


Afghanistan probes Mullah Omar death claim

The Afghan government says it is investigating reports that Taliban leader Mullah Omar is dead. The reclusive Al Qaeda ally has evaded capture for over a decade despite one of the world's largest manhunts



■ **1994:** Founds armed **Taliban** movement amid civil war following Soviet withdrawal

■ **1996:** Sweeps to victory over rival militias, capturing Afghan capital, Kabul. Becomes supreme leader of Taliban's self-declared **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**

■ **Oct 2001:** Alliance between Omar and **Osama bin Laden** prompts U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in aftermath of 9/11 attacks

■ **Dec 2001:** Kandahar falls to U.S.-led forces. Omar goes into hiding, with \$10m U.S. State Department bounty on his head. Taliban leader never seen again in public

■ **Jul 29, 2015:** Afghan officials investigating claims that Omar died two to three years ago

■ **1962:** **Mullah Mohammed Omar** born in southern Afghan province of Uruzgan. Spends much of early life in village of Singhesar in neighbouring Kandahar province

■ **1980s:** Fights as soldier with **Mujahideen** rebels against Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan. Reportedly wounded four times in battle. Loses right eye to shrapnel injury

Mullah Omar (centre) during a rally of his troops in Kandahar before their assault on Kabul in 1996

