

Revolutionary Cuban icon Fidel Castro dies at 90

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Cuba: Fidel Castro, Cuba's former president and leader of the Communist revolution, has died. He was 90.

With a shaking voice, his younger brother, and incumbent President Raul Castro, announced on state television that his brother died at 10:29 pm on Friday night.

"The commander in chief of the Cuban revolution died at 22:29 hours this (Friday) evening," Raul Castro said.

The revolutionary icon, one of the world's best-known and most controversial leaders, survived countless US assassination attempts and premature obituaries, but in the end proved mortal after suffering a long battle with illness.

Castro ruled Cuba as a one-party state for almost half a century before handing over the powers to his brother Raul in 2008.

Castro was imprisoned in 1953 after leading an unsuccessful rising against Batista's regime and was released in 1955 under an amnesty deal.

Castro was elected in 1976 as President by Cuba's National Assembly, he reaches an agreement in 1992 with US over Cuban refugees.

In 2008 castro stands down as President of Cuba due to health issues.

Fidel Castro Ruz was born August 13, 1926, in eastern Cuba's sugar country, where his Spanish immigrant father worked first recruiting labor for US sugar companies and later built up a prosperous plantation of his own.

Castro attended Jesuit schools, then the University of Havana, where he received law and social science degrees. His life as a rebel began in 1953 with a reckless attack on the Moncada military barracks in the eastern city of Santiago. Most of his comrades were killed and Fidel and his brother Raul went to prison.