

# THE 9/11 ATTACKS: TEN YEARS LATER

## Introduction

### Focus

In the 10 years since the September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda attacks on the United States, the way North Americans view the world has been transformed. In this *News in Review* story we recall the events of 9/11 and consider their impact. We also examine the targeted killing of the man who planned the attacks—Osama bin Laden—during a raid by elite U.S. forces.

A barrage of media around the world marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. All this coverage attempted to explain the impact of this terrorist attack on the United States and the rest of the world and to analyze the response of the U.S. and its allies to international terrorism. In other words, where are we 10 years later?

*News in Review* will also mark the occasion by looking back at what happened on 9/11: how 19 men managed to carry out the most frightening terrorist attack ever perpetrated in the United States. Those who watched the events unfold live on television will forever remember where they were when the attacks took place. Eyewitness Jeff Birnbaum describes the fall of the World Trade Center and then sums up the reaction of most of us who watched it happen: “When we got to about 50 feet from the South Tower, we heard the most eerie sound that you would ever hear. A high-pitched noise and a popping noise made everyone stop. We all looked up. At that point, it all let go. The way I see it, it had to be the rivets. The building let go. There was an explosion and the whole top leaned toward us and started coming down. I stood there for a second

in total awe, and then said, ‘What the \*\*\*\*?’ I honestly thought it was Hollywood” <http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/eyewitnesses.html>).

Military response was swift. After only two months U.S. forces and allies were in Afghanistan seeking the perpetrators and removing the government that had supported them. That war continues. A war in Iraq also began after the U.S. declared that that country was hiding weapons of mass destruction that posed a threat to the West.

There were many other changes as a result of the attacks, ranging from the reduction of civil liberties to travel inconveniences.

Billions of dollars have been spent on war and various measures that are supposed to make us safer from terrorist acts. Countless lives have been lost—hundreds of thousands of lives.

Osama bin Laden is dead, and Al Qaeda has lost several of its leaders. Popular democratic movements are on the rise across the world. Governments are being forced to work more democratically and to respect the rights of the people.

This seems an excellent time to look back at the international response to 9/11 and the many ways in which the events of that day changed the world forever.

### To Consider

1. What memories of the 9/11 attacks do you have? Where were you when the attacks happened? What discussions did you have about the events with your family and/or friends?
2. How would you define terrorism? What is the difference between a terrorist act and an act of war?

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## Video Review

### Pre-viewing Discussion

With a partner or in a small group discuss the following questions and write down the highlights of your discussion in the spaces provided. Be prepared to share some of your points of agreement and disagreement with the entire class.

1. Is it important to remember the events of 9/11, or is it better if we try to forget about them and move on?

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2. Does it make it easier or harder on the families of those who died in the 9/11 attacks to read news reports and see video footage of the events?

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### Video Questions

As you watch the video respond to the questions below in the spaces provided.

1. How many people were killed in the 9/11 attacks?

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2. What three targets were struck in the attacks?

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3. What happened to the fourth hijacked airliner?

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4. How long did it take the south tower to collapse after the plane hit?

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5. Who were the hijackers?

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6. Where was Osama bin Laden, leader of the hijackers, living at the time of the attacks?

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7. In what country was bin Laden located when he was finally tracked down and killed?

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8. How many Canadian soldiers were killed during the Afghanistan mission?

9. List three of the ways in which the 9/11 attacks have impacted the lives of ordinary people.

10. What percentage of the 9/11 victims have never had their remains located and/or identified?

11. How tall will the new One World Trade Center building be? What does that height symbolize?

### Post-Viewing Activity

1. In the video, Dr. Paula Madrid says: "The main purpose of terrorism is to terrorize people and that's exactly what happened to really frightened people for the long term." Ultimately, however, terrorist attacks have a specific purpose.

a) Based on what you saw and heard in the video, what was bin Laden hoping to accomplish?

b) How did the United States respond to these terrorist acts?

2. Some have expressed concern that One World Trade Center will be an irresistible target for anti-U.S. terrorist groups. Others describe it as a demonstration that the U.S. is not afraid of terrorists. Which of these opinions do you support? How secure would you feel working in the new building?

3. Commentators often speak of 9/11 as a day that changed the world forever. This means that everyone's life was somehow impacted by the event. Are there ways that you can point to in which your life was changed?

