

# IS reclusive leader rallies followers



## Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

**1971:** Born **Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri** in Samarra, Iraq. Grows up in religious family, studies Islamic Theology in Baghdad

**2003:** Joins emerging **Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)** insurgent group following U.S.-led invasion of Iraq

**2005:** Captured by U.S. forces in Iraqi city of Fallujah and held at **Abu Ghraib** and **Camp Bucca** detention facilities. Released after ten months



**2010:** Emerges as leader of **Islamic State of Iraq (ISI)** – formed in 2006 as successor to AQI – after group's top two commanders are killed in U.S.-led airstrike

**IS territory as of Sep 18, 2017**

**2011-13:** U.S. places \$10 million bounty on Baghdadi's head over series of bomb attacks in Iraq. Fighters loyal to Baghdadi cross into Syria to exploit power vacuum created by civil war. ISI becomes **Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham/ the Levant (ISIS/ISIL)**

**2014:** ISIS proclaims "caliphate" after capture of Iraqi city of Mosul. Group becomes **Islamic State (IS)**

**2016:** Mounting military pressure begins to roll back IS territorial gains

**Sep 2017:** After several reports of his death, IS releases alleged audio tape of Baghdadi urging jihadists to keep fighting – first such recording since Nov 2016. IS chief has not been seen in public since July 2014