



National Consortium for the  
Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## Al-Qa'ida's Mass Casualty Terrorism under Osama bin Laden

COLLEGE PARK, MD – “Al-Qa’ida, the terrorist organization Osama bin Laden founded, was responsible for more than 80 attacks in ten countries, fomenting more mass casualty attacks than any other group in recent history,” says START Director Gary LaFree.

### KEY FINDINGS FROM START RESEARCH, PRIMARILY THE GLOBAL TERRORISM DATABASE (GTD) INCLUDE:

- Al-Qa’ida was responsible for or suspected to be responsible for **84 terrorist attacks** around the world since 1998, resulting in the **deaths of at least 4,299 individuals**. Another **6,300 people were wounded** in al-Qa’ida attacks.
- More than 600 other groups have been engaged in terrorism worldwide since 1998, with al-Qa’ida being responsible for **less than 1% of all attacks** but **more than 20% of all terrorism fatalities**, indicative of the intensely deadly nature of al-Qa’ida operations and efforts.
- Since 1998, there have been **408 incidents of mass-casualty terrorism**. Al-Qa’ida was responsible for **16 of these attacks**—more than any other group.
- **33 different terrorist organizations have direct links and alliances to al-Qa’ida\***

### START BACKGROUND REPORT

Following the announcement of the death of Osama bin Laden, START has released a background report on Al-Qa’ida Attacks, including the above findings and information on:

- Al-Qa’ida Terrorist Attacks by Year
- Al-Qa’ida Terrorism Fatalities
- Responsibility for Terrorism Fatalities Since 1998
- Terrorism Fatalities by Al-Qa’ida Affiliates/Allies (through 2008)

\* This finding is drawn from research by Victor Asal and R. Karl Rethemeyer at the University of Albany (SUNY).



These data were collected and compiled from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD, [www.start.umd.edu/gtd](http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd)). The GTD contains information on more than 87,000 terrorist incidents that have occurred around the world since 1970. An updated version of the database, with information on incidents through 2008, was released in May 2010.



GTD is a project of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a U.S.

Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence. START, based at the University of Maryland, College Park, aims to provide timely guidance on how to disrupt terrorist networks, reduce the incidence of terrorism, and enhance the resilience of U.S. society in the face of the terrorist threat. The material presented here is the product of START and does not express the official opinion of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Additional information on START is available at: [www.start.umd.edu](http://www.start.umd.edu).

#### **CONTACT**

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- For more urgent media requests, please use [www.start.umd.edu/start/media/contact/](http://www.start.umd.edu/start/media/contact/).
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