



0. PRIOR ATTACKS - EMBASSY BOMBINGS - Story Preface

1. WORLD TRADE CENTER

2. THE ATTACK- AMERICAN 11

3. THE ATTACK-UNITED 175

4. THE ATTACK - AMERICAN 77

5. THE ATTACK - UNITED 93

6. THE TOWERS COLLAPSE

7. WHY THE TOWERS FELL

8. PRIOR ATTACKS - WTC BOMBING

9. PRIOR ATTACKS - EMBASSY BOMBINGS

10. PRIOR ATTACKS - USS COLE

11. AMERICA RESPONDS

12. SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBERED

This image depicts damage at the American Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya following an Al-Qaeda terrorist attack on August 7, 1998. The bombing occurred within four minutes of a coordinated attack against the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Copyright, Reuters, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

On 7 August 1998, Al-Qaeda terrorists bombed the U.S. Embassy Compounds in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The coordinated attacks took place about four minutes apart. At least 212 people died and thousands more were injured.

In Nairobi, many of the victims were working in nearby buildings when the bomb exploded at approximately 10:40 a.m. local time. The American Embassy, located in a congested part of town, was gutted as the blast ripped through each floor and pulverized nearby vehicles.

The FBI, in the largest overseas deployment of agents in FBI history, conducted more than 1,000 interviews. As a result of that massive investigation, 22 people were charged with bombing the embassies. In May of 2001, four individuals were convicted even as a primary defendant - Osama Bin Laden - remained a fugitive. Those convicted men were sentenced to life in prison in October of 2001.

In August of 1997, about one year before the embassy bombings, Kenyan police and FBI agents found a very disturbing letter on the computer hard drive of longtime Bin Laden aide, Wadih El Hage. (He was one of the four convicted for bombing the embassies.) Near its end, the letter states:

As you know, the decision to declare war on America was taken...

Government officials understandably observe that they receive so many warnings it is frequently impossible for them to determine which are real. But on 12 October 2000, another terrorist attack killed more Americans.

This time the victims were onboard the U.S. guided missile destroyer *USS Cole* (DDG 67).

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PRIOR-ATTACKS-EMBASSY-BOMBINGS-America-Attack-ed-9-11>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PRIOR-ATTACKS-EMBASSY-BOMBINGS-America-Attacked-9-11>



Exterior of US Embassy building in Dar es Salaam after bombing, 7 August.

Embassy Bombing - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Image online, courtesy The Federation of American Scientists website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Embassy-Bombing-Dar-es-Salaam-Tanzania>



Map Location - Kenya and Tanzania

Image online, courtesy the unima-usa.org website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Location-Kenya-and-Tanzania>



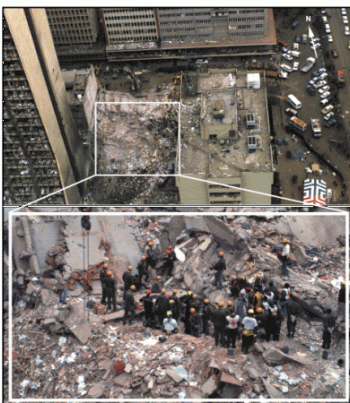
Embassy Bombings, 1998 - Injured People

Image online, courtesy U.S. Government (FBI).

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Collapsed US Embassy building in Nairobi, 7 August.

Embassy Bombing - Nairobi Disaster

Image online, courtesy the indiatvnews.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Embassy-Bombing-Nairobi-Disaster>

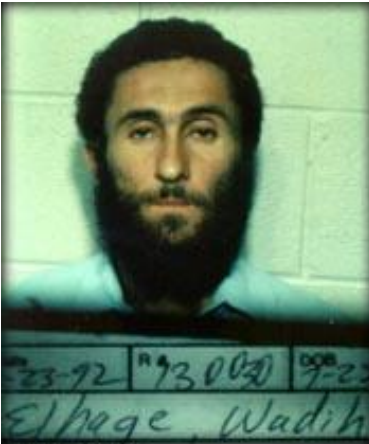


Nairobi - Truck Bombing Results

Photo, online U.S. State Department.

View this asset at:

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wadiah el hage

Embassy Bombings - Wadiah El Hage, Convicted

Photo, online FBI.

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