



TIMELINE OF TERRORISM:

A Historical Overview of Events Related to Middle East-Based Terror

Published by Robert O'Block, Founder and CEO of ACFEI

An Introduction from the American College of Forensic Examiners Institute (ACFEI)

Various forms of terrorism have existed throughout history, but never before have terrorist organizations posed more of a grave and looming threat to our civilization. The attacks carried out against our nation on September 11, 2001, were a shocking and tragic wake-up call to all Americans that our nation is not immune to terrorism, but rather is a major target for those who seek to destroy freedom, democracy, and our very way of life.

Although terrorist groups are based all across the globe, today's greatest threats stem from terrorist groups that originated in or have ties to the Middle East. To understand the terrorist mindset that has evolved from the Middle East region, we must first examine the historical background that set the stage for the events that would unfold over several generations, leading to much of the terrorist activity occurring in our world today.

Our goal in developing this historical overview of incidents related to Middle East-based terrorism is to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the background behind the majority of modern-day terrorist activities. This timeline presents historical events occurring from biblical times to modern day, examining all facets related to Middle East-based terrorism, including terrorist plots that were uncovered and thwarted, the costs and financial aspects of terrorism, unexplained events that are suspected to have been related to terrorism, and actual terrorist attacks that were carried out, often with tragic and devastating results.

This Timeline of Terrorism is brought to you by Dr. Robert O'Block, founder of ACFEI, who would like to extend sincere gratitude to the many individuals who contributed their time and expertise to compiling and reviewing this historic project, including several CHS members and ACFEI staff members. This timeline raises controversial issues, but it also reveals troubling-but-true facts about the terror-related trends that have evolved from the Middle East region. Our goal in presenting this information to you is to provide you with a complete understanding of the events that have led to the formation and proliferation of terrorist organizations that threaten not only our nation, but all nations across the globe. This understanding is vital to our ultimate security, because until we fully understand the enemies that we face, we will never be able to defeat them.

Major Middle East-Based Terrorist Groups

Abu Nidal Organization: formerly known as Black September, a terrorist group founded by Carlos the Jackal.

Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade: formed in 2000 as an offshoot of Fatah, the secular Palestinian nationalist movement.

Al Qaeda: formed in 1989 by Osama bin Laden and Muhammad Atef, this group has ties to other jihad groups, including Hizballah.

Egyptian Islamic Jihad: based in Egypt, this group has strong ties to al Qaeda.

Hamas: (the Islamic Resistance Movement) this group was formed to wage a jihad (holy war) for the liberation of Palestine. The group is best known for carrying out suicide bombings against civilian targets in Israel.

Hizballah: (Party of God) founded in 1982 after the Peace for Galilee War in Lebanon as an organizational body for Shi'ite fundamentalists. Much of this group's support comes from Iranian funds.

Maktab al-Khidamar: based in Afghanistan.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad: (Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami al-Filastini) founded in 1979 under radical Islamic jihad principles.

Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO): This group was founded in 1964 by Yasir Arafat. Israel is the group's primary target, and its goals focus on carrying out a fatah to "conquest by means of jihad."

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP): a radical faction of the PLO founded in 1967 by George Habash, this group's main target is Israel.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC): founded by Ahmad Jibril, this group's primary target is Israel.

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1800s B.C. Abraham (Abram) considered spiritual father of three of the world's major religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.	900 B.C. The declining kingdom of Egypt is split into two parts: Middle Egypt and Lower Egypt.	driven into exile in other nations. The Second Jerusalem Temple is burned and torn apart.
1700s B.C. Ishmael (son of Abraham and his Egyptian maid Hagar) is born. Ishmael, the Patriarch for Arabs, leads the Ishmaelites and bears 12 sons.	722 B.C. Israel falls to Assyria.	136 A.D. Hadrian erects the Temple of Jupiter on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, places a statue of himself facing east in front of the building. Jews attempt to build the third Temple, but fail.
1700s B.C. Isaac (son of Abraham and wife Sarah) is born and later named "Israel" as the father of Israel. Isaac is the Patriarch for the Israelites. Twins Jacob and Esau (Edom) are born to Isaac and Rebekah. Enmity exists between the Edomites and Israelites. The tribes of Israel are named after Jacob's 12 sons. Jacob's son Joseph becomes a slave in Egypt and later becomes a minister to the Pharaoh.	700 B.C. Egypt is ruled by Nubia.	570 A.D. The Islamic prophet Muhammad is born.
1760 B.C. Abraham journeys to Mount Moriah in Jerusalem to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice in obedience to God's commandment, but God sends an angel to stop him, and an alternate sacrifice is given.	638 B.C. The Arab conquest of Jerusalem begins.	632 A.D. Muhammad makes a final pilgrimage to Mecca with over 100,000 of his followers; he dies at Medina.
1300s B.C. Moses is crowned Prince of Egypt.	600s B.C. Babylonia (the new Babylonian Empire) takes Jews into captivity.	634 A.D. The Muslim conquest of Babylon begins.
1290 B.C. Rameses II is crowned Pharaoh (King of Egypt) and enslaves the Jewish people.	600 B.C. Psnmtik frees Egypt from foreign rule. Egypt becomes a sea-faring power.	685–705 A.D. The Muslim El Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock are built by Abd el-Malik at the Temple Mount on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.
1050 B.C. The Philistines conquer Israel.	586 B.C. Judah falls to Babylon.	746 A.D. An earthquake destroys the El Aksa Mosque on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.
1000 B.C. King David unites Judah and Israel.	541 B.C. The building of the Second Temple of Jerusalem begins at the Temple Mount on Mount Moriah, despite fierce opposition, and is completed 15 years later.	1095 Pope Urban II begins the First Crusade to liberate Christian holy sites from Muslim rule.
950 B.C. Solomon builds the First Temple of Jerusalem at the Temple Mount on Mount Moriah. The Ark of the Covenant is placed in the completed temple.	332 B.C. Jerusalem priests dissuade Alexander the Great from destroying Jerusalem by showing him Scriptures predicting his rise to power.	1099–1187 Christian crusaders capture Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock is reconsecrated as "Temple Domini," and El Aksa is reconsecrated as "Temple Salomonis."
925 B.C. The kingdom of Israel and Judah are divided.	3–4 B.C. Jesus of Nazareth is born.	1147–1148 The Second Crusade.
	33 A.D. Jesus Christ is crucified.	1187 Salidan captures Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock and El Aksa are restored to Islamic rule.
	70 A.D. Judah and Jerusalem are destroyed; survivors are	

