



Today in History

February 2, 1971

▲ **Major General Idi Amin took over as military head of state in Uganda. Over 100,000 people are believed to have been killed during his eight-year regime**

1709: Alexander Selkirk, inspiration for Robinson Crusoe, was rescued after five years on an uninhabited island

1990: South African president F.W. de Klerk lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress party

2004: The Hubble telescope detected oxygen and carbon in the atmosphere of a distant gas-giant planet, Osiris

2009: An appeal for emergency relief in Gaza was launched after weeks of fighting between Hamas and Israel