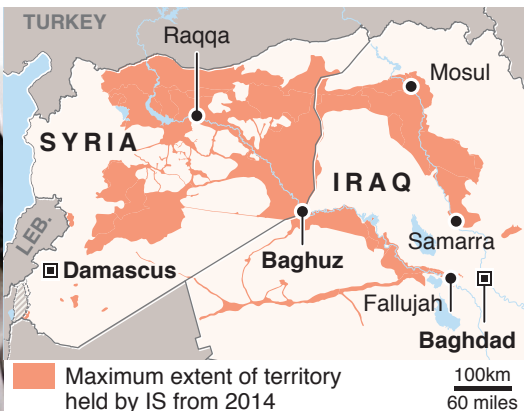


# IS leader al-Baghdadi resurfaces

A first video appearance in five years by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of Islamic State and the world's most wanted man, has ended speculation that he was killed some years ago



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

■ **2003:** Joins emerging insurgent group **Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)** 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 10 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

■ **2011-13:** 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:** Baghdadi renames group **Islamic State (IS)** and proclaims "caliphate" after capture of Iraq's second largest city, Mosul

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

■ **2017:** Fall of Mosul and Raqqa strongholds turns Baghdadi into fugitive thought to be hiding out in desert between Iraq and Syria

■ **Mar 2019:** IS loses village of Baghdad – last toehold in region

■ **Apr 29:** Baghdadi reappears in propaganda video, claiming that Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka were "part of revenge" that awaits West for loss of last IS territory