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1189–1192 The Third Crusade to recover Jerusalem.	1735 The Wahhabi movement to “purify” Islam begins in Arabia.	1921 Transjordan is divided and closed to Jewish settlement.
1202–1204 The Fourth Crusade.	1773 Drawing inspiration from the Wahhabi Muslim sect, the tribe of Saud captures Riyadh and begins to spread a political and religious reform movement throughout the Arabian peninsula.	1921 The Jewish Haganah (Defense) is formed; it is a secret army organized to protect against and respond to attacks by Arabs.
1212 The Fifth Crusade.		
1228–1229 The Sixth Crusade.	1801 Tripoli (Libya) declares war on the United States because the Americans refuse to pay tribute to raiding Arab corsairs. Tripoli ambassador explains to U.S. President Thomas Jefferson that Muslims considered these raids their duty commanded by the Qur’an and the Hadith, by which they were bound to wage attacks on all who refused to acknowledge Muslim authority.	1928 Wailing Wall Incident: Jewish worshippers, without permission from the Muslim authorities in charge of the Jewish Temple Mount, begin coming to Wailing Wall to pray. Fights break out, and violence escalates into a small civil war resulting in hundreds of casualties on both sides.
1248–1254 The Seventh Crusade.		
1270 The Eighth Crusade.	1882 The first well-organized wave of Jewish immigration into Palestine takes place, consisting of individuals and small groups, mainly under the inspiration of "Hibbat Zion" (an organization of Russian Jews) and the BILU movement (an organization of mostly students from eastern Europe).	1929 In escalation of fighting, Arabs massacre almost all the Jews living in Hebron. The Jews complain to the British, but the British blame the unrest on Jewish immigration and land purchases.
1300 Turkish Moslems establish the Ottoman Empire in Anatolia.	August 1914–November 1918 World War I.	1932 Saudi Arabia is founded.
1400 Timur attacks Anatolia and Egypt.		
1500 The Shiite Safavids under Shah Ismail establish themselves in Persia (Iran). Shiite Islam becomes the official religion of Persia. From 1501 until 1722, the Safavids rule Iran and parts of Iraq.	1917 Balfour Declaration: The British Government takes Jerusalem from Turk rule, recognizes the Jewish people's right to a national home in the land of Israel. The Temple Mount is open to Europeans for the first time in history.	1937 The Irgun Zvai Leumi (“National Military Organization”), a secret, extreme right-wing Jewish group, is formed in Palestine.
1517 The Ottomans capture Egypt and Syria and establish a protectorate over the holy places in Arabia. Palestine falls under Ottoman control and remains so until 1917.	June 16, 1918 In the "Declaration to the Seven" the British reaffirm to Arab leaders earlier promises to promote the "complete and sovereign independence of the Arabs" in the Arabian Peninsula, stating that the future of Iraq and Palestine will be determined in accordance with "the principle of the consent of the governed."	1939 British call for the creation of an independent Palestinian state for both Jews and Arabs. Both groups oppose the plan. The paramilitary Jewish group Irgun Zvai Leumi begins operations against the British in response.
1607 The first permanent English settlement in America is established at Jamestown, Va.		1939-1945 World War II. Millions of Jews are killed under Hitler.
1699 Treaty of Karlowitz - Ottomans are forced to give up many of their European territories, including Hungary, to the Hapsburgs.		August 8, 1944 Jewish commandos from the Irgun (a secret, extreme right-wing, Jewish group) and Stern Gang (the underground Jewish militia) attempt to assassinate

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sinate the British high commissioner Sir Harold MacMichael and Ladt MacMichael in Jerusalem, but fail.

November 6, 1944

Britain's colonial secretary in the Mandate Lord Moyne is assassinated by the militantly Zionist LEHI organization (formerly called the Stern Gang).

March, 1945

The Arab League is formed when Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen join together, proclaiming their intent to defend Palestine.

July 22, 1946

Irgun Zvai Leumi, the militant underground Jewish faction led by Menachem Begin, blows up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, headquarters of the British Mandate administrators, in retaliation for a British raid on the Jewish Agency. 90 people are killed, including Jews, Arabs, and Brits.

November 29, 1947

The U.N. votes to partition Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, with Jerusalem designated an internationalized zone. Palestinian Arabs reject the plan.

August 14, 1947

Jewish Haganah commandos attack the home of the Palestinian Abu Laban family near Tel Aviv, killing all 12, including the mother and her 6 children. It is the first major post-World War II Zionist attack.

May 14, 1948

The modern-day state of Israel is established.

September 17, 1948

Count Folke Bernadotte, a U.N. mediator in Palestine, is assassinated by Jewish commandos under the leadership of Yitzhak Shamir.

May 15, 1948–1949

The Arab-Israeli War: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq invade Israel.

1949–1952

More than 123,000 Iraqi Jews and 20,000 Egyptian Jews flee to Israel; 100s are killed in riots.

1950-1953

Height of the Korean War.

July 20, 1951

Abdullah, King of Jordan, is assassinated by a Palestinian in the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Summer 1953

Israel begins moving government offices from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The United States protests that the move violates the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan declaring Jerusalem to be an internationalized zone.

August 1953

Israeli army Unit 101 under the command of Ariel Sharon attacks the Palestinian refugee camp of al-Bureig in the Gaza Strip, killing 20 residents. The raid is in retaliation for Arab paramilitary fedayeen (commando) raids against Israel.

October 14, 1953

Sharon and Unit 101 raid the village of Qibya, Jordan, killing 70 residents inside their homes. The raid is in retaliation for an alleged attack against an Israeli village in which a woman and 2 children were murdered.

1956

The Sinai Campaign: large groups of terrorists enter Israel and the security of Israeli ports is threatened.

1956

Yasar Arafat of Egypt founds Al Fatah, an underground terrorist organization.

1956

Arab-Israeli War.

1960s

1959-1965

Vietnam War (Escalated U.S. involvement from 1965-1969.)

1964

The PLO is founded to support the establishment of a Palestinian state through legal and political methods as well as acts of violence.

1965

Israel launches raids against the West Bank towns of Qalqiya, Shuna, and Jenin in reprisal for Palestinian attacks. Calls go through the Arab world for war against Israel, confirming the strategy of al-Fatah, which uses attacks on Israelis to provoke Israeli reprisals against Palestinians, which in turn would, it was hoped, start a new war of Palestinian liberation.

1967

The Israeli military conquers the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sanai, and Golan Heights. The United Nations calls upon Israel to withdraw from Palestinian territories. Control and stewardship of the Temple Mount is returned to the Muslims.

1967

Osama bin Laden inherits millions when his father, Mohammed bin Oud bin Laden, owner of the largest construction firm in Saudi Arabia, dies in a helicopter accident in Texas.

June 5–10, 1967

Six-Day War: Arab terrorists raid across Egyptian and Jordanian borders into Israel. Israel launches a massive air assault that cripples Arab air capability and the Knesset passes a law effectively annexing Arab East Jerusalem.

July 3, 1967

The U.N. responds to Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem with Resolution 267, stipulating that Arab Jerusalem counts as "occupied territory."

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November 22, 1967

The U.N. issues Resolution 242 calling upon Israel to withdraw from "territories occupied in the recent conflict." Israel formally accepts the resolution, but refuses to withdraw from Palestinian lands.

