

Charles Taylor's rise and fall

1948 Born to family of Americo-Liberians, descendants of freed slaves who founded Liberia in 19th century

1977 Gains degree in economics at a Massachusetts college, U.S.

1980 Returns to Liberia to join government following coup d'état by Master Sergeant **Samuel Doe**. Lands plum job in charge of country's budget

1983 Doe accuses Taylor of embezzling \$900,000. Taylor flees to U.S. where he is jailed on extradition warrant but later escapes

1989 Launches uprising against Doe's regime. His forces, which include many children, are noted for brutality in fighting that kills around 200,000 people

1996 After winning power militarily, Taylor becomes president in 1997 elections. Victory attributed to fear that if he lost, war would reignite

1999 Faces uprising by **LURD – Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy**. Launched near border with Guinea, rebellion gradually advances towards capital, Monrovia

JUN 2003 UN-backed tribunal in Sierra Leone issues warrant for Taylor's arrest for alleged war crimes during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war

AUG 2003 Taylor flees into exile in Nigeria after **LURD** rebels and U.S. President **George W. Bush** demand he leave



MAR 2006 Arrested in Nigeria after being caught trying to escape custody – sent to Sierra Leone to face 2003 war crimes charges

JUN 2006 Moved to The Hague due to fears that trial in Freetown could spur unrest in Sierra Leone or Liberia

JUN 4, 2007 Charles Taylor stands trial in The Hague charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, including sexual slavery, mutilation and sending children into combat. He has pleaded not guilty

Picture: AP

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