

# Anti-government protests spread to Libya

Hundreds of Libyans calling for the government's ouster have taken to the streets in the country's second-largest city as Egypt-inspired unrest spread to the country long ruled by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi



▶ **Muammar Gaddafi**, 68, is Africa's longest-serving leader

▶ Has ruled Libya for 41 years, during which country has had no parliament or constitution

▶ Holds no official title, but critics say he wields absolute power over Libya's politics, military and security forces

▶ Faces growing anger that Libya's vast oil wealth is not being passed down to people

▶ Is keen to secure dynasty, with second son **Saif al-Islam** tipped as successor

<b>Population:</b> 6.5 million
<b>Life expectancy:</b> 77 years
<b>Religion:</b> Sunni Muslim 97%
<b>Ethnicity:</b> Berber and Arab 97%
<b>GDP per capita:</b> \$13,800 (2010 est.)
<b>Unemployment rate:</b> 30% (2004 est.)
<b>Population below poverty line:</b> 33%