1968

Arafat becomes leader of the PLO, commits over 200 major terrorist acts.

June 5, 1968

U.S. presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated in Los Angeles, Calif., by Sirhan Sirhan, a Palestinian who was reportedly motivated by Kennedy's pro-Israel positions.

July 23, 1968

An El Al flight en route from Rome, Italy, to Israel is hijacked by PFLP terrorists and forced to land in Algiers, Algeria; 42 hostages are taken.

1969 to 1970

An estimated 560 raids into Israel from the Lebanese side of the border take place; Lebanon (and Jordan) increasingly become targets for Israeli retaliatory attacks.

February 18, 1969

Palestinian terrorists attack an El Al airliner at the Zurich, Switzerland, airport; 1 pilot is killed, and 1 pilot is wounded.

August 29, 1969

A TWA flight from Los Angeles is hijacked by PFLP terrorists and forced to land in Damascus, Israel; 6 passengers are held hostage.

September–December 1969

Palestinian terrorists attack El Al offices in Brussels, Belgium; Athens, Greece; and Berlin, Germany, using bombs and hand grenades.

1970s

February 10, 1970

The Action Organization for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Democratic Front for the

Liberation of Palestine attack a bus at the Munich, West Germany, airport; 1 passenger is killed, and 11 are injured.

June 9, 1970

PLO guerrillas fail in a plot to assassinate Jordanian King Hussein.

September 6, 1970

Pan Am, Swissair, and TWA flights carrying a total of 400 passengers are hijacked by PFLP terrorists from Amsterdam, Netherlands; Zurich, Switzerland; and Frankfurt, Germany; the planes are forced to land in Zerqa, Jordan, and Cairo, Egypt, where each are blown up on the ground.

September 7 and 9, 1970

Palestinian guerrillas in Jordan hijack 4 commercial airliners (one Swiss, two American, and one British), taking the passengers and crews hostage.

September 15, 1970

In retaliation for the plane hijackings the week before, Jordan's army attacks Palestinian positions and expels PLO officials and commandos from Jordan. 20,000 die when Palestinian neighborhoods and refugee camps are shelled. The PLO moves its base of operations to Beirut, Lebanon.

November 28, 1971

Jordanian Prime Minister Wash Tel is assassinated in Cairo, Egypt, by members of Black September.

December 1971

Black September attempts to assassinate Jordan's Ambassador to London, Zeid Al Rifai.

February 1972

A West German electrical installation and a Dutch gas plant are blown up by members of Black September.

May 1972–July 1972

A Belgian Sabena flight en route from Vienna, Austria, to Tel Aviv, Israel, is hijacked. Lod airport in Israel is attacked; 24 killed. A Tel Aviv bus terminal is bombed, 11 injured. An oil refinery in

Trieste, Italy, is attacked. All attacks were carried out by Black September.

September 5, 1972

The Munich Massacre: 9 Israeli athletes are killed and 11 are taken hostage by Black September at the Olympic grounds in West Germany.

March 2, 1973

Black September assassinates the U.S. Ambassador to Sudan and other diplomats in the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum, Saudi Arabia.

April, 1973

Israeli commandos, including Ehud Barak, enter Beirut, Lebanon, and assassinate 3 PLO officials whom Israel claims had been involved in the attack on Israeli athletes at Munich in 1972.

October 6, 1973–1974

Yom Kippur War: Egypt and Syria attack Israel.

December 17, 1973

An airport terminal lounge in Rome, Italy, and Pan American flight 202 bound for Beirut, Lebanon, and Tehran, Iran, are attacked; 29 killed, 5 taken hostage. The perpetrators demand release of 2 Arab terrorists.

November 22, 1974

U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3236 recognizes the right of Palestinian people to independence and sovereignty, and recognizes the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

December 1975

OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Austria, are raided by Carlos the Jackal and PFLP associates; 3 killed, 62 hostages taken. PLFP demands a statement to be read on TV, and demands and receives an airplane to escape. Hostages are released after \$40 million ransom is paid.

June 27, 1976

An Air France airliner is hijacked by the Baader-Meinhof Group and the PFLP and forced to land in Uganda; 258 passengers are taken hostage.

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- 1979
Islamic Jihad is founded by Islamic fundamentalist Fathi Shaqaqi and other radical Palestinian students.
- February 14, 1979
U.S. Ambassador Adolph Dubs is kidnapped in Kabul, Afghanistan, with demand to release "religious figures;" Dubs and 4 alleged terrorists are killed.
- November 4, 1979
Iran Hostage Crisis: The U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iraq, is seized by fundamentalist Islamic students; 52 American diplomats taken hostage with demands that the United States extradite the overthrown Shah of Iran, Reza Pahlvai, who is in the United States for medical treatment. Hostages are released 444 days later, hours after the U.S. presidential inauguration.
- November 20, 1979
The Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, is seized by Islamic terrorists; hundreds of pilgrims are taken hostage, 250 are killed, and 600 are injured.
- December 26, 1979
Osama bin Laden and his associate Mohammed Atef become involved in the Mujadeen rebellion when the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.
- 1980s**
1980–1988
Iran-Iraq war: Iraq uses chemical weapons in the war.
- April 1980
Islamic terrorists seize the Iranian embassy in London, England; 2 are killed.
- May 13, 1981
Pope John Paul II is shot in a failed assassination attempt by Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk, at St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. Agca initially claims that he was working for the Bulgarian intelligence service, but later retracts that statement. Agca also claims to be a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, but the group denies any ties to the man.
- October 6, 1981
Egypt President Anwar al-Sadat is assassinated by members of the Al-Jihad group (Muslim extremists in his own army) in Cairo; the group also injures 20 by attacking an annual military parade in the country.
- 1982
Operation Peace for Galilee and the Lebanon invasion of Israel (The 1982 War). The PLO perpetuates repeated terrorist attacks in northern Israel (Galilee).
- July 19, 1982
David Dodge, President of the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, is kidnapped, released, kidnapped again, tortured, and finally killed by Hizballah.
- August 1982
A bomb planted by Palestinian terrorist Mohammad Rashid explodes in a Pan Am flight over Honolulu, Hawaii; 1 passenger is killed, several are injured.
- September 14, 1982
Lebanese Prime Minister Premier Bashir Gemayel is assassinated in Beirut, Lebanon.
- April 18, 1983
The U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, is destroyed by a suicide car-bombing by Radical Islamic Jihad members; 63 killed, 120 injured.
- October 23, 1983
A truck bomb is detonated near U.S. military barracks in West Beirut, Lebanon, and a second bomb follows; 241 Marines and 58 French paratroopers are killed. Attacks are carried out by Shiite suicide bombers under Imad Maghniyah, bin Laden's "terrorism teacher."
- December 12, 1983
Truck bombing kills 6 and injures dozens at U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait; members of the Islamic Jihad carry out the attacks.
- 1984
Osama bin Laden moves to Pakistan, co-founds Maktub al-Khidamat (MAK) to organize approximately 20,000 anti-Soviet Mujahideen rebels, and channels overseas weapons and funds to the group.
- 1984
Over \$250 million per year in arms and resistance is sent from the U.S. government to Afghanistan; part of these funds are unknowingly contributed to Osama bin Laden's terrorist cause.
- March 16, 1984
CIA station chief William Buckley is kidnapped, tortured, and executed in Beirut, Lebanon, by members of the Islamic Jihad.
- September 20, 1984
A suicide bomb explodes at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon; 23 are killed and 21 injured, including U.S. and British ambassadors. The attack is attributed to the Iranian-backed Hizballah, but Islamic Jihad's Imad Maghniyah (Osama bin Laden's "terrorism teacher") is later believed responsible.
- December 3, 1984
Kuwait Airways Flight 221 is hijacked and diverted to Tehran, Iran, by Islamic Jihad members, including Imad Mughniyah, Osama bin Laden's "terrorism teacher." Hijackers demand the release of 17 suspects arrested after Kuwait attack. Iranian troops storm the plane and arrest the hijackers, but later release them; 2 passengers are killed.
- June 9, 1985
U.S. academic Thomas Sutherland is kidnapped in Lebanon by alleged Hizballah members, and is held hostage for more than 5 years.