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## Shock and Awe

### Further Information

For more eyewitness accounts, as well as reflections of survivors, visit the *National Geographic* website at <http://ngm.com/911>.

### Focus for Reading

This section provides a description of the main events of 9/11, with some personal recollections by participants and observers of the event. As you read this section, create a chronology (timeline) of how the attacks unfolded.

The morning of September 11, 2001, was a beautiful one all along the northeastern seaboard of the United States. The author of this section was visiting family near Boston and had just finished a morning run when the phone rang. The message was brief: Turn on the television; something awful was happening in New York.

The television coverage was unbelievable. At 8:46 in the morning a plane had crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. As we watched live coverage of the top floors of the tower burning, a second plane struck the South Tower, and it too exploded in flame.

In my memory, the rest of the morning is a blur: people jumping to their deaths from the top of both buildings; the two towers collapsing; a report that a third plane had flown into the Pentagon building in Washington; another report that a plane had crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. It was clear that the United States had been targeted by terrorists, but who they were and how many were involved was unclear. Details emerged over the next several days.

### The Two Towers

The hijackers chose their weapons well. All four of the planes were Boeing airliners loaded with highly explosive jet fuel for long-distance trips.

The plane that hit the North Tower was American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles. This plane was commandeered by five hijackers armed with a variety of cutting tools and mace

and pepper spray. They broke into the cockpit, overpowered the pilot and co-pilot, and took control of the plane.

After the first plane struck the World Trade Center news reports falsely indicated the crash might have been accidental. That this was incorrect became clear at 9:03, when a second plane struck the South Tower. This was American Airlines Flight 175, which had also left Boston destined for Los Angeles. The crash and explosion were seen by millions on live television.

Eyewitness accounts help us understand the terror generated by the attacks. Jeff Benjamin was visiting a client on the 83<sup>rd</sup> floor of the North Tower when he saw American Airlines Flight 11 three or four miles away.

“At the time we initially spotted the plane, it appeared to be level with us. We could distinctly identify the American airlines insignia, and my client commented that perhaps the plane had taken off from Kennedy and was experiencing mechanical problems. As the plane approached us it seemed to climb. I stood up from the conference table and walked over to the window assuming as everyone did that there was no imminent danger. As the plane came closer we could see that it was travelling at a high rate of speed, and the sound of the engines intensified. Immediately before impact we could see images in the cockpit, and the plane banked sharply. A split second later we heard an echoing shot, fell to the floor and observed a fireball followed by debris which struck the side of the building. At the same

**Did you know . . .**

In 1993 a truck bomb was detonated in the parking lot below the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Six people were killed and over 1 000 were injured. The operation was conducted by terrorists trained at Al Qaeda camps in Afghanistan.

time you could feel the building sway ever so slightly for a brief moment. We immediately retreated towards the main part of the office where we noticed a huge fireball shooting out of the elevator shaft which quickly disappeared” (<http://sites.google.com/site/wtc7lies/whattheyreaw%3Aeyewitnessaccountsofthenyc>).

Kim White was working on the 80<sup>th</sup> floor of the North Tower when the plane hit it. She recounts what it was like trying to escape the building before it collapsed.

“All of a sudden the building shook, then it started to sway. We didn’t know what was going on . . . I ran towards the reception area. It was completely collapsed, but the receptionist was able to crawl out from under it . . . We got all our people on the floor into the stairwell, and then people began to calm down . . . We got down as far as the 74<sup>th</sup> floor, and someone there pulled us into their office. They had a TV on, and we saw that a plane had crashed into the building. Then there was another explosion, so we left again by the stairwell.

It took about 40 minutes to get to the bottom. We were trying to get out through the building’s lower level when all of a sudden the power shut off and the lights went out. The police yelled, ‘Run!’ Then something behind me collapsed. The building was starting to come down. All you saw was black, it was so dark. Now everybody was screaming. I got out with a co-worker, I grabbed his hand and we headed out together. Once we got outside, he went back in to assist, but I was so messed up, I just kept on walking. A detective came up to me and asked me if I was okay. I had an asthma attack and I had debris in my eyes, but I was okay” (*People* magazine, September 12, 2001).

