

Bin Laden: Yes, I did it

By David Bamber

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OSAMA BIN LADEN has for the first time admitted that his al-Qa'eda group carried out the attacks on the World Trade Centre ([/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2001/09/12/wmny12.xml](#)) and the Pentagon, the Telegraph can reveal.

In a previously undisclosed video which has been circulating for 14 days among his supporters, he confesses that "history should be a witness that we are terrorists. Yes, we kill their innocents".

In the footage, shot in the Afghan mountains at the end of October, a smiling bin Laden goes on to say that the World Trade Centre's twin towers were a "legitimate target" and the pilots who hijacked the planes were "blessed by Allah".

The killing of at least 4,537 people was justified, he claims, because they were "not civilians" but were working for the American system.

Bin Laden also makes a direct personal threat against Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, for the first time, and warns nations such as Australia, Germany and Japan to stay out of the conflict.

The video will form the centrepiece of Britain and America's new evidence against bin Laden, to be released this Wednesday.

The footage, to which the Telegraph obtained access in the Middle East yesterday, was not made for public release via the al-Jazeera television network used by bin Laden for propaganda purposes ([/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2001/11/05/wt05.xml](#)) in the past. It is believed to be intended as a rallying call to al-Qa'eda members.

In the video, bin Laden says: "The Twin Towers were legitimate targets, they were supporting US economic power. These events were great by all measurement. What was destroyed were not only the towers, but the towers of morale in that country."

The hijackers were "blessed by Allah to destroy America's economic and military landmarks". He freely admits to being behind the attacks: "If avenging the killing of our people is terrorism then history should be a witness that we are terrorists. Yes, we kill their innocents and this is legal religiously and logically."

In a contradictory section, however, bin Laden justifies killing the occupants of the Twin Towers because they were not civilians - Islam forbids the killing of innocent civilians even in a holy war.

He says: "The towers were supposed to be filled with supporters of the economical powers of the United States who are abusing the world. Those who talk about civilians should change their stand and reconsider their position. We are treating them like they treated us."

Bin Laden goes on to justify his entire terror campaign. "There are two types of terror, good and bad. What we are practising is good terror. We will not stop killing them and whoever supports them."

He directly threatens the lives of President Bush and Mr Blair. "Bush and Blair don't understand anything but the power of force. Every time they kill us, we kill them, so the balance of terror can be achieved." He also calls on all Muslims to join him. "It is the duty of every Muslim to fight. Killing Jews is top priority."

Bin Laden warns other nations to keep out of the conflict, implying that they could face terror attacks if they do not.

In the video, he also claims responsibility for an unspecified terrorist outrage in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which he claims was sparked by secret messages in one of his videos.

He admits for the first time using public pronouncements on video to whip up terrorism - a danger about which the [British and American governments have warned broadcasters](#) ([/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2001/10/16/ntv16.xml](#)).

It is significant that throughout the video he uses the personal pronouns "I" and "we" to claim responsibility for the attacks. In the past, he has spoken of the attackers only in the third person.

Bin Laden has publicly issued four previous videos since September 11, always denying carrying out the atrocities.

He now claims to have access to nuclear and chemical weapons. Bin Laden made the claims on Friday night during an interview with the English language Pakistani newspaper Dawn.

He said: "If America used chemical or nuclear weapons against us, then we may retort with chemical and nuclear weapons. We have the weapons as deterrent."

Defence analysts dismissed these claims. They said that although bin Laden could have access to nuclear material through links with Pakistan or former Soviet republics, he was unlikely to have the technology to cause an explosion.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We know that he was looking for that capability. We believe he does not have it."

Emergency powers to imprison suspected international terrorists indefinitely using special closed courts will be announced this week. The measure, which will require exemption from human rights legislation, will be used to round up about 20 suspects hiding in Britain beyond the reach of existing laws.