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June 13, 1985

A Transworld Airline flight leaving Rome, Italy, is hijacked and forced to fly to Beirut, Lebanon.

June 14, 1985

TWA flight 847 en route from Athens, Greece, to Rome, Italy, is hijacked and forced to fly to Beirut, Lebanon. 8 crew members and 145 passengers are held hostage, 1 American hostage is murdered. The aircraft is flown twice to Algiers, Algeria, and is finally returned to Beirut after Israel releases 435 Lebanese and Palestinian Shiite prisoners.

August 1985

Iran-Contra: The United States begins selling weapons to Iran to persuade the nation's leaders to release hostages, and channels funds to the Contra militants fighting the Sandanista government in Nicaragua. In response, Iran immediately releases Benjamin Weir and later releases Martin Jenco and David Jacobson.

October 7, 1985

PLO commandos led by Muhammad ("Abu") Abbas hijack an Achille Lauro cruise ship at Port Said, Egypt; more than 700 hostages are taken, 1 handicapped American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, is shot and then pushed over the side of the ship in his wheelchair. Hijackers demand the release of Palestinians imprisoned worldwide; the Egyptian government offers the terrorists safe haven, and the hostages are released.

November 23, 1985

Egypt Air flight 648 is hijacked by Abu Nidal in Valleta, Malta; a 30-hour standoff between the hijackers and the Egyptian commandos ensues.

December 1985

U.S. and Israeli airport check-in desks at Israel's El Al airline in Rome, Italy, and Vienna, Austria, are attacked simultaneously with grenades; 20 are killed (including 4 terrorists). The terrorists are working for the Libyan government, which funds and monetarily rewards various Palestinian terrorist groups.

December 12, 1985

A chartered DC-8 flight holding 248 members of the 101st Airborne Division of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and 8 flight-crew members crashes during takeoff in Gander, Newfoundland. The soldiers were going home after completing peacekeeping duties in the Middle East. All passengers and flight crew aboard are killed.

April 2, 1986

A bomb planted under a seat of TWA Flight 840 en route from Rome, Italy, is detonated by Palestinian splinter group Ezzedine Kassam, a unit of the Arab Revolutionary Cells and the Iraqi-backed May 15 organization, as it approaches Athens Airport; 4 U.S. citizens are killed, and 9 injured.

April 5, 1986

LaBelle discotheque in West Berlin, Germany, a spot frequented by U.S. servicemen, is bombed by terrorists working for the Libyan government, which funds and monetarily rewards various Palestinian terrorist groups. 3 are killed, and 150 injured.

April 15, 1986

In retaliation for the April 5, 1986, LaBelle disco bombing, the United States bombs Benghazi and Tripoli in Libya, and bombs the home of Libyan leader Moammar Qaddafi.

September 9, 1986

Frank Reed, director of the American University in Beirut, is kidnapped in Lebanon by Hizballah and released 44 months later.

September 12, 1986

Joseph Cicippio, acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, is kidnapped in Lebanon by Hizballah and released 5 years later.

October 21, 1986

U.S. citizen Edward A. Tracy is kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon, by Hizballah and released 5 years later.

1987

Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), the

Palestinian anti-Israel terrorist organization, is founded. Known for bombings and suicide attacks, Hamas also eventually employs a political organization and has candidates running in local elections.

1987–1988

The al Muthanna State Establishment and the Nuclear Research Center at Al Tuwaitha in Iraq researches radiological weapons and tests three prototypes. The center is abandoned in 1988; the whereabouts of 100 bomb casings from the site are still unknown.

January 2, 1987

United Nations hostage negotiator Terry Waite, a representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is taken hostage by Iranian Hizballah terrorists in Beirut, Lebanon, and held until November 1991.

January 24, 1987

American citizens Jesse Turner and Alann Steen are kidnapped by Islamic terrorists in Beirut, Lebanon, and held until 1991.

December 8, 1987

The first Palestinian intifada (uprising) breaks out in the Israeli-occupied territories (the Gaza Strip and the West Bank). Palestinians go on strike, close their businesses, throw stones, burn tires in the streets, and erect barricades. The Israeli response uses tear gas, bullets, and mass detentions, among other tactics.

1988

Al Qaeda (the Base) is organized from Osama bin Laden's former Mujahedeen members.

February 17, 1988

While serving with the United Nations Truce Organization, U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, the American Chief of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization, is kidnapped and murdered in Southern Lebanon by the Iranian-backed Hizballah/Lebanese Party of God.

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April 14, 1988

A car bomb is detonated outside a USO hub in Naples, Italy, by the Organization of Jihad Brigades; 1 U.S. sailor is killed.

August 8, 1988

A bomb explodes in a C-130 Hercules aircraft just after take-off from Bahawalpu, Pakistan, killing Pakistani President General Zia Al Haq, a U.S. ambassador, and 37 others.

1988

Saddam Hussein uses chemical weapons against the Kurds in Iraq.

December 21, 1988

Pan Am Boeing 747 flight 103 explodes and crashes in Lockerbie, Scotland, when a bomb planted by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and the Libyan government explodes; all 259 passengers are killed, including U.S. students and military personnel. 11 also die on the ground.

1989

The final Soviet withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan: The Soviets install a new leader of Afghanistan, Mohammed Najibullah.

1990s

1990–1991

The Persian Gulf War: Iraq invades Kuwait and annexes it as “the Iraqi province of Kuwait.” The United States begins bombing Iraq and sends ground troops.

