

# GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

## TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

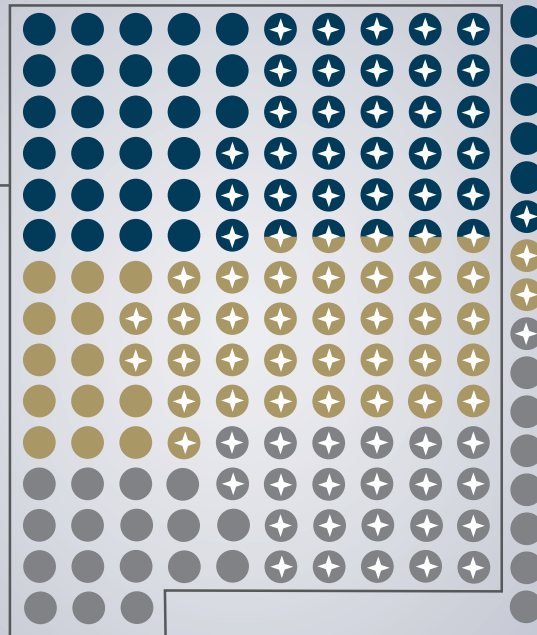
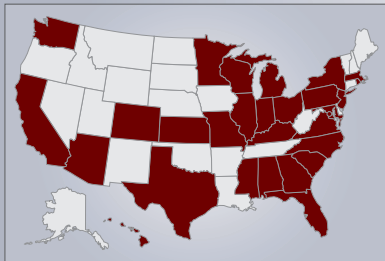
Program on Extremism  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**159** 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:

The average age of those charged is **28**

**90%** are male

Their activities were located in **28** states and the District of Columbia



**42%** 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.

**57%** were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation

The average length of sentence in years **13.2\*** **102** HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

\* Uses 470 months for life sentences per the practice of the U.S. Sentencing Commission<sup>1</sup>

## Islamic State–Related Apprehensions/Charges

### SAID AZZAM MOHAMAD RAHIM

FEB 16 41 TX

Said Azzam Mohamad Rahim, who had previously been charged with making false statements to federal authorities in a March 2017 indictment, was additionally charged in a superseding indictment with attempting to provide material support to IS. Rahim, a 41-year-old Richardson, Texas, resident, allegedly had conversations with IS supporters on multiple social media platforms, on which he encouraged them to commit violent acts on behalf of the group. The original and superseding indictment both claim that Rahim lied to federal agents about these

conversations during an interview. Sources: [Rahim Superseding Indictment](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

### BERNARD AUGUSTINE

FEB 27 21 CA

An unsealed criminal complaint charged 21-year-old Keyes, California, resident Bernard Augustine with attempting to provide material support to IS. Augustine traveled to Tunisia in February 2016, and the complaint alleges that he intended to travel onward to IS-held territory in neighboring Libya. Before leaving the United States, Augustine reportedly expressed support for IS to his friends and family members, and

frequently viewed videos released by IS and speeches by Usama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki. After arriving in Tunisia, he was apprehended by Tunisian authorities, charged with terrorism-related offenses, and sentenced to two years in prison. Augustine was extradited to the United States after recently completing this prison sentence in Tunisia. Sources: [Augustine Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

## Apprehensions/Charges for Other Jihadist Groups

### NAIF ABDULAZIZ M. ALFALLAJ

FEB 6 34  OK

The FBI Joint Terrorism Taskforce arrested 34-year-old Weatherford, Oklahoma, resident and citizen of Saudi Arabia Naif Abdulaziz M. Alfallaj. A criminal complaint charges Alfallaj with two counts of visa fraud and one count of making false statements to federal authorities in a case involving international terrorism. Alfallaj entered the United States on a non-immigrant visa in 2011. To attain this visa, Alfallaj failed to disclose that he attended al-Qaeda's al-Farooq training camp in Afghanistan in 2000. A document recovered from this training camp by the U.S. military shows Alfallaj's application to join the group; forensic analysis also found his fingerprints on the document. Federal investigators interviewed Alfallaj in December 2017 after he used the visa to apply for flight school in Oklahoma. During this interview, Alfallaj once again denied participation in the al-Farooq training camp. Sources: [Alfallaj Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [The New York Times](#)

### TNUZA JAMAL HASSAN

FEB 7 19  MN

Tnuza Jamal Hassan, 19, was charged with attempting to provide material support to al-Qaeda, making false statements, and arson. In January 2018, Hassan, a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, reportedly set multiple fires on the campus of her for-

mer university, St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. The fires caused property damage, but no casualties. Previously, Hassan allegedly authored a letter to several students encouraging them to "join the jihad in fighting" against the United States by joining al-Shabaab, the Taliban, or al-Qaeda, and unsuccessfully attempted to travel to Afghanistan to join an al-Qaeda affiliate. The indictment also claims that Hassan lied to federal investigators about writing the letter. Source: [Hassan Memorandum in Support of Detention](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Star Tribune](#)

