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Timeline of al-Qaeda attacks

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Al-Qaeda attacks (also al-Qa'ida) began in 1992, with coordinated bombings of two hotels in [Aden, Yemen](#), killing one Australian tourist.^[1] In an interview with [Abdel Bari Atwan](#), Bin Laden has claimed al-Qaeda responsibility for the 1993 attack on U.S. troops in [Mogadishu](#), the bombing of the National Guard Training Center in [Riyadh, Saudi Arabia](#) in 1995, and the 1996 [Khobar Towers bombing](#) in Saudi Arabia. However, there is no solid evidence to support these claims from Bin Laden, though he may have provided financial support along with inspiration for the attackers.^[2]

In 1998, [Khalid Sheikh Mohammed](#) and [Ayman al-Zawahiri](#) officially joined al-Qaeda. Zawahiri previously led the [Egyptian Islamic Group](#) which carried out numerous attacks in [Egypt](#) along with assassination attempts against Egyptian president [Hosni Mubarak](#), possibly with financial support from Osama bin Laden.^{[3][4]} Khalid Sheikh Mohammed also organized attacks prior to joining al-Qaeda, possibly with some financial support from Bin Laden. Al-Qaeda was directly involved in coordinating the [1998 United States embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania](#), along with the [2000 bombing of the USS Cole](#) in Yemen, and the [September 11 attacks](#). After the U.S. invasion of [Afghanistan](#), following the September 11 attacks, training camps were destroyed and al-Qaeda leaders were on the run. Numerous attacks have been carried out since the September 11 attacks. But, they have been much smaller in scale and many of the attackers have been only loosely affiliated or acted independently with inspiration from al-Qaeda, rather than direct coordination and orders from al-Qaeda leaders.

The following list is of acts attributed or claimed by al-Qaeda. Bin Laden and other top al-Qaeda leaders do not take credit for some of them, resulting in ambiguity over how many attacks the group has actually conducted. After the [United States declaration of the War on Terrorism](#) in 2001, the U.S. government has sought to highlight any connections between other militant groups and al-Qaeda. Some prefer to attribute to [al-Qaedaism](#) actions that might not be directly planned by al-Qaeda as a military headquarters but that are inspired by its tenets and strategies.

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Early 1990s

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On December 29, 1992,^[5] the first attack by Al Qaeda was carried out in [Aden, Yemen](#).^{[1][6][7]} That evening, a bomb went off at the Gold Mohur hotel, where U.S. troops had been staying while en-route to [Somalia](#), though the troops had already left when the bomb exploded. The bombers targeted a second hotel, the Aden Movenpick, where they believed American troops might also be staying. That bomb detonated prematurely in the hotel car park, around the same time as the other bomb explosion, killing two Australian tourists.^{[5][6]} Bin Laden later claimed responsibility for the 1992 Yemen attack.^[1]

The [1993 World Trade Center bombing](#) occurred on February 26, 1993, when Ramzi Yousef parked a rented van full of explosives in the parking garage beneath the World Trade Center. The explosion claimed six victims, and over one thousand people were wounded. [Ramzi Yousef](#), the nephew of 9/11 planner [Khalid Sheikh Mohammed](#), had trained in Afghanistan, although Khalid Sheikh Mohammed did not join Al Qaeda until 1998. Yousef worked in cooperation with the blind sheikh Abdul Rahman who was living across the Hudson, in Jersey City, at the time of the attack. The FBI later turned up evidence that [Osama bin Laden](#) provided financial support to the blind sheikh [Omar Abdul-Rahman](#).^[8]

Ramzi Yousef and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (prior to joining with Al Qaeda) planned [Operation Bojinka](#), a plot to destroy airplanes in mid-Pacific flight using explosives.^[9] They tested their attacks in November 1994 on the [Philippine Airlines Flight 434](#), which also involved [Abu Sayyaf](#) (a Southeast Asia affiliate of Al Qaeda).^[10] An apartment fire in [Manila, Philippines](#) exposed the plan before it could be carried out. Yousef was arrested, but Mohammed evaded capture until 2003.^[11]

1998 U.S.-embassy bombings

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In August 1998, Al-Qaeda operatives carried out the [bombings](#) of the U.S. embassies in [Nairobi, Kenya](#), and [Dar es Salaam, Tanzania](#), killing more than 200 people and injuring more than 5,000 others.^[12]

2000

[\[edit\]](#)

In December 1999 and into 2000, al-Qaeda [planned attacks](#) against U.S. and [Israeli](#) tourists visiting [Jordan](#) for millennial celebrations; however, [Jordanian](#) authorities thwarted the planned attacks and put 28 suspects on trial. Part of this plot included the planned bombing of [LAX](#), but this plot was foiled when bomber [Ahmed Ressam](#) was caught at the US-Canadian border with explosives in the trunk of his car. Al-Qaeda also planned to attack the [USS *The Sullivans*](#) on January 3, 2000, but the effort failed due to too much weight being put on the small boat meant to bomb the ship.

Despite the setback with the [USS *The Sullivans*](#), al-Qaeda succeeded in bombing a U.S. warship in October 2000 with the [USS *Cole* bombing](#). German police foiled a plot to destroy a [cathedral](#) in [Strasbourg, France](#) in December 2000.