1991

Saudi Arabia rejects Osama bin Laden's offer to assist in fighting Iraq and then permits U.S. troops to use its military bases, fueling bin Laden's hatred of the United States and Saudi Arabia.

1992

Ethnic civil war under Taliban leadership in Kabul, Afghanistan; 50,000 are killed, mainly Persians.

1992

Osama bin Laden proposes that Hizballah, the pro-Iran Shiite terrorist group, join in a common objective of killing U.S. troops stationed in Asia and Africa.

1992

Osama bin Laden establishes legal businesses (farms, a tannery, and a construction firm) in Sudan to increase his available funds for al Qaeda.

1992

A Christian center in Argentina is bombed by Imad Mugniyah of Hizballah.

December 20, 1992

A hotel in Aden, Yemen, recently used by U.S. troops preparing to go to Somalia is bombed; 2 tourists are killed.

February 26, 1993

The Day of Terror: A rented van packed with explosives explodes in The World Trade Center's underground garage; 6 people and an unborn child are killed, more than 1,040 are injured. The bomb plot includes a device designed to release cyanide gas that would kill emergency response crews and area residents, but the cyanide is destroyed in the fire. 4 Islamic terrorists, including the Abu Sayyat Group mastermind Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, carry out the attack. Osama bin Laden is suspected to be behind the plot, but denies involvement. Yousef wanted 250,000 deaths to result from the attack, and was quoted as saying, “Our calculations were not very accurate this time. However we promise you that next time it will be very precise and the Trade Center will be one of our targets.” Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman of Egypt (the blind Sheik) is later given a life sentence in a U.S. medical center for federal prisoners in Springfield, Missouri, for his role in the bombing.

February 26, 1993

The World Trade Center bombing causes \$500 million in damage.

April 14, 1993

An attempt to assassinate U.S. President George Bush in Kuwait fails.

August 1993

Jihad members attempt to assassinate Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan al Alfi, but fail.

September 13, 1993

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, and Yitzak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, sign the historic Declaration of Principles (Oslo Accords) on the lawn of the White House. The pact sets into motion a five-year transitional designed to lead toward autonomy for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

September 13, 1993–September 2000

256 Israeli civilians and soldiers are killed by terrorist attacks in their nation.

October 4, 1993

Black Hawk Down: Two U.S. helicopters on a humanitarian mission are shot down in Mogadishu, Somalia, by militants trained by Al Qaeda using weapons supplied by Osama bin Laden and Mohammed Atef; 18 U.S. soldiers are killed, and some of their bodies are abused and dragged through the streets.

November 1993

A Jihad attempt to assassinate Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedky fails.

1994

Osama bin Laden's citizenship is revoked by Saudi Arabia, and his family and friends publicly disown him due to his crimes.

1994

Islamic Jihad and Hamas end their rivalry with the foundation of the Palestinian Authority; Hamas adopts a new strategy of suicide bombings.

1994

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO and President of the

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Palestinian National Authority; Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister of Israel; and Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, are all award the Noble Peace Prize for their efforts to create peace in the Middle East.

February 25, 1994

Dr. Baruch Goldstein, an Israeli-American physician and member of the militant Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron, opens fire on early morning Muslim worshippers at the Machpelah Cave gravesite of the Patriarch Abraham in Jerusalem, killing 29. Riots break out in the territories.

March 1994

A plot between Yousef and the Abu Sayyat group to attack the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok with an ammonium nitrate fuel oil bomb fails when a truck carrying the bomb crashes; the driver of the truck is found dead, floating in the bomb mix.

June 20, 1994

A bomb planted in the Masshad Reza Shiite mosque in Iran explodes; 26 are killed and 170 injured. Yousef, who trained with Al Qaeda and the Abu Sayyat Group, is responsible for the bombing.

August 14, 1994

Carlos the Jackal (Ilich Ramirez-Sanchez) is arrested by the French Secret Service and is sentenced to life in prison.

September 1994

Yousef and the Abu Sayyat group twice attempt to assassinate the future Pakistani Prime Minister in Pakistan; both attempts fail.

October 12, 1994

The Taliban militia conquers Kandahar, Afghanistan.

October 26, 1994

The Treaty of Peace: Jordan makes peace with Israel.

November 1994

An Israeli cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is bombed by Hizballah agents.

December 11, 1994

PAL flight 434 en route to Japan is bombed; 1 passenger is killed. (The bomb is constructed by Yousef on the first leg of the two-leg flight using diluted nitroglycerine in a contact lens cleaner bottle and a wristwatch as a timer. Yousef leaves the plane before the second leg of the flight, avoiding the explosion.) The Abu Sayyat Group and Yousef carried out the attack as a "practice run" for their Bojinka plot, which would blow up 11 airliners with similar types of bombing devices.

December 24, 1994

An Air France jumbo jet laden with fuel is hijacked in a failed attempt to fly the plane to Paris to take down the Eiffel Tower. Algerian Islamic terrorists with ties to Osama bin Laden carry out the hijacking.

Late 1994, Early 1995

Investigators in the Philippines uncover plots to 1.) assassinate Pope John Paul II on a visit to Manila in January 1995; 2.) create undetectable bombs to be smuggled onto 11 U.S. jumbo jets entering the United States from Asia (this plot, called Bojinka, would blow up all 11 planes in a coordinated attack); 3.) coordinate training of Islamic pilots at U.S. schools and then fly airliners into buildings in the United States (including the CIA, the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, the Sears Tower, the Transamerica Tower, and a U.S. nuclear facility); and 4.) assassinate U.S. President Bill Clinton during visits to the Philippines. (The fourth plan was rejected to focus on the other three plots.)

November 19, 1995

Islamic Jihad explodes a truck bomb at the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan; 15 are killed. Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is suspected to be involved.

March 8, 1995

2 U.S. diplomats are killed and a third wounded by unidentified gunmen at the U.S. Consulate in

Karachi, Pakistan. The gunmen, who were backed by Yousef and the Abu Sayyat Group, may have been acting in retaliation for the 1995 convictions of those involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

April 19, 1995

A car bomb is detonated outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The building collapses from the blast, killing 168 (including 19 children) and injuring 600. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, members of a U.S.-based anti-government militia, plan and carry out the attack. A manhunt for a third suspect is eventually dropped. Yousef is suspected to have designed the bomb for Terry Nichols while he was visiting the Philippines.

June 26, 1995

An attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, fails. Usama bin Laden is suspected.

September 1995

The U.S. embassy in Moscow, Russia, is attacked by rocket-propelled grenades, possibly in retaliation for U.S. strikes on Serb positions in Bosnia.

November 4, 1995

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated at a peace rally in Tel Aviv, Israel, by Yigal Amir, an Israeli law student and alleged member of a right-wing Israeli organization opposed to the peace process.

November 13, 1995

A Saudi National Guard training facility run by U.S. officials in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, is attacked by car bomb; 7 are killed. In a separate incident, 4 anti-royal Saudi Arabian dissidents are beheaded. Islamic Movement for Change, the Tigers of the Gulf, and the Combatant Partisans of God claim responsibility.