Investment banker Richard Egües came up from the subway after both buildings had been hit.

“On the street I saw crowds of people

looking south. I looked up and saw gaping holes in both towers. As you looked more closely you began to see little things flying down, and then you realized they were bodies of people who had jumped from the building. I saw the somersaults, the floating bodies. It was like they were in slow motion, sort of turning around. You had to think there must have been such total desperation” (<http://whatreallyhappened.com/WRHARTICLES/people.html>).

The South Tower was the first to collapse, at 9:59; the North Tower was gone at 10:28. Joe Casaliggi, a firefighter who was involved in the subsequent rescue attempt, described what was left.

“You have two [110-storey] office buildings. You don’t find a desk. You don’t find a chair. You don’t find a telephone, a computer. The biggest piece of a telephone I found was half of a keypad, and it was about this big [makes a shape with his hand about 7 centimetres in diameter]. The building collapsed to dust” ([http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/collapsed\\_to\\_dust.mpg](http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/collapsed_to_dust.mpg)).

### The Washington Targets

Hijackers also targeted two buildings in Washington: the Pentagon and either the Capitol or the White House. American Airlines Flight 77—which had left Washington for Los Angeles—slammed into the Pentagon, the national military headquarters, at 9:37 a.m. Steve Anderson saw the plane hit.

“A few moments later, as I was looking down at my desk, the plane caught my eye.

“It didn’t register at first. I thought to myself that I couldn’t believe the pilot was flying so low. Then it dawned on me what was about to happen. I watched in horror as the plane flew at treetop level, banked slightly to the left, [dragged] its wing along the ground and slammed into

the west wall of the Pentagon, exploding into a giant orange fireball. Then black smoke. Then white smoke” (www.jmu.edu/alumni/tragedy\_response/read\_messages.html).

One more plane had a Washington target. This was United Airlines Flight 93 from Newark, New Jersey, bound for San Francisco. It was hijacked and turned back toward Washington, but several of the passengers prevented the plane from reaching the city by attacking the hijackers. At 10:03 a.m. the plane crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing everyone aboard.

### **Casualties**

It took several weeks to arrive at a final figure for the number of casualties. Nearly 3 000 people died as a result of the 9/11 attacks. Most of the deaths—over 2 600—were in New York City. Over 400 emergency workers were killed, all 245 people aboard the four

planes were killed, 125 people died at the Pentagon, and the 19 terrorists involved in the attacks were killed.

### **The Hijackers**

The 19 hijackers were organized into four teams, each consisting of a pilot and three or four “muscle men” whose job was to control the passengers and crew. The operation’s leader, Mohamed Atta, was an Egyptian. The other 18 consisted of one man from Lebanon, two from the United Arab Emirates, and 15 from Saudi Arabia. All were in the United States legally; two had even received their flight training in Florida.

Although it rapidly became clear to U.S. authorities that Al Qaeda was responsible for the attacks, Osama bin Laden initially denied all responsibility. It was not until 2004 that he admitted personal responsibility for the action.

It was to be nearly seven more years before he was finally held to account.

### **Follow-Up**

1. Although the U.S. government has repeatedly said that none of the hijackers came into the country from Canada, nearly a quarter of the American people still believe this was the case. Why do you think this myth was and is so pervasive? What effect(s) does it have on relations between the United States and Canada?
2. Many emergency workers at Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center, have suffered from medical problems since the 9/11 events, and several of them have died. The problems include a variety of cancers and respiratory ailments. Many of them began less than a year after the collapse of the towers, yet it was only in July 2011 that Congress passed a law providing the workers with treatment assistance and compensation. Why do you think it took so long for this to happen?

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## *How have our lives been changed?*

### Did you know . . .

The war in Iraq was not sanctioned (supported) by the United Nations, so Canada did not join the United States in this mission.

### Reading Prompt

In this section we will examine some of the impacts the 9/11 attacks have had on nations and individuals. As you read this section, consider the following quotation from columnist Rosie DiManno in the May 3, 2011, issue of the *Toronto Star*: “Sometimes it’s difficult to remember what the world was like before bin Laden provoked what came to be known as the ‘war on terror.’ How many billions have been spent? How many lives—on all sides—sacrificed to one man’s figment of fundamentalism? How many civil liberties abraded? How many security inconveniences imposed on ordinary people?” As you read, ask yourself: How many of these consequences of 9/11 have impacted my life?



