

Embattled Madagascar president resigns

President **Marc Ravalomanana** has stepped down and handed over power to the military. The move comes hours after opposition leader **Andry Rajoelina** installed himself in the president's offices, seized earlier by pro-opposition troops. The crisis on the Indian Ocean island has left over 100 people dead since January



CRISIS TIMELINE

- Dec 2006:** **Marc Ravalomanana** (left) re-elected as president
- Jan 2009:** Dozens killed during protests in Antananarivo following closure of opposition radio station. Opposition leader **Andry Rajoelina** (right) calls on president to resign
- Feb 3:** Government sacks Rajoelina from post as mayor of Antananarivo
- Feb 8:** Police open fire on opposition rally, killing at least 28 people
- Mar 8-11:** Soldiers mutiny – army chief ousted by senior officers
- Mar 15:** Ravalomanana offers to hold referendum to resolve standoff between government and opposition
- Mar 16:** Army storms presidential palace. Rajoelina says he has mandate to lead transitional government



- Population:** 20 million
- Religion:** Indigenous beliefs 52%, Christian 41%, Muslim 7%
- Per capita gross domestic income (2008):** \$1,100
Around 70% of population live on less than \$2 a day
- Life expectancy:** 62 years