1996

The Taliban takes control of Afghanistan and conquers Jalabad and Kabul; Kabul University is shut

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down. Taliban law limits male students to a high school education and bans female students over the age of 12 from all schooling. The Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam political party in Pakistan assists in the organization of terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden is expelled from Sudan and establishes a training facility near Jalalabad, Afghanistan, to develop al Qaeda into an international terrorist network.

April 3, 1996

A U.S. Air Force flight crash kills U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 34 others in Croatia. The crash is officially blamed on pilot error, poor equipment, and weather conditions (the plane was flying through a heavy rainstorm when it crashed).

June 25, 1996

A truck bomb is detonated outside the U.S. Air Force complex Khobar Towers in Dharan, Saudi Arabia; 19 U.S. servicemen are killed and 515 people are injured, including 240 U.S. citizens. The attack is blamed on the Movement for Islamic Change organization, with key suspects Ahmed Ibrahim al-Mughassil, Ibrahim al-Yacoub, and Abdel Karim al-Nasser.

July 17, 1996

TWA flight 800 en route from JFK airport to Paris crashes near Long Island; all 230 aboard are killed. The location of the explosion—over the plane's fuel tank—is identical to the point of detonation aboard PAL flight 434, a bombing that was carried out by Yousef. The explosion is immediately believed to be a terrorist attack, but eventually an electrical short is blamed and the investigation is shut down.

August 1, 1996

A bomb planted by the Algerian Armed Islamic Group explodes at the home of the French Archbishop of Oran in Algeria, killing the Archbishop and his chauffeur.

August 23, 1996

Osama bin Laden releases a written declaration of attack against the United States, including a

demand to withdraw U.S. troops and to overthrow the Saudi Arabian government.

September 27, 1996

The Taliban conquers the capital city of Kabul, Afghanistan, and hangs Mohammed Najibullah on a public street.

January 2-13, 1997

Letter bombs with Alexandria, Egypt, postmarks are discovered at Al-Hayat newspaper bureaus and at a prison facility in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Leavenworth, Kansas, USA; London, England; and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

February 23, 1997

A Palestinian gunman opens fire on an observation deck atop the Empire State Building in New York City, killing a Danish national and tourists from the United States, Argentina, Switzerland, and France. The gunman's suicide note claimed his attack was a punishment against "the enemies of Palestine."

May 23, 1997

A Taliban militia executes 11 Iranian diplomats in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, after conquering the city.

May 24, 1997

Pakistan formally recognizes the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

November 12, 1997

4 U.S. auditors and a Pakistani driver are killed in Karachi, Pakistan, by the Islamic Inquilabi (Revolutionary) Council and the Aimal Khufia Action Committee. The attack may have been carried out in retaliation for the U.S. conviction of Pakistanis who murdered 2 CIA agents.

November 17, 1997

Six militants claiming to be members of Jamaat al-Islamiyya (The Islamic Group) and a combination of "Tala' Al Fath" and its parent group Jihad massacre 58 foreign tourists at the Temple of Hatshepsut in Luxor, Egypt.

1998

The Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation (with prayer houses in Ashland, Oregon, and Springfield, Missouri), raises over \$30 million a year; part of these funds are directed to Osama bin Laden. The Global Relief Foundation in Chicago, Ill., knowingly or unknowingly raises more than \$5 million per year to be given to bin Laden.

1998

Osama bin Laden releases a declaration stating that, "To kill Americans and their allies, civilians, and military is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it, in any country in which it is possible to do it." Bin Laden also stated in an interview, "Our battle against the Americans is far greater than our battle was against the Russians. We anticipate a black future for America. Instead of remaining United States, it shall end up separated states and shall have to carry the bodies of its sons back to America."

1998

The United Nations is forced out of Iraq; an announcement is made that Saddam Hussein produced thousands of liters of weaponized anthrax and botulinum toxin, more than enough to kill every human on earth.

June 21, 1998

The U.S. embassy in Lebanon, Beirut, is attacked by rocket-propelled grenades.

July 7, 1998

The U.N. General Assembly votes overwhelmingly to give Palestinians a larger role in the U.N. The Palestinians hail the vote as a first step toward full U.N. membership.

August 1998

The Taliban government of Afghanistan murders 4,000 to 6,000 people of the Hazara ethnic group and of the Shiite denomination of Islam.

August 7, 1998

Truck bombs are detonated almost simultaneously outside two U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and

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Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing 224 and injuring more than 5,000. The attacks are carried out by 22 al Qaeda members, including Osama bin Laden.

August 20, 1988

The United States retaliates for the attack against U.S. Embassies by bombing key targets in Afghanistan and Sudan with cruise missiles. Osama bin Laden is targeted in the attack, but escapes from a training camp in Khost, Afghanistan, before it is hit.

November 1998

The U.S. Justice Department indicts Osama bin Laden for the bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

November 15, 1998

The 11-year-old son of a U.S. businessman is kidnapped, held for \$1 million ransom, and later released.

December 28, 1998

The Aden Abyan Islamic Army takes 17 western tourists hostage in Yemen.

January 12, 1999

The wife and son of Afghan political moderate Abdul Haq are killed in their home in Peshawar, Pakistan.

January 16, 1999

The U.S. Justice Department indicts Osama bin Laden and 11 other al Qaeda members. Osama bin Laden is added to the FBI's Most Wanted list.

March 27, 1999

Mohammed Jehanzeb, secretary of the anti-Taliban organizer Haji Qadir, is assassinated in Peshawar, Pakistan.

April 23, 1999

The United Nations Human Rights Commission condemns the Taliban government for Afghanistan's human rights abuses. Afghanistan is designated a "terrorist-sponsored state."

October 15, 1999

The United Nations Security Council resolves that the Taliban must turn over Osama bin Laden.

December 14, 1999

Ahmed Ressam's plot to blow up LAX airport is thwarted when U.S. Customs agents find explosives in the trunk of the vehicle he was attempting to drive across the Canadian-U.S. border at Port Angeles, Wa.

December 1999

A plot to kill U.S. and Israeli millennium celebrators by bombing a fully booked hotel and prominent Christian sites in Amman, Jordan, is thwarted by a tip to intelligence officials.

2000s

2000–2004

More than 1,000 people are killed through Palestinian terrorism and violence; the majority are killed by suicide bombings.

January 3, 2000

A plot to bomb a hotel in Amman, Jordan, an attack on Mount Nebo, and an attack at a site on the Jordan River are all thwarted. A plan to bomb Los Angeles International Airport is thwarted. A plan to bomb The USS Sullivans with a boat laden with explosives is thwarted. All plots were formed by al Qaeda.

February 2000

Al Qaeda defector Jamal Ahmed al-Fadl testifies that Osama bin Laden had tried to buy uranium on the black market for \$1.5 million in a presumed attempt to develop nuclear weapons.

