

IS commander Omar al-Shishani



■ **1986:** Omar al-Shishani (Omar the Chechen), real name **Tarkhan Batirashvili**, born in ethnic Chechen community in Georgia's Pankisi Valley – former militant stronghold

■ **2006-2010:** Serves in Georgian army, sees action in 2008 war with Russia. Promoted to rank of sergeant. Deemed unfit for military duty and discharged in 2010 after being hospitalized with tuberculosis

■ **2010:** Arrested by Georgian police for illegal possession of arms. Freed from prison in early 2012 due to deteriorating health after serving 16 months of three-year jail term

■ **2012:** Joins fight to topple Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad**. Leads jihadist group **Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar (JMA)**, largely composed of Chechen fighters

■ **Aug 2013:** First shows battlefield prowess when his fighters prove pivotal in taking Menagh airbase in northern Syria

■ **Nov 2013:** Swears loyalty to **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**, head of **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS)**



■ **Jun 2014:** Becomes ISIS military chief after death of Iraqi militant leader **Abu Abdulrahman al-Bilawi**

■ **May 2015:** U.S. offers \$5 million reward for Shishani's capture

■ **Mar 4, 2016:** Shishani likely killed in U.S.-led airstrike near Al Shadadi

