leaders.

Shazada Hayat said, That legacy became evident in 2008 when Barack Obama was elected the first Black president of the United States. Reverend Jackson attended the inauguration and was visibly moved, shedding tears of pride as President Obama delivered his victory speech in Chicago's Grant Park. Many observers saw that moment as a realisation of dreams long championed by Reverend Jackson and those who came before him.

Tributes have poured in from around the world, describing Reverend Jackson as the greatest living legend and the voice of victims of oppression, injustice, and inequality.

As a British Pakistani I am proud to have had the rare honour to be commended by the greatest living legend civil rights campaigner Reverend Jackson, in recognition of my outstanding achievement and service to community welfare and human rights. Reverend Jackson's recognition will remain a cherished memory for me and my family for generations.

Shazada Hayat said, Reverend Jackson's admirers often compared his moral leadership to that of historic civil rights champions of justice before him, who stood against tyranny and oppression. His speeches echoed with calls for unity, compassion, and collective action. He reminded the world that civil and human rights are not privileges granted by governments but God-given rights inherent to all humanity.

Throughout his life, Reverend Jackson confronted systemic injustice with courage and resilience, advocating for voting rights, economic fairness, education reform, and peace. He challenged discrimination wherever he encountered it and worked tirelessly to give hope to those who felt voiceless. His influence inspired countless individuals to enter public service, activism, and politics,

believing that they too could make a difference.

As the world reflects on his passing, many are calling for renewed commitment to the causes he championed.

With global conflicts, inequality, and human rights violations continuing to affect millions, leaders and citizens alike are urged to uphold the principles Reverend Jackson defended so passionately. His death leaves a profound void, but his message endures.

Reverend Jesse Jackson carved his name into the eternal history of civil rights as one of its greatest champions. He leaves behind a legacy of courage, faith, and unwavering dedication to justice. As condolences are extended to his family in Chicago and to his supporters worldwide, many acknowledge that he will be remembered not only as a leader, but as a symbol of hope. Though he has departed this world, his life's work stands as a testament to the enduring struggle for equality and freedom. Reverend Jackson believed, justice would ultimately prevail, and that conviction continues to inspire those determined to carry his mission forward, said Shazada Hayat.

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