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US prepares for war Bin Laden prime suspect Hundreds of Britons dead By Philip Delves Broughton in New York and Ben Fenton and Toby Harnden in Washington THE UNITED STATES has suffered the most devastating terrorist attack in history. Two hijacked passenger airliners crashed into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Centre. World Trade Centre destroyed Both towers collapsed with the loss of thousands of lives, sending out great clouds of thick dust that covered buildings and people in the streets like volcanic ash. Lower Manhattan was evacuated and the New York skyline changed for ever. Minutes later in Washington a third hijacked aircraft crashed into the Pentagon, the heart of the US military machine. A fourth, believed to be heading for the presidential retreat Camp David, crashed near Pittsburgh. The atrocity was meticulous in its co-ordination and horrifying in its effect. A global television audience watched in disbelief as live footage showed the second plane hitting the Trade Centre minutes after the first. Borders were closed and airspace cleared of all but military jets as US forces were put on high alert. Centres of government were evacuated and financial markets

were paralysed when Wall Street closed. President Bush was flown to a bunker in Nebraska before returning to the White House. He pledged to hunt down and punish those responsible, saying no distinction would be made between the terrorists and those who harboured them. The final death toll is still unknown but more than 5,000 people have been listed as missing. Rescue work is continuing but the chances of finding any survivors are now slim. The estimate of the number of Britons killed has been reduced to between 200 and 300, half the original estimate of those feared dead. Two close relatives of each Briton killed in the attack will be flown to New York at Government expense, said Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary. Other financial help, including travel insurance and accommodation allowances, will be made available to relatives. A total of 266 people were killed in the four planes. Many called their loved ones on mobile phones just before the impacts. The crew were overpowered by hijackers wielding weapons understood to have been like craft knives. They were improvised by embedding razor blades in plastic handles - thereby becoming invisible to metal detectors - and placed inside sponge bags. Passengers on the flight which crashed at Shanksville, 80 miles from Pittsburgh, said they were going to attack the hijackers. It is believed this is what prevented the aircraft reaching its target. The FBI have named 19 men as being responsible for the hijackings, including seven pilots believed to have been trained at US flying schools. George Tenet, the CIA director, is widely expected to lose his job following the failure of the intelligence agencies to warn of the attacks. Osama bin Laden, the Saudi Arabian-born businessman, is the prime suspect. He has denied any involvement. But according to Jamal Ismail, the Islamabad bureau chief of Abu Dhabi Television, who spoke to one of bin Laden's senior lieutenants by satellite telephone: Osama bin Laden thanked Almighty Allah and bowed before him when he heard this news. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan, where bin Laden is based, has said it will not allow him to be extradited. Pakistan is trying to stave off military action in the area by telling the Taliban to surrender him. Most of the Arab world condemned the attacks but Iraq said the US was reaping the thorns of its foreign policy. Some Palestinians in the West Bank reacted with jubilation to the news, though others later joined worldwide ceremonies of mourning for the victims. President Bush spent the weekend at Camp David with his senior advisers drawing up plans for what he calls the first war of the 21st century as officials prepared the country for a prolonged campaign likely to last several years. Nato declared that the attacks on the US were an assault on all 19 members. It invoked its Article Five for the first time in its 52-year history. This triggers a joint response. (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/global/main.jhtml?xml=/global/2001/09/17/centre.xml>)

Do not forget horror of September 11, says Blair ([/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/1360955/Do-not-forget-horror-of-September-11-says-Blair.html](http://news.worldnews/asia/afghanistan/1360955/Do-not-forget-horror-of-September-11-says-Blair.html))

How the West is winning (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2003/09/11/d11101.xml>)

External Links

Osama claims he has nukes [9 Nov '01] - Daily Dawn (<http://www.dawn.com/2001/11/10/top1.htm>)

America responds to terrorism - The White House (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/response/index.html>)

International coalition against terrorism - FCO (<http://www.fco.gov.uk/news/keythemehome.asp?34>)

al-Qa'eda - Federation of American Scientists (<http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/ladin.htm>)

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