

## OSAMA BIN LADEN

Osama bin Muhammad bin 'Awad bin Laden, most often called Osama bin Laden. He is a Saudi Arabian-born militant Islamist who is reported to be the founder of the organization Al-Qaeda.

He is a member of the wealthy bin Laden family. His father Muhammed bin Laden was married 22 times and he has 55 children. Osama was the only son of his tenth wife, Hamida. Osama's parents divorced soon after he was born in 1957.

He was influenced by Islamic teachers who introduced him to jihad (Islamic holy war). Osama has informal training in Islamic law. At the age of 17, he married his first wife Najwa, his uncle's daughter.

Bin Laden is reported to have married four other women and divorced one and he has from 12 to 24 children with them. After leaving college in 1979 he joined fighters against the Soviet Invasion in Afghanistan. His organisation got arms from American CIA and they fought Soviets through the 80s. After Russians withdraw from Afghanistan in 90s, Bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia as a hero of jihad.

When Iraqi army invaded Kuwait, Osama arranged a meeting with Saudi Prince Sultan and offered to ready 100,000 fighters with good combat capability within three months and that they don't need any non-Muslim troops. Saudi Prince Sultan rejected Osama and decided to accept the help of Americans instead.

It is believed that the first terrorist attack involving bin Laden was in 1992, bombing of hotel in Yemen and he is suspected to be an author of Luxor massacre in Egypt. Egyptian government sentenced him to death.

American president Bill Clinton ordered a freeze on assets that could be linked to Osama and signed an order to arrest or assassinate him. After several terrorist acts, Osama sent his Al-Qaeda fighters to destroy the World Trade Center in New York on September 11th 2001.

U.S. government offered a reward of \$50 million for information leading to his capture or death.

The American FBI describes Osama bin Laden as tall and thin, between 193–198 cm in height and weighing about 75 kg. He usually wears a plain white turban. He is said to be charming, polite, and respectful. Many think he only speaks Arabic, but some say he speaks English too. His full name means "Osama, son of Mohammed, son of 'Awad, son of Laden".

In 2004 and 2007, he was featured in Time Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People of the World.

Osama teaches that killing the Americans and their allies, civilians and military—is an individual duty for every Muslim.

Bin Laden is not as holy a man as he wanted to be. His acts and commands are cruel and killing thousands of innocent people is not a heroic act. Unfortunately, there are a lot of fanatic followers of his sick idea, who kill themselves in suicidal attacks to become Islamic martyrs.

I think we all agree that terrorist attacks are very irrational and dreadful. The fight against the terrorism is not as successful as we hoped.