Your teacher may choose to have you complete a Multiple Consequence Web Diagram while working on this section. The diagram can be downloaded from <http://newsinreview.cbclearning.ca/worksheets/>.

### Thousands of Lives, Billions of Dollars

The war on terror that DiManno refers to has resulted in two major international actions led by the United States: the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

The U.S. and its allies went into Afghanistan in 2001 when the Taliban leadership refused to surrender Osama bin Laden, identified as the man behind the 9/11 attacks and several other Al Qaeda terrorist attacks against Americans abroad. These armed conflicts have been costly.

Canadians have lost 155 military personnel in Afghanistan to date. While actual figures are hard to establish, hundreds of fighters have been killed on both sides. Even greater has been the number of civilians killed in the conflict. At least 9 759 civilian lives were lost between 2007-2010 alone. Disturbingly, the worst year for civilian deaths was 2010, after eight years of allied operations ([www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/aug/10/afghanistan-civilian-casualties-statistics](http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/aug/10/afghanistan-civilian-casualties-statistics)).

Even more costly in human life has been the war in Iraq. Iraq now has its own government, and the U.S. and allied military presence is nearly gone,

but violence continues. Nearly 4 500 U.S. troops were killed since war began in 2003—as well as about 500 other coalition troops.

Estimates of the number of Iraqi civilians killed vary widely, from over 100 000 to over one million. The Iraq Body Count Project has a database indicating a minimum of 102 344 civilian deaths from violence between 2003 and August 2011 ([www.iraqbodycount.org/database/](http://www.iraqbodycount.org/database/)).

The war on terror has also had an enormous monetary cost. *Foreign Affairs* reported that, “United States primacy was also damaged by the unexpected cost of the protracted wars, recently estimated by Congressional Research Service to be \$1.3-trillion dollars and mounting . . . [Defence] spending climbed from \$304-billion in 2001 to \$616-billion in 2008, even as the United States budget went from a surplus of \$128-billion to a deficit of \$458-billion” (September/October 2011). Add to this the approximately \$1-trillion spent on creating the Homeland Security apparatus. Clearly, the war on terror had a huge impact on the difficult financial circumstances in which the United States finds itself today.

## Quote

"Bin Laden's most obvious effect on America may be this: A generation has grown up with no memory of ever walking unchecked onto an airplane, or of greeting an air traveller at the gate. The institution of security to eliminate soft targets has cost billions and changed the face of the nation." — Peter Grier (*The Christian Science Monitor*, May 7, 2011)

During the same period Canada also greatly increased its military spending, which is currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the world. Between 2000 and 2011 defence spending more than doubled—from \$10-billion to \$21.8-billion. A large part of this increase was to support an expeditionary force to Afghanistan, Canada's major military contribution to the war on terror.

## Civil Liberties

Many have argued that the greatest impact of 9/11 has been on individual civil liberties in the United States and around the world. Stephanie Findlay and Nicholas Kohler sum up that view in *Maclean's*: "Most insidiously, bin Laden's triumph permitted an unparalleled curbing of civil liberties across the Western world. The USA Patriot Act, made into law in the weeks following the attacks, gave law enforcement agencies unheard-of authority to eavesdrop on telephone, e-mail and other communications, boosted international intelligence gathering, and heralded an era in which suspected terrorists could be shipped to third-party countries for torture-enhanced interrogation. The Canadian Anti-Terrorism Act, passed in December 2001, introduced similar measures here, and newspapers began reporting on no-fly list snafus snagging unlucky namesake children and other innocents. Those like Maher Arar were unluckier still when they found themselves on the wrong side of the war on terror" (May 16, 2011).

Maher Arar is a Canadian citizen born in Syria who came to Canada with his family when he was 17. In 2002 he was detained by U.S. authorities for interrogation on suspicion of connections to Al Qaeda. He was deported by the United States government to Syria, where he was imprisoned and tortured

until he made a false confession. He returned to Canada in 2003; in 2006 a commission of inquiry cleared him of all terrorism allegations. The Canadian government settled a lawsuit with Arar for \$10.5-million in compensation for his suffering.

One of the most contentious attacks on civil liberties in the United States is the infamous no-fly list, which contains the names of 12 000 people who are forbidden to fly in a plane within or entering the United States. Another 460 000 are on a watch list, which means they require special screening before they are allowed to board.

Documents obtained when bin Laden's compound was raided indicate that Al Qaeda was planning a major attack on a railway system in the United States. Authorities are now considering bringing in similar no-travel restrictions for the entire Amtrak rail system.

## Tightened Security

Billions of dollars have been spent around the world to tighten security, especially at airports and places where large numbers of the public gather. Some of the security measures airplane passengers now face are both humiliating and inconvenient, and they include:

- Full electronic body scans
- Random pat-downs by airport security personnel
- Removal of all footwear at check-in for flights to the United States
- Restrictions on liquids and gels that can be brought onto the plane in hand luggage or purses
- The need to provide one piece of government-issued photo identification, or two pieces of non-government photo ID at check-in

As a result, check-ins at major airports now take considerably longer than before security was tightened, and passengers can expect to spend many additional

hours at airports waiting in line. And although these delays cause many to be frustrated, most travellers feel that the improved security measures are worth the hassle.

Canadians are now required to show a passport when crossing the border into the United States. Line-ups at many border crossings are more lengthy, and inspections much more common than in the past. The trucking industry, in particular, finds the number and length of inspections cut deeply into its bottom line.

### **Anti-Muslim Sentiment**

9/11 had a significant impact on attitudes toward Muslims in the United States,

Canada, and other parts of the West. According to a *Washington Post* poll published on September 9, 2010, only 37 per cent of people in the United States said they had a favourable opinion of Islam (*The New Republic*, November 1, 2010). Most recently anti-Muslim sentiment has been demonstrated in the attempts to block the construction of a Muslim community centre, called Park 51, near the former site of the World Trade Center. Opponents argue that at best it shows “insensitivity” on the part of the Muslim community to build there, while proponents argue that it should be built because most of the centre will be open to the public and will be used to promote dialogue with other religions.

### **For Discussion**

1. With a partner or in a small group discuss the notes you made while you read this information in response to the reading prompt that asked you how many consequences of 9/11 have affected your life.
2. Canada has had one terrorism scare—the 2006 case of the “Toronto 18” (for more information read the March 2010 issue of *News in Review*). How likely do you think it is that a terrorist act will occur on Canadian soil? What might motivate such an act?
3. How would you respond to a pollster asking whether Park 51 should be built in its proposed location?
4. One of the biggest political quarrels involving civil liberties in the United States has been over the use of torture while interrogating suspected terrorists. Despite its prohibition by international law, terror was often used at the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay. Is the use of torture ever justified by circumstance?

# THE 9/11 ATTACKS: TEN YEARS LATER

## *The Death of Osama bin Laden*

### Further Research

One of the most critically acclaimed articles on the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath was written by Nicholas Schmidle and appeared in the August 8, 2011, issue of *The New Yorker*. Check it out to learn more.

When he heard of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, former U.S. president George W. Bush issued a statement that said; “The fight against terror goes on, but tonight America has sent an unmistakable message: No matter how long it takes, justice will be done” ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-13256676](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-13256676)). As you read this section of the guide, determine for yourself whether or not justice has been done.

U.S. President Barack Obama began his address to the nation on May 1, 2011, with the following statement: “Good evening. Tonight, I can report to the American people and to the world that the United States has conducted an operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda, and a terrorist who’s responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children” ([www.smh.com.au/world/obamas-address-to-the-nation-bin-laden-is-dead-20110502-1e4fl.html](http://www.smh.com.au/world/obamas-address-to-the-nation-bin-laden-is-dead-20110502-1e4fl.html)).

It had taken nearly 10 years since the 9/11 attacks to successfully track him down. Briefly, the mission unfolded as follows.

### Finding bin Laden

The United States wanted very badly to capture Osama bin Laden following the 9/11 attacks. They were not able to do so when the United States first invaded Afghanistan in 2001. It was believed that he had slipped away across the border into Pakistan. Efforts to track him down continued unsuccessfully for years, but in June 2009 Obama told the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to ramp up their efforts to find him.

