

Morgan Tsvangirai

Zimbabwe
opposition
leader



■ **Mar 10, 1952:** *Morgan Richard Tsvangirai* born in Gutu, Southern Rhodesia, eldest son of a bricklayer

■ **1968:** Leaves school with no qualifications, works in textile factory

■ **1974-84:** Works in nickel mine, rising to post of general foreman

■ **1988:** As leader of *Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions*, he breaks ranks with *President Robert Mugabe's* ZANU-PF party

■ **1997:** Leads so-called *stay-away* strikes which force Mugabe to cancel proposed income tax increases

■ **1999:** Helps found labour-backed *Movement for Democratic Change*

■ **Feb 2000:** MDC defeats government referendum on reform bill permitting seizure of white-owned farms without compensation

■ **Jun:** MDC inflicts surprise blow against Mugabe by winning 57 of 120 seats in parliamentary election

■ **2002:** Presidential election bid fails

■ **2007:** Arrested and beaten by police for taking part in illegal prayer meeting. Pictures of his injuries draw international condemnation