

Murder in the name of war



Forty years ago, United States soldiers shot dead some 500 unarmed civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai. The massacre prompted widespread outrage around the world and undermined U.S. support for the Vietnam War



1 1968 – MARCH 16: MY LAI, VIETNAM

U.S. infantry platoon, led by Lieutenant **William L. Calley**, enters My Lai village searching for enemy **Viet Cong** fighters. Platoon massacres between 347 and

504 unarmed men, women and children. Military court convicts Calley of murder and sentences him to life in prison. He is released after serving just 18 weeks following intervention by **President Richard Nixon**

2 1971: BANGLADESH

Pakistani Armed Forces mount **Operation Searchlight** in East Bengal. During two-month period 300,000 members of Hindu intellectual, cultural, and political elite are killed

3 1975-79: CAMBODIA

Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge massacres up to 1.7 million people linked to former government – civil servants, soldiers, Buddhist monks, intellectuals, professionals and ethnic minorities

9 1995: BOSNIA

Over a period of five days, Serb forces murder an estimated 7,800 Bosnian Muslim men and boys sheltering in United Nations' safe haven of **Srebrenica**

7 1991: EAST TIMOR

Indonesian soldiers open fire on pro-independence demonstrators in **Santa Cruz cemetery** in capital, Dili. At least 250 East Timorese civilians killed

10 2005: HADITHA, IRAQ

Squad of U.S. Marines kills 24 Iraqi civilians in **Haditha** following attack on their convoy with roadside bomb. Four Marines currently face courts-martial – two on manslaughter charges and two others accused of cover-up

8 1994: RWANDA

In 100-day period following twin assassinations of presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, **Hutu** extremists kill up to 800,000 people, mostly from **Tutsi** minority

11 2007: QAHTANIYA AND JAZEERA, NORTHERN IRAQ

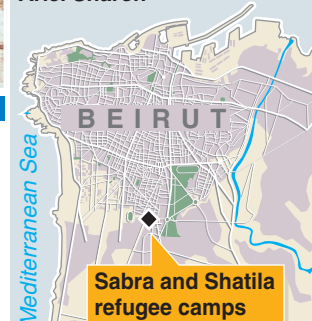


At least 796 members of **Yazidi** community – a pre-Islamic Kurdish sect – are killed and 1,500 injured in most deadly co-ordinated suicide bomb attack since U.S.-led invasion in 2003

4 1982: BEIRUT, LEBANON

During two-day bloodbath **Maronite Christian Phalange** militiamen massacre 700-3,500 Palestinian men, women and children at **Sabra** and **Shatila** refugee camps while searching for **PLO** fighters.

Camps are sealed off by Israeli troops commanded by Israeli Defence Minister **Ariel Sharon**



5 1988: HALABJA, IRAQ

In two-day period during Iran-Iraq War, Iraqi aircraft under command of **Ali Hasan al-Majid**, or **Chemical Ali**, bombard Kurdish city of **Halabja** with chemical weapons. **Up to 5,000 people – mostly women and children – are killed**