Summer 2000

Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes rise past 3,000. Israel has been demolishing the homes of suicide bombers and their families in efforts to deter and punish attackers.

July 2, 2000

The Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and other national monuments in Washington, D.C., are identified as possible terrorist targets.

August 12, 2000

4 U.S. citizens are taken hostage in Kara-Su Valley by the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan; the hostages later escape.

September 28, 2000

The New Intifada, a Palestinian rebellion against Israeli occupation, begins.

October 12, 2000

A U.S. Navy destroyer, the USS Cole, is rammed by a small boat loaded with explosives in Aden, Yemen, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39. Osama bin Laden is believed responsible for the attack.

December 30, 2000

A plaza across the street from the U.S. embassy in Manila, Philippines, is bombed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front; 9 are injured.

2001

An estimated \$30 million per year is spent to sustain al Qaeda.

May 26, 2001

United Nations Security Council states that the Taliban is selling opium and heroin to finance terrorist training.

June 1, 2001

A disco in Tel Aviv, Israel, is bombed; 21 are killed and 120 injured, mostly teenagers. Hamas organization leader Ayman Halaweh is blamed for the attack.

August 3, 2001

The Taliban arrests 24 humanitarian aid workers in Kabul, Afghanistan, including several people who were attempting to propagate Christianity, an act punishable by long prison terms or execution.

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August 9, 2001

A suicide bomber blows up a pizzeria in Jerusalem, Israel; 15 are killed, and 130 injured.

September 9, 2001

General Ahmad Shah Massoud, leader of the Afghan Northern Alliance anti-Taliban opposition, is assassinated in a suicide bomb attack in Khvajeh Be Odin, Afghanistan. Al Qaeda is believed responsible.

September 9, 2001

A suicide bomb is detonated by an Israeli Arab working for Hamas in Nahariya, Israel; 3 are killed.

September 11, 2001

9/11: American Airlines flight 11 en route from Boston to Los Angeles is hijacked and crashed into the World Trade Center (north tower); United Airlines flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles is hijacked and crashed into the World Trade Center (south tower); United Airlines flight 93 from Newark to San Francisco is hijacked and crashes in southwestern Pennsylvania; American Airlines flight 77 en route from Washington to Los Angeles is hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon. More than 6,000 are killed, and thousands more are injured. Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda mastermind Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, and 19 hijackers plan and carry out the attacks.

September 11, 2001

The fiscal damage to the United States resulting from the 9/11 attacks exceeds \$16.5 billion; 200,000 jobs lost. The travel industry makes \$13 billion less annually. It is estimated that only \$400,000 to \$500,000 was spent to plan and carry out the 9/11 attacks.

September 13, 2001

An al Qaeda plot to attack U.S. embassies and the Eagle Base airfield in Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium, is thwarted by NATO officials. In a separate incident, Israeli authorities prevent a radioactive backpack-bomb from entering Israel; the smugglers have ties to al Qaeda.

September 18, 2001

Letters containing anthrax are mailed from Trenton, N.J., to five U.S. media outlets, along with notes, one of which read "09-11-01, this is next, take penacilin [*sic*] now, death to America, death to Israel, Allah is great." One recipient dies.

October 7, 2001–March 2002

Operation Enduring Freedom: After repeated warnings to surrender terrorists, U.S. and British forces begin bombing Taliban and al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan.

October 8, 2001

Plots to bomb the U.S. embassy in Paris, France, and possibly NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, are uncovered.

October 8, 2001

The Department of Homeland Security is formed in response to the acts of terrorism perpetrated against the United States, and in order to coordinate the work of America's security and intelligence agencies. It is the largest governmental reorganization since 1947.

October 9, 2001

A second batch of letters containing a new, weaponized form of anthrax (previously unseen by bioweapons experts) are mailed to two Democratic senators in Washington, D.C., along with notes that read "09-11-01. You can not stop us. We have this anthrax. You die now. Are you afraid? Death to America. Death to Israel. Allah is great." 22 people develop infections, and 4 die. Both these letters and the September 18th set of letters contain the same strain of anthrax. Some suspect that the attacks are linked to the 9/11 hijackers, but the FBI claims the anthrax attack are a result of domestic terrorism.

October 11, 2001

Two nuclear suitcases reportedly reach al Qaeda operatives in the United States.

October 17, 2001

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

assassinates the Israeli Minister of Tourism, Rehavam Zeevi, to avenge the death of Mustafa Zuhari.

October 28, 2001

A Christian church in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, is shot up; 15 are killed.

November 17, 2001

Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani resumes his presidency in Kabul, Afghanistan, after being removed from power by the Taliban in 1996.

November 2001

According to Osama bin Laden, nuclear weapons are available for \$10 million and \$20 million in Russia.

November 25, 2001

Mullah Mohammed Omar reports that the nuclear destruction of the United States is underway.

December 1, 2001

Two Hamas suicide bombers attack a mall in Jerusalem, Israel; 11 are killed, and 188 injured.

December 2, 2001

A Hamas suicide bomber blows up a bus in Haifa, Israel, to avenge the death of a Hamas member; 15 are killed, and approximately 40 wounded.

2002

Saddam Hussein and his regime support terrorism by offering \$25,000 to the families of all suicide bombers.

2002

Operation Defensive Shield is enacted by Israel to respond to massive Palestinian attacks.

January 23, 2002

Armed militants kidnap *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl in Karachi, Pakistan. Pearl is later beheaded, and a video of his murder is shown around the world. Hundreds more will be kidnapped and beheaded by Muslim militants in the years to come.

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February 14, 2002

Abdul Rahman, Afghanistan's minister of civilian aviation and tourism, is beaten to death at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan by al Qaeda operatives. The attack was ordered by Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar.

February 18, 2002

According to Associated Press figures, 941 Palestinians and 273 Israelis had now died in the current intifada (Palestinian uprising).

March 12, 2002

The U.N. Security Council passes a U.S. resolution calling for a Palestinian state to exist side-by-side with Israel. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urges Palestinians to halt "morally repugnant" acts of terror against Israelis, and he calls upon Israel to end its "illegal occupation" of Palestinian land.

March 17, 2002

A Protestant International Church in Islamabad, Pakistan, is attacked with grenades; 5 are killed, and 40 injured. Islamic militants are suspected to have carried out the attack.

March 29, 2002

The U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 1402 calling upon Israel to withdraw its forces from all Palestinian cities, but also expressing "grave concern" over the practice of Palestinian suicide bombings against Israelis.

April 11, 2002

A truck loaded with propane gas is blown up near the El Ghriba synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia; 16 killed, 26 injured. Attack carried out by al Qaeda operatives and the Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Sites.

September 5, 2002

Bombings in Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan, kill 32 and injure 150. Later that day, Afghan president Hamid Karzai survives an unsuccessful assassination attempt. The attacks are blamed on Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the Hezb-e-Islami.

