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gives heart
to bishopâ\200\231s
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JOHANNESBURG South Africa
(AP) â\200\224 Bishop Desmond Tutuâ\200\231s Nobel
Peace Prize brought shouts of joy from
his supporters and a sense of vindica-
tion for clergymen facing government
pressure in the struggle against white
.domination. ;

Bishop Tutu is the most prominent
of a half-dozen leading clerics in the
growing church movement for black
rights, one of the main channels for
peaceful protest against the white-
controlled government.

Increasingly, the church leaders
have become targets of government
action, including police investigations,
detention and legal charges.

South Africaâ\200\231s president, PW.
Botha, declined to comment Tuesday
after the announcement by the Norwe-
gian Nobel Committee that it had
selected Bishop Tutu.

The government has tried to brand
all opponents of apartheid, including
the clegymen and others seeking
peaceful change, as part of a leftist
campaign to overthrow white rule
through violence. The churches have
argued that suppression of peacet'ul
protest will merely fuel violent opposl-
tion.

In February, a government commis-

sion recommended a halt in foreign
funding for the bishopâ\200\231s South African
Council of Churches. Foreign sources
provide 90 percent of the councilâ\200\231s
income.

The council, which represents 12 Â°

million churchgoers, 88 percent of
them black, provides assistance to rel-
atives of political prisoners and people
killed or wounded in anti-apartheid
riots. Bishop Tutu says such aid is
humanitarian and not an endorsement
of violence.

When told he won the award, the bishop, who was in New York on sabbatical, said that the prize told victims

of apartheid: "Hey, we are winning, justice is going to win." He said the award showed South Africans that the world does care.

- Fellow South African clergymen called the award an important boost at a time of mounting tension between the state and opponents of apartheid. That system of race segregation declares the 22 million blacks to be citizens of tribal homelands, without rights, such as voting and property ownership, in South Africa.

The Nobel committee acknowledged that the award was given to Bishop Tutu to push forward the campaign for peaceful change.

Staff members of the South African Council of Churches rejoiced in an outburst of dancing and song when the decision was announced.

Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of the nation's 6 million Zulus, said: "An award to any black South African of

the Nobel Peace Prize is an award to

every black South African who is striving to liberate this country from racist policies."

The chief said the prize recognized a moving of the indomitable spirit of man struggling against terrible odds.

With a sluggish economy feeding black frustrations, the last two months have seen the worst black rioting in South Africa since the Soweto riots of 1976. More than 80 people have died in the recent unrest, all black except for a white infant killed by a rock thrown through a car window in a black township last week.

The rioting broke out Sept. 3 in Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg,

the segregated black township where
69 blacks were shot dead by police in

an anti-apartheid demonstration in
1960. 2

That year, Chief Albert Lutuli, a lay
preacher who was head of the then-
legal African National Congress, was
the Nobel Peace Prize winner. The
ANC was banned in 1961 and subse-
quently embraced a policy of violent
resistance. .

The Rev. Beyers Naude, a dissident
white clergyman banned from 1977
until last month, said Bishop Tutu's
prize will certainly encourage those
who have taken a similar stand to con-

tinue with the struggle with greater

commitment than ever before, Rev.
Naude is the highest-ranking member
of the Afrikaner Dutch Reformed
Church to become a leading anti-
apartheid activist.

The Southern African Catholic
Bishops Conference said of the award:
This recognition focuses world atten-
tion on our troubled country.

The conference president, Arch-
bishop Dennis Hurley, was told last

week he faces possible charges of

falsely accusing the police of commit-
ting atrocities against blacks in South-

. West Africa, or Namibia

An editorial in Beeld, the Afrikaans-
language newspaper in Johannesburg,
criticized the selection of Bishop Tutu.
We can cite many examples of Bishop
Tutu's outbursts which have made him
an unlikely peace prize recipient.

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