### USAMA "PRINCE SAM" DARWICH HAMADE, ISSAM DARWICH HAMADE & SAMIR "TONY" BERRO

FEB 16

A federal jury in the District of Minnesota indicted Usama "Prince Sam" Darwich Hamade, Issam Darwich Hamade, and Samir "Tony" Berro, all citizens of Lebanon, for conspiring to export weapons parts to Hizballah, in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), the Export Administration Regulations, and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations. The indictment claims that the three men sent parts for unmanned aerial vehicles from the United States to Hizballah associates in Lebanon through companies in South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. To avoid scrutiny, the co-conspirators claimed the weapons parts were intended for anti-poaching efforts. The Hamade brothers, who are dual Lebanese-South African and Lebanese-British citizens, respectively, were arrested in South Africa and extradited to the United States to face trial. Samir Berro is at large. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [The New York Times](#)

## Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

### EDWARD ARCHER

FEB 1 30  PA

A jury in Pennsylvania found Edward Archer guilty of attempted murder and aggravated assault. In 2016, the

30-year-old Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, resident shot Philadelphia police officer Jesse Hartnett while he was sitting in a patrol car. Hartnett fortunately survived, and Archer was promptly arrested. Following his arrest, Archer made a statement to investigators, which included a pledge of allegiance to IS. Sources: [NBC 10 Philadelphia](#), [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), [CBS Philly](#)

## MUNTHAR OMAR SALEH



Twenty-two-year-old New York City resident Munthar Omar Saleh was sentenced to 18 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to IS and assaulting federal officers. Saleh and four co-conspirators, in coordination with overseas IS attack planners, planned attacks on New York City targets using pressure-cooker bombs. They also facilitated the travel of one co-conspirator, Nader Saadeh, to IS-controlled territory in Syria. Neither plan came to fruition—Saadeh was apprehended before reaching Syria, and the co-conspirators were quickly placed under FBI surveillance. On June 13, 2015, Saleh and another co-conspirator, Imran Rabbani, attempted to assault federal officers who were conducting surveillance on them, but both men were subdued and arrested. Saleh pleaded guilty in February 2017. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Saleh Sentencing Memorandum](#), [Reuters](#)

## SHIVAM PATEL



Shivam Patel pleaded guilty to making false statements to federal law enforcement. In August 2016, the 27-year-old Virginia man was arrested in Jordan and deported to the United States. While he was overseas, Patel's parents consented to a search of a computer that they shared between them, and investigators found several copies of magazines issued by IS. Following his deportation, Patel also declared his "admiration" for IS during an interview with federal law enforcement, and also told an undercover FBI employee that he supported the terrorist attacks in Orlando, Nice, and Paris. One week after returning

from Jordan, Patel began applying for a variety of government positions, including two military applications that required him to fill out the Form SF-86 Questionnaire for National Security Positions. Patel lied about his foreign travel to Jordan and his statements supporting IS. Sources: [Patel Affidavit in Support of Criminal Complaint](#), [Patel Plea Agreement](#), [Patel Statement of Facts](#)

## GREGORY HUBBARD



Gregory Hubbard, a 54-year-old resident of West Palm Beach, Florida, pleaded guilty to conspiring to materially support IS. On July 21, 2016, Hubbard was arrested as he attempted to board a flight to Berlin, Germany, en route to Syria. From July 2015 until the date of his arrest, Hubbard, his co-conspirators Dayne Antani Christian and Darren Arness Jackson, and a confidential human source mutually discussed their support for IS and attended several weapons training sessions. Christian and Jackson pleaded guilty in March and April 2017, respectively. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [WPTV](#), [Sun Sentinel](#)

## CASEY SPAIN



Twenty-nine-year-old Richmond, Virginia, resident Casey Spain was sentenced to ten years in federal prison after pleading guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Spain served more than seven years in prison for abducting and attempting to rape a 15-year-old girl; during this prison sentence, he made a statement of loyalty to IS. Following his release in August 2017, Spain spoke with multiple FBI undercover employees and confidential sources, and discussed traveling overseas to join IS and acquiring a firearm. Spain bought a firearm that had been rendered inert from an FBI undercover agent and was promptly arrested. He pleaded guilty in November 2017. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Spain Sentencing Memorandum](#), [Washington Post](#)