September 11, 2002

Kashmir's Law Minister Mushtaq Ahmed Lone and 6 security guards are murdered in Tikipora, Kashmir, by Lashdar-e-Tayyiga, Jamiat ul-Mujahedin, and Hizb ul-Mujahedin.

October 2–24, 2002

The "Beltway Sniper" attacks over a period of 3 weeks, killing 10 and injuring 3 in the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore-Washington Metro area. John Allen Muhammed (a member of the Nation of Islam) and Lee Boyd Malvo are convicted of the attacks.

October 6, 2002

A barge loaded with explosives rams into a French oil tanker in Al Mukalla, Yemen, killing 1 crew member and spilling 90,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf of Aden.

October 8, 2002

A U.S. Marine is murdered and another wounded at a training center in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti government calls the incident a terrorist attack.

October 12, 2002

Al Qaeda plants bombs that explode outside two nightclubs in Kuna Beach, Bali; 202 are killed, 300 injured.

October 18, 2002

An al Qaeda bombing in Manila, Philippines, kills 2 and injures 20.

October 28, 2002

Laurence Foley, Executive Officer of the U.S. Agency for International Development Mission in Jordan, is assassinated in Amman, Jordan, by the Honest People of Jordan terrorist group.

November 24, 2002

Reghunath and Shiv temples in Jammu, Kashmir, are attacked by armed Lashkare-e-Tayyiba militants; 13 are killed, and 50 injured.

November 28, 2002

Three suicide bombers attack a hotel frequented by

Israeli tourists in Mombasa, Kenya; 15 killed, 40 injured. In a separate incident, two SA-7 shoulder-fired missiles are fired at an Arkia Airlines Boeing 757 near Mombasa's airport. The attacks are carried out by al Qaeda, the Government of Universal Palestine in Exile, and the Army of Palestine.

2003

The cost of the United States war on terror exceeds \$4.5 billion per month.

February 8, 2003

Kurdish legislator Shawkat Haji Mushir is murdered and two other Kurdish officials are kidnapped in Qamash Tapa, Iraq, by Ansar al-Islam.

February 22, 2003

Al Qaeda operatives open fire at a World Cup cricket match in Karachi, Pakistan, killing 9.

March 2003

The American College of Forensic Examiners (the world's largest forensic membership association) and The American Board for Certification in Homeland Security in Springfield, Missouri, spearhead the private sector efforts to prepare for, prevent, and respond to terrorist attacks by forming the groundbreaking Certified in Homeland Security, CHSSM, program. Thousands of patriots sign up in the first year.

March 2, 2003

Osama bin Laden's plan to create a "nuclear hell-storm" by constructing and detonating dirty nukes on United States soil is uncovered when Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, al Qaeda's military operations chief, is arrested in Karachi, Pakistan. Osama bin Laden, al-Zawahiri, and "Dr. X" are behind the plot.

March 2003–2004

Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2003–2004

More than 177 contract workers from over 25 nations are killed or missing in Iraq; many taken hostage and beheaded by terrorists.

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April 3, 2003

Davao Airport in Davao City, Philippines, is attacked by the Islamic Liberation Front.

August 7, 2003

A car bomb is detonated outside the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq; 19 are killed, 65 injured.

August 14, 2003

A massive power outage causes total blackouts at 21 power plants throughout the Eastern United States and part of Canada within 3 minutes. A communique attributed to al Qaeda claims responsibility, but lightning is blamed as the official cause.

August 18, 2003

The massive power outage is estimated to cost Canada and the United States more than \$10 billion (U.S. dollars). A communique attributed to al Qaeda claiming responsibility states, "It is a message to all the investors that the United States is no longer a safe country for their money, knowing that the U.S. economy greatly relies on the trust of the investor."

August 19, 2003

A truck loaded with surplus Iraqi ordnance explodes outside the United Nations Headquarters; 23 killed, more than 100 injured. Al Qaeda branch Brigades of the Martyr Abu Hafz al-Masri is believed responsible.

December 14 and 25, 2003

Pakistani President Musharraf survives two assassination attempts in Islamabad, Pakistan.

December 19, 2003

The Baghdad office of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution is bombed; 1 killed, 7 injured.

December 24, 2003

A suicide car bomb is detonated outside the Kurdish Interior Ministry in Irbil, Iraq; 5 killed, 101 injured.

December 25, 2003

Two suicide truck bombings in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, kill 14. Members of Jaish-e-Muhammad are suspected to have carried out the attacks.

2004

In Darfur, Sudan, Sudanese government forces and Janjaweed Arab militias launch a self-declared jihad on the mostly Christian and animist south through massacres; civilian executions; rapes; town, village, mosque, and church burnings, and forcible depopulations of lands by Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups. Over 70,000 people are killed and more than 1.6 million displaced in the conflict.

2004

Osama bin Laden pays an estimated \$60 to \$100 million to obtain the expertise of Pakistan's nuclear engineers and other specialists. Former Soviet and Chinese nuclear scientists and technicians are also employed by bin Laden. One purchase of 12 kilos of uranium reportedly cost bin Laden more than \$75 million.

February 25, 2004

Explosions occur at Camp Crame Philippine National Police Force headquarters in Quezon City, Philippines; the explosions are officially reported to have been caused by an electrical short.

February 28, 2004

Pakistani police guarding the U.S. consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, fall under gunfire; 3 are killed, 6 injured.

March 1, 2004

A bomb planted by Abu Sayyaf explodes on a ferry in Manila Bay, Philippines; 27 killed, dozens injured, and 100 still missing. The incident is originally called an accident, but Sayyaf's involvement is later uncovered.

March 11, 2004

Bombs explode on 3 commuter trains in Madrid, Spain; 201 are killed, 1,400 injured. Al Qaeda believed responsible, with Rabei Osman Ahmed as the key suspect. Soon after the attack, Spanish vot-

ers elect a new government that pledges to withdraw troops from Iraq.

August 1, 2004

The United States comes under threat of attack by suicide bombings on financial buildings in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. (The New York Stock Exchange, Citigroup, Prudential, and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are targets.)

November 11, 2004

Palestinian leader and founder and president of the PLO Yasir Arafat dies at age 75 in a military hospital in Paris, France. He was responsible for hundreds of terrorist attacks.

December 7, 2004

Armed gunmen linked to al Qaeda attack on the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Five employees and four attackers are killed.

Throughout History to Date

Mount Moriah in Jerusalem remains a holy site for the world's three major religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Control over this area continues to be a point of contention, largely because the site is mentioned in these religions' prophecies on the biblical end of times and the coming of the messianic age.

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TIMELINE COLOR KEY: Blue text = *Historical events*. Black text = *A Middle East-based terrorist group was responsible or believed responsible for the terrorist act.*

Red text = *A Middle East-based terrorist group may be a suspect.* Light Blue text = *Terrorist attempts or plots.* Green text = *The costs of terrorism.*