



Timothy McVeigh led by FBI agents at the Courthouse in Perry, Oklahoma.

was executed put to death
 according to law
sentenced to life imprisonment sent to prison for life
avenge punish

hijacked stolen
regain take back
aims goals
removal taking away

claimed responsibility took the blame

Oklahoma City Bombing, April 19, 1995

In the Oklahoma City bombing, a US government building was attacked using a car bomb. 168 people were killed and more than 800 were injured. Until September 11, 2001, it was the terrorist act that had killed most people in the USA.

Within a few days, two men, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, were arrested and charged in connection with the bombing. McVeigh was executed on June 11, 2001, and Nichols was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Investigations showed that McVeigh and Nichols supported an anti-government militia movement. In particular, they wanted to avenge the way the government had acted in two famous gun massacres: the Waco Siege and the Ruby Ridge incidents. The Oklahoma City bombing took place exactly two years after the Waco Siege.

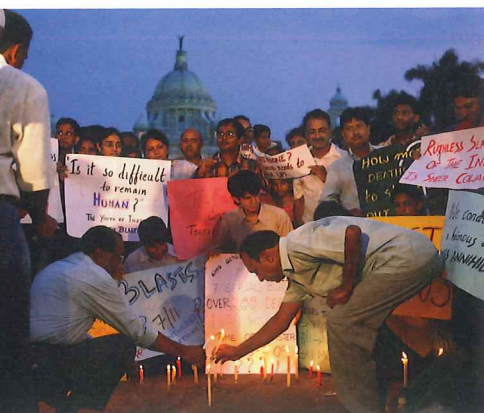
World Trade Center, September 11, 2001

On the morning of September 11, 2001, four passenger airliners were hijacked in the eastern USA. Two of the airliners were forced by the hijackers to fly into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Another was forced to fly into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. The fourth airliner crashed into a field after the passengers tried to regain control. A total of about 3,000 people died.

Nineteen people were involved in the hijacking of the airliners. They all had links to the al-Qaeda organisation. Al-Qaeda's aims include the removal of American soldiers from the Middle East and the changing of American foreign policy towards Israel.

London Bombings, July 7, 2005

On July 7, 2005, four bombs killed 52 people and injured more than 700 in the centre of London. A group connected to al-Qaeda claimed responsibility. It was the first suicide bombing in Western Europe. (For more information see page 4)



An unofficial ceremony in Kolkata, 2006, honouring the victims of the Mumbai train bombings.

suburban of residential areas outside the city
tension conflict
oppressed treated badly

assassinated killed
election rally a political event before an election
previous former
accused of blamed for
in exile outside the country
tool someone that is used by someone else for their own purposes

Benazir Bhutto speaks to media outside her home in Lahore, Pakistan.

Mumbai Train Bombings, India, July 11, 2006

On July 11, 2006, during Mumbai's evening rush hour, seven bombs exploded on suburban trains. The attacks took place within 11 minutes of each other. 209 people were killed and more than 700 were injured. To begin with, religious extremists and Pakistan's intelligence agency were the main suspects. However, on July 14, an organisation called Lashkar-e-Qahhar claimed responsibility for the attack. The motive was probably the situation of Muslim communities in northern India. In this part of the country, close to the border with Pakistan, there is a lot of tension, and the Muslim minority often feel that they are oppressed. Cross-border terrorism has been fairly common over the years.

Assassination of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan, December 27, 2007



On December 27, 2007, the Pakistani politician Benazir Bhutto was assassinated while taking part in an election rally. A bomb exploded close to her car and she and about 20 other people were killed. She was the leader of the Pakistan People's Party and had hoped to become Prime Minister of Pakistan in 2008. She belonged to a controversial political family and had been Prime Minister twice before. During her previous periods of government, she was accused of corruption and she spent many years in exile.

Many people accused Pakistan's president and one of Bhutto's main rivals, Pervez Musharraf, of being behind the assassination. However, an al-Qaeda commander, Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, claimed responsibility. From al-Qaeda's point of view, Bhutto was a tool of the Americans, without policies in the true interests of Pakistan.

Execution of Tourist in Mali, June 2009

In January 2009, a group of tourists who were travelling in Mali were kidnapped by al-Qaeda's North African cell. The group had attended a culture festival and were on their way back to Niger. Tuareg rebels shot out the tyres of their vehicles and kidnapped them. It appears that the Tuareg rebels then sold their prisoners to the al-Qaeda cell.

On June 3, the al-Qaeda cell announced that it had killed one of the hostages, British-born Edwin Dyer. In their statement, they also wrote: "The British captive was killed so that he, and with him the British state, may taste a tiny portion of what innocent Muslims taste every day at the hands of the Crusader and Jewish coalition to the east and to the west".

The British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, described the killing as "a barbaric act of terrorism".

cell group
attended been present at
shot out used guns to puncture
appears seems
announced stated
portion bit
crusader reference to Christian
 military expeditions
coalition alliance
barbaric cruel



Tuareg rebels, members of al-Qaeda's North African cell.