- [Rizal Day Bombings](#) in the [Philippines](#) (2000)



USS Cole after it was bombed

[\[edit\]](#)

September 11, 2001, attacks

Main article: [September 11 attacks](#)

The most destructive act ascribed to al-Qaeda was the series of attacks in the United States on [September 11, 2001](#). These attacks destroyed the [World Trade Center](#) (currently being rebuilt) and damaged the [Pentagon](#) in a series of suicide hijacking of airplanes. [Bin Laden](#) did take credit for the attacks days before the [2004 Presidential Election](#).

2007 Algiers bombings

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[Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb](#) claimed to have been responsible for the April 11, [2007 Algiers bombings](#). Two bombs exploded within a short time of each other, one at the prime ministers office and the other at a police station. The blasts killed 33 people. It was the first time a bombing had occurred in the capital in more than a decade.^[13]

2008 Danish-embassy bombing

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[Al-Qaeda](#) claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Danish embassy in Pakistan on 2 June 2008. A car bomb killed six persons and injuring several.^[14] [Mustafa Abu al-Yazid](#), a high-ranking member of Al-Qaeda, issued a statement after the bombing, claiming that the attack was a response to the 2005 publication of the [Muhammed Cartoons](#).^[15]

Notes

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- ↑ ^{**a**} ^{**b**} ^{**c**} Wright 2006, p. 174
- ↑ Wright 2006, p. 246
- ↑ Wright 2006, p. 213-219
- ↑ Wright 2006, p. 255-258
- ↑ ^{**a**} ^{**b**} "Bomb blasts rock two hotels in Yemen". Reuters / The Globe and Mail. 1992-12-30.
- ↑ ^{**a**} ^{**b**} Scheuer, Michael (2002). *Through Our Enemies' Eyes*. Brassey's. pp. 135.
- ↑ MacLeod, Scott (2008-0917). "In Yemen, a Massacre of Americans Is Averted". TIME Magazine. Retrieved on 2009-02-05.
- ↑ Wright, Lawrence (2006). "Chapter 9, The Silicon Valley". *The Looming Towers*. Alfred P. Knopf.
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v • d • e War on Terrorism [hide]		
Timeline • Casualties • Theaters • Criticism • ISAF		
Participants	Operational	ISAF • Operation Enduring Freedom participants • Multinational force in Iraq • Afghanistan • Northern Alliance • Iraq (Iraqi Army) • NATO • Pakistan • United Kingdom • United States • Philippines • Ethiopia
	Targets	al-Qaeda • Osama bin Laden • Abu Sayyaf • Iraqi insurgency • Hamas • Islamic Courts Union • Jemaah Islamiyah • Taliban • Pattani Separatists • Jaish-e-Mohammed • Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami • Hizbul Mujahideen • Kurdistan Workers' Party • Hezbollah • Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan • Lashkar-e-Taiba
Conflicts	Operation Enduring Freedom	War in Afghanistan • OEF - Philippines • Georgia Train and Equip Program • Georgia Sustainment and Stability • OEF - Horn of Africa • OEF - Trans Sahara • Missile strikes in Pakistan
	Other	Insurgency in the Maghreb • Iraq insurgency and operations • Insurgency in Saudi Arabia • War in North-West Pakistan • South Thailand insurgency • Lebanon War • War in Somalia • Lebanon-Fatah al-Islam conflict
Islamist attacks	2001–2002	September 11 attacks • Bahawalpur church attack • Indian Parliament attack • Shoe bomb plot • Ghriba synagogue bombing • Karachi bus bomb • Jaunpur train crash • Karachi US Consulate bombing • Akshardham Temple attack • 1st Bali bombing • Zamboanga bombings • Kurnool train crash
	2003–2004	Riyadh compound bombings • Casablanca bombings • 2003 Mumbai bombings • Jakarta Marriott Hotel bombing • Istanbul bombings • SuperFerry 14 bombing • Madrid train bombings • Khobar massacre • Beslan school hostage crisis • Jakarta Australian embassy bombing
	2005–2006	1st London bombings • 2nd London bombings • Sharm el-Sheikh attacks • 2nd Bali bombing • 1st Delhi bombings • Amman bombings • 2006 Varanasi bombings • 2006 Mumbai train bombings • Transatlantic aircraft plot • Toronto terrorism plot
	2007–2008	1st Algiers bombings • Fort Dix attack plot • Ankara bombing • London car bomb plot • Glasgow Airport attack • 2007 Yemen tourist attack • Hyderabad bombings • Qahtaniya bombings • Karachi bombing • Baghlan bombing • Philippine Congress bombing • 2nd Algiers bombings • Assassination of Benazir Bhutto • Jaipur bombings • Danish embassy • Indian embassy • United States consulate • Istanbul bombings • Bangalore bombings-Ahmedabad • 2nd Delhi bombings • American embassy • Islamabad bombing • 3rd Delhi bombing • 2008 Assam bombings • 2008 Mumbai attacks
	2009–current	Attack on Sri Lankan cricket team • 2009 Yemen tourist attack • 2009 Jakarta bombings
See also	Abu Ghraib prison • Axis of evil • Bush Doctrine • CIA run Black sites • Combatant Status Review Tribunal • Enhanced interrogation techniques • Extrajudicial prisoners of the US • Extraordinary rendition • Guantanamo Bay detention camp • Military Commissions Act • NSA electronic surveillance program • President's Surveillance Program • Protect America Act of 2007 • Unitary executive theory • Unlawful combatant • USA PATRIOT Act	
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