

# Islamic State's leaders hard to kill

Despite some 3,200 U.S.-led air strikes against Islamic State since September the leadership remains largely untouched. Just seven of 18 key leaders are believed to have been killed since January 2014

**Jan 2014, Haji Bakr:** ▶

Real name **Samir Abd Muhammad al-Khlifawi**. Former Iraqi intelligence officer, mastermind and strategic head of Islamic State, killed by Syrian rebels



◀ **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi:**

Leader of so-called Islamic State. Appointed by Bakr and other Iraqi intelligence officers in 2010. Declares Caliphate in June 2014. Survives air strike in November



◀ **Jan, Abu Muhannad al-Suedawi:** Former lieutenant-colonel in Iraqi Army and member of IS Military Council. Killed in Anbar province



**Feb, Abu Musa al-Shawakh:** Syrian national. Islamic State's security minister ▶

**Jun, Abu Abdul Rahman al-Bilawi:** ▶

Former Iraqi army captain, head of Military Council



◀ **Sep, Abu Hajar al-Assafi:** Member of strategic Shura Council. Killed in U.S.-led airstrike on Mosul



◀ **Nov, Abu Muslim al-Turkmani:** Islamic State's second in command killed in airstrike near Mosul

▶ **Nov, Abu Suja:** Real name **Abdul Rahman al-Afari**. General coordinator killed in air strike

