



## War on Terror: Key Dates

*The numbers refer to the companion "Map of Key Terror Attacks"*

- Feb. 26, 1993 *First terrorist attack on America: car bombing in garage of the **World Trade Center** in New York City (1) masterminded by Sheikh Omar **Abdel-Rahman**, an Egyptian cleric. Six killed, 1,042 injured*
- Dec. 25, 1994 Algerian **Armed Islamic Group** hijacks Air France flight, said to be intending to fly it into Eiffel Tower in **Paris (2)**; French police rescue hostages and thwart plan.
- June 1996 **Saudi Hezbollah** car bombs **Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia (3)**, where Americans stayed.
- Nov. 17, 1997 Abdel-Rahman's Islamist group attacks at the Temple of Hatshepsut in **Luxor, Egypt (4)**, killing 58 foreign tourists (mostly Swiss and Greeks).
- Aug. 7, 1998 **U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania (5)** bombed; most victims (224 out of 236) were local black Africans. **Osama Bin Laden**, leader of **Al Qaeda** (the Base), makes a "declaration of war" on the West. George Tenet, then head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, later announces that "We are at war" with terrorism.
- Dec. 14, 1999 Immigration officers intercept **Ahmed Ressam** crossing from **Vancouver, Canada to Washington state (6)**. He planned to bomb Los Angeles International Airport on the millennium.
- Sept. 2000 **Second Intifada** (uprising) by Palestinians in **Israel (13)** begins, making wide use of suicide bombing against civilians.
- Oct. 12, 2000 Al Qaeda carries out suicide bombing on the **USS Cole**, an American Navy ship, while it refueled in **Aden, Yemen (7)**. The attack killed 17 and wounded 39.
- Dec. 25, 2000 *First known Europe-based suicide bombing: Mohammed Bilal, British citizen of Pakistani origin from Birmingham, carried out a car bomb suicide attack on the 15th Indian Army Corps headquarters in Srinagar, **Kashmir (8)**, a Muslim majority region*

administered by India (majority Hindu) since 1947; India's claim is disputed by Pakistan. Targets were Hindus and Sikhs.

- Sept. 11, 2001 Al Qaeda cells hijack flights from Boston airport flown into **Pentagon (9)** and **World Trade Center towers (1)**; passengers on a fourth hijacked plane headed to D.C. fought back, and the plane crashed in a **Pennsylvania** field.
- Oct. 2001 U.S. passes **PATRIOT Act (Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism)**; U.S.-led invasion of **Afghanistan (10)**, from where Al Qaeda operated.
- Oct. 2002 **Jemaah Islamiyyah** bombings in **Bali, Indonesia (11)** - targets were Westerners and Buddhists.
- Mar. 2003 U.S.-led invasion of **Iraq (12)** to oust Saddam Hussein.
- Apr. 30, 2003 British-born Pakistani Mohamed Hanif, age 21, blew himself up in a café in **Tel Aviv, Israel (13)**. Targets were Israeli civilians.
- Nov. 15, 2003 Turkish Islamists detonate two truck bombs in front of the Beth Israel and Neve Shalom synagogues in **Istanbul (14)**. Of the 27 fatalities, 21 were Turkish Muslims
- Dec. 11, 2003 **Modena, Italy(15)** - Muhammad al Khatib Shafiq, age 34, a Palestinian, blew himself up in front of a synagogue - no other fatalities; first known suicide bomber in Europe.
- Mar. 11, 2004 *First major terrorist attack in Europe:* Moroccan Islamist group linked to Al Qaeda staged **Madrid, Spain (16)** train bombings. 192 persons killed.
- April 3, 2004 *First group suicide bombing in Europe:* Seven North African Islamists commit suicide in **Leganes, Spain (16)**, killing a Civil Guard officer.
- May 7, 2004 Islamist car bomb kills three Chinese engineers and injures nine in **Pakistan (17)**.
- Aug. 2004 12 Nepalese Buddhist civilians murdered in **Iraq** by local Al Qaeda affiliate.
- Sept. 2004 Chechen and other Islamists occupy school in **Beslan, Russian Federation (18)**. 334 civilians, of whom 186 were school children, killed. Targets were Christian Ossetians.

- Nov. 2, 2004 Dutch film director Theo van Gogh murdered in **Amsterdam (19)** by a Moroccan Islamist
- July 7, 2005 **London Underground (20)** bombings: four coordinated suicide bombings on London transportation system killed 52 commuters and the four suicide bombers, injured 700
- Nov. 9, 2005 *First known European female suicide bomber:* Muriel Degauque, a Belgian convert to Islam, blew herself up in **Iraq** - no other fatalities.
- July 2006 Seven coordinated evening rush-hour train attacks by Islamic student group in **Mumbai, India (21)** kill at least 130 people and injure 260. Targets were mostly Hindus
- July 2006 **Transatlantic aircraft plot** thwarted, but restrictions implemented on carrying liquids (the would-be bombers planned to detonate liquid explosives; (failed) train bombs in Germany
- June 29-30, 2007 Car bombs found in **London** (no deaths); Jeep Cherokee driven into **Glasgow, Scotland (22)** Airport; both attacks linked. One of the two men involved in the Glasgow attack, Bilal Abdullah, was a British-born, Muslim doctor of Iraqi descent working at the Royal Alexandra Hospital; the other, Kafeel Ahmed, an Indian Muslim engineer, died Aug. 2 of his burns.