

Key dates in Al Megrahi affair

bp



■ **Jan 2001:** **Abdel Baset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi** found guilty of mass murder of 270 people in Lockerbie bombing and jailed for life

■ **May 2007:** Prime Minister **Tony Blair** helps arrange prisoner transfer agreement (PTA) between UK and Libya. UK government insists deal does not cover Megrahi. **BP signs \$900 million oil deal in Tripoli**

■ **Sep:** British Justice Secretary **Jack Straw** warns Scottish government he has been unable to exclude Megrahi from PTA because of overwhelming British interests

■ **Oct 2008:** Megrahi diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer

■ **Apr 2009:** PTA comes into force, allowing Megrahi to apply to serve remainder of sentence in Libya

■ **Aug 20:** Scottish government releases Megrahi on "compassionate grounds" after he drops appeal

■ **Aug 21:** Megrahi receives hero's welcome in Tripoli. **Colonel Gaddafi's** son, **Saif al-Islam Gaddafi**, claims decision to release Megrahi was tied to trade deal – denied by London

■ **Aug 25:** Prime Minister **Gordon Brown** insists UK government had "no role" in decision to free Megrahi

■ **Jul 8, 2010:** Grappling with controversy over BP's disastrous Gulf of Mexico oil spill, four U.S. senators call for investigation into allegations that BP lobbied UK in 2007 to try to secure release of Megrahi

■ **Jul 15:** BP admits lobbying British government over Libya deal but denies specifically discussing Megrahi

■ **Jul 20:** Megrahi affair overshadows Prime Minister **David Cameron's** first official visit to Washington

■ **Jul 29:** Senate to conduct special hearings into links between Megrahi release and BP deals in Libya