

DEATH OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

The world responds

Global leaders remark on what Osama bin Laden's death means for the fight against terrorism

W Though bin Laden is dead, al-Qaida is not. The terrorists almost certainly will attempt to avenge him, and we must — and will — remain vigilant and resolute. But we have struck a heavy blow against the enemy. The only leader they have ever known, whose hateful vision gave rise to their atrocities, is no more. The supposedly uncatchable one has been caught and killed. And we will not rest until every last one of them has been delivered to justice."

— CIA Director Leon E. Panetta, in a statement to agency employees

W This momentous achievement marks a victory for America, for people who seek peace around the world, and for all those who lost loved ones on Sept. 11, 2001. The fight against terror goes on, but tonight America has sent an unmistakable message: No matter how long it takes, justice will be done."

— Former President George W. Bush, in a statement Sunday night

W Innocent people, most of them Muslims, were targeted in markets and mosques, in subway stations and on airplanes, each attack motivated by a violent ideology that holds no value for human life or regard for human dignity. I know that nothing can make up for the loss of the victims or fill the voids they left, but I hope their families can now find some comfort in the fact that justice has been served. ... At a time when the people across the Middle East and North Africa are rejecting the extremist narratives and charting a path of peaceful progress, based on universal rights and aspirations, there is no better rebuke to al-Qaida and its heinous ideology."

— Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

W Osama bin Laden was responsible for the worst terrorist atrocities the world has seen — for 9/11 and for so many attacks, which have cost thousands of lives, many of them British. It is a great success that he has been found and will no longer be able to pursue his campaign of global terror. ... It is also a time too to thank all those who work round the clock to keep us safe from terrorism. Their work will continue. I congratulate President Obama and those responsible for carrying out this operation."

— British Prime Minister David Cameron

W The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that foreign countries now have no excuse for military buildup in the region to fight terrorism."

— Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast

W I hope the death of Osama Bin Laden will mean the end of terrorism."

— Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai

W It doesn't mean that this is the end of all terrorism and all dangers."

— Israeli President Shimon Peres



W I commend all those people behind the successful tracking down and killing of Osama bin Laden. His killing is an act of justice to those Kenyans who lost their lives and the many more who suffered injuries."

— Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki

W It is a historic development and victorious milestone in the global war against the forces of terrorism. The world must not let down its united effort to overcome terrorism and eliminate the safe havens and sanctuaries that have been provided to terrorists in our own neighborhood. The struggle must continue unabated."

— India's External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, alluding to the presence of several terror groups in Pakistan, such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which masterminded the 2008 Mumbai terror attack.

W Despite the difference in opinions and agenda between us and them, we condemn the assassination of a Muslim and Arab warrior and we pray to God that his soul rests in peace."

— Ismail Haniyeh, prime minister for the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip

W The Iraqi government is feeling greatly relieved over the killing of Osama bin Laden, who was the planner and director behind the killing of many Iraqis and destroying the country."

— Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh

W With bin Laden's death, one of the reasons for which violence has been practiced in the world has been removed. It is time for Obama to pull out of Afghanistan and Iraq and end the occupation of U.S. and Western forces around the world that have for so long harmed Muslim countries."

— Essam al-Erian, a member of The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood

W Bin Laden's acts robbed us freedom to talk and move around. He turned us into targets at home and suspects in every foreign country we traveled to."

— Mohammad al-Mansouri in the United Arab Emirates

BIN LADEN TIMELINE

Events in the life of the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks:

1957 Born in Saudi Arabia

1979 Goes to Pakistan to meet CIA-funded anti-Soviet Afghan guerrillas

1984 Opens base in Peshawar, Pakistan, for Arabs arriving to fight Soviets

1986 Develops Afghan camps; helps build CIA-funded tunnel complex near Khost, Afghanistan

1988 Forms al-Qaida to overthrow corrupt Muslim governments with Egyptian Islamic Jihad and other militant Muslims

1989 Returns to Saudi Arabia after Soviets leave Afghanistan

1990 Works in family construction business; criticizes Saudi government for inviting U.S. troops to expel Iraq from Kuwait

1991 Expelled from Saudi Arabia for anti-government activities; goes to Afghanistan briefly, then Sudan

1992 Bombing of hotel used by U.S. troops in Yemen; two Yemenis trained in Afghanistan arrested

1993 Car bomb at N.Y. World Trade Center kills six; 18 U.S. troops in Somalia killed; Somalis trained by bin Laden supporters suspected

1994 Saudi Arabia revokes bin Laden's citizenship, seizes much of his property

1995 Bombing of Saudi National Guard station in Riyadh kills five Americans, two Indians

1996 At U.S. request, Sudan expels bin Laden, who moves to Afghanistan; car bomb kills 19 at U.S. military housing in Saudi Arabia; Taliban rebels financed by bin Laden control Afghanistan

1997 U.S.-Saudi commandos recruit Afghans and Pakistanis to capture bin Laden; plot later called off

1998 Bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kill 220 people; U.S. missiles attack al-Qaida headquarters in Afghanistan

1999 U.S. presses Taliban to turn over bin Laden; he is moved to secret location

2000 Bombing of U.S. destroyer Cole in Aden, Yemen, kills 17 sailors

2001 Four bin Laden followers convicted in U.S. embassy bombings



Damage to the Pentagon following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Sept. 11, 2001 Hijackers fly jetliners into World Trade Center and Pentagon; U.S., U.K. and anti-Taliban Afghans mount air and land attacks on al-Qaida and Taliban

Dec. 22, 2001 Shoe bomber Richard Reid, a British-born follower of bin Laden, tries unsuccessfully to blow up a Paris-to-Miami flight

2002-03 Broadcast of video, audiotapes of person who purportedly is bin Laden; Feb. 2003 message urges Muslims to attack

2004 For three days in March, U.S. and Afghan forces pound mountain caves in Tora Bora in search of bin Laden, but fail

2009 Accuses President Barack Obama of planting seeds of "revenge and hatred toward America" in the Muslim world

2010 Purportedly claims responsibility for Dec. 25, 2009, attempted bombing of a U.S. plane

May 1, 2011 Killed by U.S. forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan



People gather outside the White House as President Barack Obama announces the death of Osama bin Laden during a televised statement late Sunday evening.

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SOURCES: PBS; CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH REPORTS; FORBES; THE NEW YORKER; THE NEW REPUBLIC; FOREIGN AFFAIRS; INTERNATIONAL POLICY INSTITUTE FOR COUNTERTERRORISM; "ALIBAN" BY AHMED RASHID, BBC; MSNBC

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