By August 2010 the CIA was certain they had identified and located bin Laden’s personal courier—a man named

Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti. The courier had been tracked to a compound in the city of Abbottabad, Pakistan. Using aerial surveillance, they noted that although the courier and his family came and went from the compound, someone who lived on the third floor of the main house never left it. The building seemed to lack all methods of communication with the outside world. Several CIA analysts believed that the man on the third floor was bin Laden.

By the end of 2010, the CIA was looking at the possibility of a military strike on the compound. Suggestions ranged from bombing the compound to tunnelling into it, but they decided to perform a helicopter raid by Navy SEALs (Sea, Air and Land teams). The SEAL team trained in the United States at a mock-up of the Abbottabad compound.

### Killing bin Laden

The raid took place on May 1. Two Black Hawk helicopters carrying 24 raiders flew into Abbottabad. As the helicopters approached the compound, Obama and several advisers watched the operation by live video feed provided by an unmanned drone flying 15 000 feet above the city.

After landing, the SEALs made their way into the inner courtyard of the main house. On the way they killed al-Kuwaiti, his brother, and his brother’s wife. They proceeded to clear the main house floor by floor. One of bin Laden’s sons, Khalid, was killed by SEALs on the second floor.

When they reached the third floor, one of the SEALs, wearing night-vision goggles, spotted a man he was sure was bin Laden peering out from a nearby

### Further Research

For an extensive selection of world leaders' opinions on the killing of Osama bin Laden, see the BBC news website at [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-13256956](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-13256956).

bedroom. Two of bin Laden's wives stepped in front of him to protect him. One was wounded in the leg. Then bin Laden was shot twice: once in the chest and once in the head.

DNA samples were taken from bin Laden's body to confirm his identity. The body was then loaded onto a helicopter and flown to Afghanistan. The body was photographed and then flown to an aircraft carrier from where it was disposed of in the Arabian Sea.

### Future Developments

When they went through the compound, the SEALs also took any records, computers and electronics they could find. From these items authorities have learned that bin Laden had remained active in Al Qaeda and that he had been plotting a significant attack on the U.S.'s rail system to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The killing of bin Laden generated a mixed reaction. Some people welcomed the news and felt that bin Laden's death

was necessary. Both Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani spoke approvingly of the outcome of the raids. But many people felt the killing was barbaric and that it demonstrated the United States is no better than Al Qaeda by targeting bin Laden for death. And extremist forces swore revenge against both Pakistan and the United States.

The question remains whether or not the killing of bin Laden weakened Al Qaeda and other terrorist movements. Some observers argue that Al Qaeda had already become largely irrelevant because of the democratic movements sweeping the Middle East and North Africa. Others feel that the fall of those tyrannical governments leaves those areas even more vulnerable to terrorist movements and provides more opportunities for Al Qaeda to obtain new recruits. Some feel that the killing leaves the movement without a charismatic leader; others believe that the movement now has its greatest martyr.

### Follow-up

1. Was justice served by the killing of bin Laden? Should an attempt have been made to take him alive? Why or why not? Make notes on your position and discuss with a partner
2. The Navy SEALs have a counterpart in the Canadian Forces called the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. Conduct research to find out who the members are and what their mandate is. As well, identify some of the operations in which they have taken part.

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## **Activity: Are we safer today?**

Are we safer today than we were on September 11, 2001? What lessons have we learned? Have the measures we've taken really made it less likely that we will suffer another catastrophic terrorist attack?

One way we can try to answer these questions is to put together an organizer that lists the policies and procedures that governments have changed since 9/11 (a sample organizer can be found at the bottom of this page). For each issue determine whether or not it has made us less vulnerable to attack on North American soil. Some of the items you may want to include in your organizer include:

- Canada's role in the war in Afghanistan
- Creation of a no-fly list
- Tighter restrictions on hand-held baggage on airplanes
- Full body scans in airports
- Border regulations
- The killing of Osama bin Laden
- The use of torture to get information out of suspected terrorists
- Canada's relationship with the United States
- Canada's relationship with Pakistan

Feel free to include other issues you feel are significant.

Work with a partner to complete the organizer. Then join with another pair to compare notes and add or change information. In your group, write a response to the question "Are we safer today?" Be prepared to explain how your group arrived at its conclusions, and provide reasons for your position.

Issue	Safer or Not?	Why?