

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah

Afghanistan's
presidential
candidate who
promises "hope
and change"



■ Sep 5, 1960:

Born in Kabul to ethnic Pashtun father and Tajik mother

■ **1970s:** Educated in Kabul where his father is appointed to Senate by **King Zahir Shah**

■ **1973:** Zahir Shah ousted in coup – communist republic formed

■ **1979:** USSR invades Afghanistan

■ **1983:** Abdullah gains degree in ophthalmology at Kabul University

■ **Mid-80s:** Becomes close adviser to resistance leader **Ahmad Shah Massoud**, organizing medical aid

■ **1988:** Soviet troops withdraw – Afghanistan descends into civil war

■ **1992:** Communist government collapses, Massoud's forces enter Kabul. Abdullah appointed foreign minister in governing coalition

■ **1994:** Taliban formed. Abdullah becomes Northern Alliance's diplomatic voice opposing Taliban

■ **1996:** Taliban captures Kabul

■ **2001:** Taliban removed from power by Northern Alliance and NATO. Abdullah backs **Hamid Karzai**, serves as foreign minister until 2006

■ **2009:** Leads opposition against Karzai in presidential elections