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(U) Manhunting Timeline 2008

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(U) The following **manhunting operations took place in Calendar Year 2008:**

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[\[edit\]](#) (U) August

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Syria



(U) Syrian Brigadier General Muhammad Sulayman was assassinated on 1 Aug 2008.

- (U) **1 August 2008:** [Syrian](#) Brigadier General [Muhammad Sulayman](#) was assassinated by a sniper near [Tartous](#). Sulayman had a hand in three primary areas: internal Syrian issues connected to the regime and the party; sensitive military issues; and [Lebanon](#)-related issues, through which he was apparently connected both to [Hizballah](#) and to others in the Lebanese political arena. Different elements may have wanted to see Sulayman dead, and the implications of his assassination varied according to the respective theories.[\[1\]](#)
- (TS//SI//REL TO USA, GBR) **1 August 2008:** The assassination of Syrian Brigadier General Muhammad Sulayman by Israeli naval commandos near [Tartus](#), [Syria](#) was the first known instance of Israel targeting a legitimate government official.[\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#)

[\[edit\]](#) (U) July

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Pakistan

- (S) **28 July 2008:** According to open and clandestine reporting, [Al-Qaida](#)'s CBRN leader [Abu Khabab al-Masri](#) was killed in [Pakistan](#).[\[4\]](#) [\[5\]](#)

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Serbia

- (U) **22 July 2008:** [Radovan Karadzic](#), former leader of the [Bosnian](#) Serbs, was arrested by the Serbian security service for war crimes after eluding authorities for years.[\[6\]](#) [\[7\]](#)

[\[edit\]](#) (U) May

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Pakistan

- [REDACTED]

[edit] (U) Turkey

- (S/SI/NF/MR) **2 May 2008:** [Turkey](#) sent 17 aircraft to strike [KGK](#) camps in the Qandil region, including those associated with senior leaders.[\[9\]](#)

[edit] (U) Somalia

- (U) **1 May 2008:** a U.S. Navy [Tomahawk](#) missile strike in the central [Somalia](#) town of [Dusa Marreb](#) killed [Aden Hashi Ayrow](#), a militant long identified as one of [Al Qa'ida](#)'s top operatives in East Africa and the top commander of the [Shabab al-Mujahidin Movement](#), an Islamist militia, which the American government recently classified as a terrorist group. According to witnesses and a spokesman for the Shabab, more than 10 people were killed, including Ayro, his brother and several other high-ranking Shabab commanders.[\[10\]](#)

[edit] (U) April

[edit] (U) Iraq

- (U) **April 2008:** Attacks carried out by [Predator UAVs](#) doubled over the previous month, totaling 12 strikes. The primary targets were insurgents who launched [rocket](#) and [mortar](#) attacks against [Baghdad](#)'s [Green Zone](#) and during [counterinsurgency](#) operations in [Sadr City](#). Operations personnel praise the UAV ability to respond immediately to detected threats.[\[11\]](#)

[edit] (U) Pakistan

- [REDACTED]

[edit] (U) Somalia

- (U) **4 April 2008:** Somali pirates operating in the [Gulf of Aden](#) seized the 850-ton private yacht [Le Ponant](#) with 22 French citizens and 10 others on board. President [Nicolas Sarkozy](#) ordered French military forces to locate and make contact with *Ponant*. French military forces made contact on [April 6](#) and CMA-CGM, the boat's owners, began negotiations. According to press reports, CMA-CGM paid a \$2 million ransom.[\[13\]](#) At least 10 [Groupe d' Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale \(GIGN\)](#) counterterrorist police flew to Djibouti on [7 April](#).[\[14\]](#) The pirates released the hostages unharmed on 11 April, with only superficial damage to the boat. Working with French naval forces including helicopters from the helicopter carrier *Jeanne d'Arc*, frigate *Jean Bart* and corvette *Le Commandant Bouan*, the task force pursued and captured six of ten Somali pirates as they attempted to escape into the Somali countryside. All 30 hostages were flown back to France while the pirates await trial.[\[15\]](#) See also [MV LE PONANT Hijacking April 2008](#)

[edit] (U) Afghanistan

- (U) **7 Apr 2008:** US and Afghan forces attack the remote villages of Shok and Kendal, targeting

[Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin](#) forces that had gathered in the village with [Taliban](#) militants. Governor [Tamim Nuristani](#) passed on a rumor from Afghan troops that [Gulbuddin Hekmatyar](#), leader of Hizb-e-Islami, was rumored to have been meeting with top deputy [Kashmir Khan](#).^[16]

[\[edit\]](#) (U) March

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Thailand

- (U) **6 March 2008:** U.S. [Drug Enforcement Agency](#) (DEA) announces that arms dealer [Viktor Bout](#) (aka "The Merchant of Death" and a former major in the [KGB](#)) had been arrested in [Bangkok](#). Accused of offering to sell 100 surface-to-air missiles to the [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia \(FARC\)](#), Bout, who had assembled a portfolio of cover companies and airlines, including nearly 50 former [Soviet cargo transport aircraft](#), had been the subject of a 2003 [United Nations](#) report for "embargo busting" and a 2005 [Department of the Treasury](#) report for illicit support to nefarious groups.^[17] On 26 Apr 2010, a [Thai criminal court](#) dismissed Bout's claim that his arrest by [Royal Thai Police](#) in Bangkok was illegal because a U.S. DEA agent assisted in the apprehension. The U.S. government was appealing a decision by the court denying a pending extradition request to return Mr. Bout to New York to stand trial.^[18] The [Russian parliament](#) officially condemned his arrest in September 2008 and called for Bout's return "to his motherland." Charges of Russian bribery have hung over the proceedings. The United States has made several efforts to counter Russia. President [George W. Bush](#) raised the issue with Thai leaders in 2008. [President Obama's national security adviser, James L. Jones](#), wrote to members of [Congress](#) in November 2009 that the administration has "pressed repeatedly" at the "highest levels" of the [Thai government](#) for Bout's extradition.^[19] On 20 Aug 2010, a Thai appeals court ruled that Bout could be [extradited](#) to the [United States](#).^{[20] [21] [22]}

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Somalia

- (U) **3 March 2008:** The United States launched a [Tomahawk](#) missile in an attempt to kill [Saleh Ali Nabhan](#), a Kenyan terrorist connected with the 1998 embassy bombings in [Kenya](#) and [Tanzania](#).^{[23] [24]}

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Afghanistan

- (U) **March 2008:** [British Special Forces](#) conduct covert operations against drug smugglers in southern Afghanistan for the first time.^[25]

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Pakistan

- (U) **March 2008:** The [United States](#) has stepped up its use of pilotless planes to strike at [Al-Qaeda](#) targets along [Pakistan](#)'s rugged border area, a measure that in the past drew protests from President [Pervez Musharraf](#) but now has his government's tacit approval. Since January, missiles reportedly fired from [CIA](#) operated [Predator](#) drones have hit at least three suspected hideouts of Islamic militants, including a [strike](#) on a house in a South Waziristan village called Toog.^[26] The moves followed a tacit understanding with Musharraf and Army chief Gen. [Ashfaq Kiyani](#) that allows U.S. strikes on foreign fighters operating in Pakistan, but not against the Pakistani [Taliban](#), the officials said.^[27]

[\[edit\]](#) (U) February

[\[edit\]](#) (U) Philippines

- (S/NF) **4 Feb 2008:** Philippine Armed Forces, acting on sole-source [redacted] reporting that [redacted] insurgents are present, raid the village of Maimbung on Jolo Island in the southern Philippines; the [Armed Forces of the Philippines](#) claim government troops engaged in an hour-long gun battle in which two soldiers and three [Abu Sayyaf Group](#) (ASG) terrorists were slain and only afterwards noticed that the villagers—two of whom it later claimed were ASG members—had been killed, saying they may have died in the crossfire or in a simultaneous incident between warring local families. ASG vows retaliation. [\[28\]](#)

[\[edit\]](#) (U) References

1. ↑ Amir Kulick, "The Assassination of General Muhammad Sulayman: Looking for the Motive", [Israeli Pundit: Sulayman Assassination 'Considerable Source of Worry' for Syria \(U\)](#), GMP20080824739005, *Institute for National Security Studies*, 14 August 2008. See also:
 - [Al-Arabiyah Poll: Assassination of Syria's Sulayman Internal Regime Conflict \(U\)](#), GMP20080814054006, *Al-Arabiyah Net*, 14 August 2008
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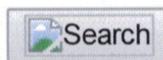
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