The most wanted man in the Middle East



- 1971: *Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri* born to Salafi* family in town of Samarra
- 1989-2003: Lives in Tobchi district of Baghdad. Plays football for team from local mosque
- 2002: Gains doctorate in Islamic Studies† from University of Baghdad. Marries – wife has first child, a boy
- **2003:** Following U.S.-led invasion al-Badri is drawn into emerging *Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)*
- 2005: Al-Badri, now known as **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**, is accused of being connected to beheadings, crucifixions and torture of local civilians in border town of Qaim
- 2005-09: Al-Baghdadi is captured by U.S. forces and held in Camp Bucca detention camp for four years. Released when U.S. closes camp in 2009





- Boundaries of caliphate envisioned by ISIS – as posted on Twitter, March 2014
- 2010: After top leaders are killed al-Baghdadi becomes leader of AQI
- 2011: Following departure of U.S. troops, AQI begins bombing campaign. U.S. places \$10 million bounty on al-Baghdadi
- **2012:** AQI launches *Breaking Walls* campaign with over 560 bomb attacks and release of more than 500 inmates from Abu Ghraib prison
- 2013: AQI enters civil war in Syria, capturing city of Raqqa and country's oil fields around Deir al-Zour, creating lucrative source of revenue
- Apr: AQI renamed ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant)
- Jun 2014: ISIS changes its name to *Islamic State*, and declares al-Baghdadi *caliph* political and religious leader of all Muslims
- Jul 5: ISIS website publishes video claiming to show al-Baghdadi delivering sermon at mosque in Mosul

^{*}Salafism is a strict interpretation of Islam. †Claims made on Jihadi websites Sources: Al Monitor, Telegraph (London), RFJ, Interpol Pictures: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS