

# GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

## TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

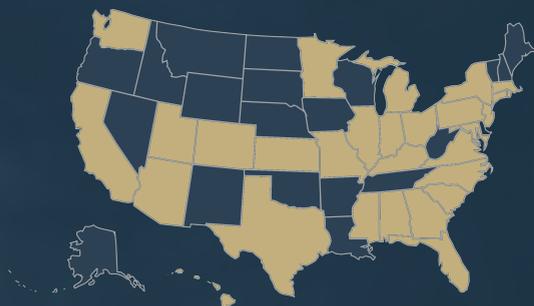
Program on Extremism

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



**209** INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN CHARGED IN THE U.S. ON OFFENSES RELATED to the Islamic State (also known as IS, ISIS, and ISIL) since March 2014, when the first arrests occurred. Of those:

Their activities were located in **30** states and the District of Columbia



**90%** are male

**28** the average age of those charged.

**157** have pleaded or were found guilty

**13.2\*** the average length of sentence in years.

\*Uses 470 months for life sentences per the practice of the U.S. Sentencing Commission

**39%**

were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad.

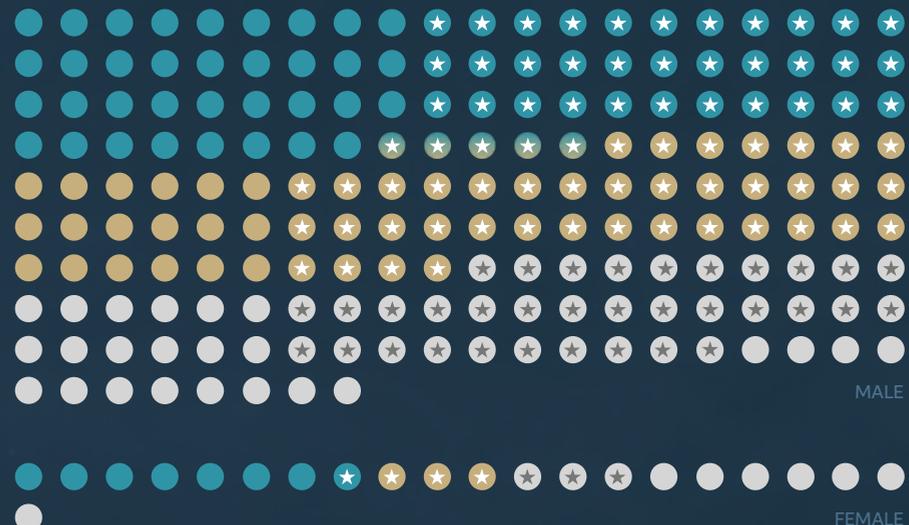
**32%**

were accused of being involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

**58%**

were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation



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### Disclaimer

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

## Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

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### ALEXANDER SAMUEL SMITH

AUG1 32  NC

Alexander Samuel Smith, a 32-year-old resident of Waxhaw, North Carolina, was sentenced in the Western District of North Carolina to five years in prison for making false statements to the FBI. In 2016, the FBI interviewed Smith regarding his plans to travel to Syria to join IS. Prior to the interview, Smith had been communicating with an FBI confidential human source (CHS) whom he believed to be a supporter of IS. Smith agreed to use his girlfriend's benefits as an airline employee to purchase a discounted "buddy pass" airline ticket for an associate of the CHS, who Smith believed would also travel to join IS in Syria. When later questioned by the FBI, Smith denied both his own travel plans and his plans to facilitate the second individual's travel to Syria. Smith was arrested in June of 2017 .

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Smith Judgment](#), [WBTV](#)

### ZACHARY CLARK

AUG10 41  NY

Zachary Clark, a 41-year-old resident of Brooklyn, New York, pleaded guilty in the Southern District of New York to attempting to provide material support to IS. In March 2019, Clark began disseminating IS propaganda in channels on encrypted platforms, including calls for supporters based in the United States to commit attacks on behalf of the group. In addition to other forms of propaganda, Clark distributed a number of instructional materials outlining how to select and surveil targets for an attack, how to plan an operation, and how to avoid attracting the attention of law enforcement. One of the

instructional materials he distributed was "Make a bomb in the kitchen of your Mom," an al-Qaeda instructional manual that details how to construct improvised explosives devices using everyday materials. Clark was arrested in November of 2019.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [NBC News](#), [Voice of America](#)

### JESUS WILFREDO ENCARNACION

AUG11 30  NY

Jesus Wilfredo Encarnacion, a 30-year-old resident of New York, New York was sentenced in the Southern District of New York to 15 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to Lashkar e-Tayyiba (LeT), a Pakistan-based designated foreign terrorist organization. In November 2018, an online co-conspirator introduced Encarnacion to a third individual whom both believed to be a jihadist supporter, but who was really an FBI undercover employee (UCE). Encarnacion made multiple statements online to the UCE regarding his support for LeT and desire to join the group overseas. In early 2019, he purchased a plane ticket from John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) to Europe with the intention of traveling onward to Pakistan to join LeT. The FBI arrested Encarnacion at JFK before he could board his flight.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Encarnacion Judgment](#)

