

# Bachelet – first woman president of Chile

■ **Sep 29, 1951:**  
**Veronica Michelle Bachelet** born in Santiago

■ **1973: President Salvador Allende** killed in military coup. Bachelet's father **Alberto** detained and tortured by military junta, later dies of a heart attack

■ **1975:** Michelle Bachelet and her mother kidnapped, tortured and then exiled to Australia. They settle in East Germany, where she qualifies as a paediatrician

■ **1979:** Bachelet returns to Chile, still in iron grip of dictator **General Augusto Pinochet**

■ **1986-1990:** Works secretly as a human rights activist helping children of the tortured and disappeared



■ **1990: Democracy restored in Chile**

■ **1994-1997:** Bachelet, a lifelong socialist, works for democratic government as adviser to undersecretary of health

■ **1996:** Loses bid to become mayor of Santiago suburb Las Condes, but wins praise for her political savvy

■ **2000:** As health minister, she begins thorough reform of

Chile's antiquated system

■ **2002:** As one of world's few female defence ministers, Bachelet's profile begins to soar. She resigns her post and begins campaign for presidency

■ **Jan 15, 2006: Bachelet defeats closest rival in a run-off poll, becoming Latin America's first directly elected woman leader**

