

Terror acts linked to Osama bin Laden



● **1955:** Born Saudi Arabia, son of construction tycoon. Bin Laden family originally from southern Yemen

● **1979-89:** Fights with Afghan *mujahideen* to oust Soviet army from Afghanistan

● **1990s:** Starts campaign to force U.S. from Middle East in wake of Gulf War and “liberate” holiest cities of Islam – *Mecca* and *Medina* – from western influence. Establishes worldwide terrorist organization called *al-Qaeda*

● **1992:** Linked with bomb attacks on two Aden hotels in which two Austrian tourists are killed. Blasts narrowly miss 100 American servicemen

● **Feb 1993:** Bomb explodes at World Trade Center in New York, killing six and injuring more than 1,000. *al-Qaeda* implicated

● **Feb 1998:** Founder member of *World Islamic Front for Jihad against Jews and Crusaders*

● **Aug:** Bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kills more than 220 people. The U.S. accuses *al-Qaeda* and fires cruise missiles at bin Laden’s training camps in eastern Afghanistan

● **Sep:** Bin Laden’s officials in England and Germany arrested and extradited to U.S.

● **Sep 1999:** Bin Laden reported to have given \$25 million to Arab warlord *Khattab* who leads Islamic militants battling Russian troops in southern territory of Dagestan

● **Dec:** U.S. agents obtain 1,000-page Arabic training manual on computer disk. “*Encyclopedia*” includes data on manufacturing explosives, toxic and heavy weaponry

● **New Year’s Day, 2000:** Foiled bomb plot in U.S. linked to *al-Qaeda*

● **Early 2000:** Bin Laden marries 17-year-old Yemeni girl – his fourth wife – in Afghanistan

● **Mar:** Report surfaces that bin Laden is suffering from kidney failure

● **Apr:** Bin Laden said to have visited Kosovo to set up training camp

● **Sep:** Jordan sentences to death six militants linked to bin Laden for plotting attacks against Israeli and U.S. targets

● **Oct 12:** Attack on *USS Cole* in Yemeni port of Aden kills 17 sailors and wounds 39. Offshoot of *Aden-Abyan Islamic Army* – linked to bin Laden – claims responsibility

● **Aug 2001:** *Al-Quds al-Arabi* newspaper receives warning from Islamic fundamentalists close to bin Laden of “huge and unprecedented attack” on U.S. interests

● **Sep 11:** Terrorists hijack four passenger aircraft – three of which slam into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Following attacks U.S. intelligence intercepts conversation between two suspects linked to bin Laden saying they had hit two targets