### TREVOR WILLIAM FORREST

AUG14 56  NY

Trevor William Forrest (Abdullah al-Faisal), a resident of Jamaica, was extradited to the United States. Forrest was charged in a New York State Supreme Court indictment in 2017 with several state-level material support to terrorism charges, including soliciting and attempted soliciting or providing support for an act of terrorism. According to the indictment, Forrest remotely communicated with an undercover New York Police Department

officer and offered to assist him in traveling to the Middle East to join IS. The indictment alleges Forrest engaged in numerous overt acts in furtherance of this conspiracy, including disseminating propaganda material, providing a list of contacts in the organization, and offering to facilitate the officer's marriage to an IS member overseas. Following the unsealing of the indictment in 2017, Forrest was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. Forrest has pleaded not guilty to the state charges.

Sources: [Forrest Indictment](#), [Washington Post](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#)

## ALI AL-TIMIMI



Ali Al-Timimi, an inmate at United States Penitentiary Florence (USP Florence), was ordered released from prison pending the appeal of his 2005 convictions and sentence. Previously a principal lecturer at the Dar al-Arqam Islamic Center located in Falls Church, Virginia, Al-Timimi was indicted in 2005 in the Eastern District of Virginia on ten charges related to his solicitation of Dar al-Arqam worshippers to travel to Afghanistan and fight U.S. military forces. Some of his followers proceeded to travel to Pakistan and receive military training from Lashkar e-Tayyiba (LeT). In April 2005, a federal grand jury convicted Al-Timimi of all ten charges listed in the indictment, including soliciting and inducing others to levy war against the United States. Two days before his sentencing, Al-Timimi filed a notice of appeal that was remanded by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and he has since filed additional motions for judgment of acquittal and for leave to file a motion for new trial. To date, he has served approximately 180 months of his sentence in prison, but was granted his motion for release from custody pending appeal. After a 14-day quarantine period, Al-Timimi will be released under a number of conditions including home confinement. Sources: [Al-Timimi Release Order](#), [Al-Timimi Release Memorandum Opinion](#), [Washington Post](#)

## WAHEBA ISSA DAIS



Waheba Issa Dais, a 48-year-old resident of Cudahy, Wisconsin, was sentenced in the Eastern District of Wisconsin to 90 months in prison for attempting to provide material support to IS. In 2018, Dais hacked a number of Facebook accounts and used them to recruit, communicate with, and encourage other IS supporters to conduct attacks on behalf of the group. She used these hacked accounts and a number of encrypted messaging channels to disseminate instructional material containing guides on how to make improvised explosive devices as well as on using biological weapons. The FBI arrested Dais in June of 2018.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Dais Judgment](#), [Dais Statement of Reasons](#), [Fox 6 Milwaukee](#)

## DZENAN CAMOVIC



Dzenan Camovic, a 21-year-old Bosnian national and unlawful alien residing in Brooklyn, New York, was indicted in the Eastern District of New York for robbery and firearms offenses in connection with his attack on New York City Police (NYPD) officers. On June 3, 2020, Camovic is alleged to have attacked NYPD officers on patrol during ongoing civil unrest in the city. The indictment notes that Camovic stabbed one NYPD officer with a knife, and attempted to stab a second officer before returning to the first officer, seizing his firearm, and firing multiple shots at the second officer and other responding NYPD officers. Investigators later discovered that Camovic was in possession of significant amounts of IS propaganda prior to his attack, as well as "audio and video files of lectures and sermons by Anwar al-Awlaki." Investigations into Camovic's use of encrypted communications platforms are ongoing. Camovic was also charged by the Kings County District Attorney's Office with

two counts of attempted aggravated murder, two counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Camovic Indictment](#), [Camovic Government Motion for Detention](#)

## TNUZA JAMAL HASSAN



Tnuza Jamal Hassan, a 22-year-old resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, pleaded guilty in the District of Minnesota to attempting to provide material support to AQ. Hassan, a freshman student at St. Catherine University (SCU) in St. Paul, Minnesota, attempted to recruit two other students to join AQ in March 2017. In September 2017, Hassan purchased plane tickets from Minneapolis to Kabul via Dubai with the intent of joining AQ in Afghanistan, but was prevented from completing the second leg of her journey from Dubai to Kabul after failing to secure an entry visa. Hassan, upon her return to the United States, provided false information to Customs and Border Protection investigators and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding both her recruitment activities and attempted travel to join AQ. Once back on SCU campus in January 2018, Hassan attempted to set multiple fires to burn SCU buildings in what she claimed was retaliation for U.S. counterterrorism efforts against AQ in Afghanistan. She was arrested in January 2018 following the attempted arson, and still faces state arson charges.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Hassan Plea Agreement](#), [Star Tribune](#)