

The rise and fall of Muammar Gaddafi



1969: 27-year-old Captain **Muammar Gaddafi** (left) leads bloodless coup in Libya, ousting **King Idris**

1970: Building on resentment of Italy's 1911-43 colonial rule, Gaddafi expels some 20,000 Italians

1974-76: Gaddafi authorizes televised public hangings

1984: Agents operating out of Libyan People's Bureau in London shoot dead British policewoman **Yvonne Fletcher**



1986: Libyan agents accused of bombing Berlin disco, killing two American soldiers. U.S. President **Ronald Reagan** bombs Libya – 60 people killed, including Gaddafi's adopted baby daughter

1999: After 13 years of crippling UN sanctions, Gaddafi hands over two Libyans charged with Lockerbie bombing



2001: Scottish court convicts alleged bomber, **Abdel Baset al-Megrahi**, and sentences him to life imprisonment

2003: Gaddafi pays \$2.7 billion compensation to families of Lockerbie victims

2006: U.S. and Libya resume full diplomatic ties

2009: Gaddafi celebrates 40 years in power

Feb 2011: Hundreds of unarmed anti-government protesters killed in bloody crackdown by Gaddafi

Mar: UN-backed NATO military campaign mounted to prevent Gaddafi regime from using force against its own people

Jun: International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Gaddafi and his son **Saif al-Islam** for crimes against humanity

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

1977: Declares "people's revolution" – creates **Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah**

Late 1970s: Actively backs global terrorism, supplying Semtex and hosting training camps for **IRA**, supporting Venezuelan **Carlos the Jackal**, and Palestinian terrorist **Abu Nidal** (below) – who moves operations to Tripoli



1988: Libyan agents blow up **Pan Am Flight 103** over Scottish town of Lockerbie, (below) killing 270 people

1989: French **UTA Flight 774** blown up over Sahara, killing 170 passengers and crew. Six Libyans convicted by Paris court

1996: In his bloodiest act of internal repression, Gaddafi orders shooting of more than 1,100 prisoners at Tripoli's **Abu Salim Prison**

2003: Gaddafi pledges to dismantle weapons of mass destruction



2004: Sanctions lifted. Britain's **Tony Blair** visits Gaddafi

Aug 22: Six months after world community decides that Gaddafi has to go, rebel forces enter Green Square in heart of Tripoli



1980: Gaddafi sanctions assassination of dissidents living abroad