

# Timeline of the world's most wanted man



■ **Mar 1957:** **Osama bin Muhammad bin Awad bin Laden** born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Seventh son among 50 or more siblings

■ **1968:** Bin Laden's father dies in plane crash, Osama inherits millions

■ **1979-89:** Bin Laden builds reputation helping U.S.-sponsored **mujahideen** fight Soviet troops during invasion of Afghanistan. Founds **Al Qaeda** – “the base” – to focus on holy wars abroad

■ **Feb 1993:** Bomb attack at World Trade Centre in New York kills six people. Bomber linked to Al Qaeda

■ **1996:** Bin Laden sets up terrorist training camps in Afghanistan under protection of Taliban

■ **1997:** CIA begins to prepare plan to capture bin Laden

■ **Aug 7, 1998:** Bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kill 231 people

■ **Oct 12, 2000:** Attack on destroyer **USS Cole** in Yemen kills 17 sailors

■ **Sep 11, 2001:** Attacks on World Trade Centre in New York and Pentagon in Washington, plus aircrash in Pennsylvania, kill almost 3,000

■ **2002:** Al Qaeda-linked attacks take place in Tunisia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Indonesia and Turkey, killing more than 360 people

■ **Mar 11, 2004:** Bombs on commuter trains in Madrid kill 191 people

■ **Jul 7, 2005:** 52 people killed by suicide bombers in London

■ **Jul-Nov:** Bomb attacks in Egypt, Bali and Jordan leave 170 dead

■ **Jun 2, 2008:** Al Qaeda bombs Danish embassy in Pakistan

■ **Dec 25, 2009:** Perpetrator of failed attack on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 admits he was trained by Al Qaeda in Yemen. U.S. President **Barack Obama** later declares on TV “**We are at war against Al Qaeda**”

■ **Aug 2010:** CIA tracks Al Qaeda courier to fortified compound in Pakistani town of Abbottabad. Multiple intelligence reports suggests that bin Laden is planning to “**pursue an aggressive course of action**”

■ **Oct 29:** Two bombs found on cargo planes bound from Yemen to U.S. **Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula** claims responsibility for plot

■ **Feb-Apr 2011:** President Obama leads five meetings of National Security Council focused solely on whether bin Laden is in Abbottabad compound

■ **May 1 2011:** Contingent of U.S. Navy's **SEAL Team Six** is tasked with attacking compound. Bin Laden is killed during 40-minute firefight