



## Today in History

*August 26, 1883*

▲ The massive two-day eruption of Krakatoa began. It killed some 36,000 in Java and Sumatra and the explosion was loud enough to be heard in Australia

**1498:** Michelangelo was commissioned to carve the Pieta for St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican

**2008:** Russia recognised Georgia's two breakaway regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia

**2011:** Scientists announced they had discovered a so-called "diamond planet" about 4,000 light-years away

**2011:** Protesters in Syria defied the security crackdown and called on President Bashar al-Assad to resign