## AHMAD KHAN RAHIMI

FEB 13



Ahmad Khan Rahimi (a.k.a. Ahmad Khan Rahami) received two life sentences for using weapons of mass destruction in a series of bombing attempts in New York City. On September 17, 2016, a pipe bomb exploded in a garbage can minutes before a Marine Corps charity race began in Seaside Park, New Jersey. That night, a dumpster in Chelsea, New York, exploded and sent shrapnel flying through a busy thoroughfare, wounding 29. On September 18, police confiscated an undetonated backpack containing bundled explosives in Elizabeth, New Jersey. While reviewing surveillance footage, New York police saw Rahimi carrying a backpack believed to contain the pressure cooker bomb found unexploded on West 27th Street. In October 2017, a jury in New York found Rahimi guilty on all counts of an eight-count indictment. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [The New York Times](#), [CNN](#), [BBC](#), [NPR](#)

## MOHOMMAD ALI & SUMAIYA ALI

FEB 13

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Fifty-seven-year-old Mohommad Ali was sentenced to one year plus one day in federal prison, while his wife, 49-year-old Sumaiya Ali, received a sentence of 30 months. The Alis, residents of Plano, Texas, pleaded guilty to May 2017 charges of making false statements to the FBI in regard to an international terrorism case. The Alis' two sons, Omar and Arman Ali, traveled to Syria to fight for IS in late 2014. They remained in contact with their parents via email and told them that they were fighting for the group. On May 5, 2015, Mohommad and Sumaiya Ali provided false information to the whereabouts of their sons in an interview with federal agents, telling them that Omar and Arman were in Cairo, Egypt. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Dallas News](#)

## MARIE CASTELLI

FEB 15

57



Fifty-seven-year-old Marie Castelli, a resident of Maysville, Kentucky, was sentenced to 90 months in federal prison. Castelli previously pleaded guilty

to transmitting interstate threats and making false statements. In 2015, Castelli re-posted a link on a pro-IS Facebook page to a document that contained the names and addresses of U.S. military personnel. Castelli claimed that these targets were responsible for the deaths of Usama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki and encouraged group members to kill them. Sources: [Castelli Plea Agreement](#), [Castelli Judgement in a Criminal Case](#)

## IBRAHIM SULEIMAN ADNAN ADAM "SPIN GHUL" HARUN

FEB 16

Ibrahim Suleiman Adnan Adam Harun, better known by his *nom de guerre* Spin Ghul, was sentenced to life in prison. Harun, whose exact nationality is unknown, participated in a 2003 al-Qaeda attack in Afghanistan that killed two U.S. soldiers, and conspired to attack the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria. In 2005, while attempting to enter Europe, Harun was arrested by Libyan forces and incarcerated until 2011, when he was released. Soon after his release from Libyan prison, Harun traveled to Italy, but Italian police quickly arrested him and extradited him to the United States to face trial. He was convicted by a jury in New York in March 2017. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Reuters](#), [The New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#)

## MAHAD ABDIRAHAM

FEB 16

20



A judge in Minnesota sentenced Mahad Abdiraham to 15 years in prison after he pleaded guilty in January to first-degree assault. Abdiraham, 20, stabbed two brothers in the Mall of America in November 2017. During his plea hearing, Abdiraham claimed that he committed the attack on behalf of IS, arguing that he planned the attack in response to "call for jihad by the Chief of Believer[s], Abu-bakr Al-baghdadi, may Allah protect him, and by the Mujahiden [warriors] of the Islamic State." Sources: [Hennepin County \(MN\) Attorney Press Release](#), [MPR News](#), [Star Tribune](#)

## MOHAMED RAFIK NAJI

FEB 16

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Thirty-eight-year-old Brooklyn, New York, resident Mohamed Rafik Naji pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to provide material support to IS. Naji traveled to Yemen in March 2015 with the intent of joining an IS affiliate. In communications with a friend in the U.S., he claimed that he made multiple attempts to join the group while in-country, and pledged allegiance to IS. In September 2015, Naji returned to the U.S., and continued to discuss efforts to reach IS-held territory overseas, and potentially committing an attack in New York City. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Reuters](#), [Washington Post](#)

## SAJMIR ALIMEHMETI

FEB 21

24



Sajmir Alimehmeti, 24, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to IS and passport fraud. On two occasions in 2014, the Bronx, New York, resident traveled to the United Kingdom but was not permitted to enter because he was in possession of a weapon and several images, files, and videos on his phone depicting his support for IS. Following his return to the U.S., Alimehmeti continued to support IS, discussing travel to join the group overseas with several FBI undercover employees, consuming IS propaganda, and purchasing weapons. Alimehmeti fraudulently applied for a new U.S. passport in October 2015, as he believed his rejection stamps from the UK would prevent him from traveling. In May 2016, Alimehmeti assisted an individual who he believed was an IS supporter in his attempts to travel to Syria to join the group. After driving this individual, who in

reality was an FBI undercover employee, to the airport, Alimehmeti was arrested. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Reuters](#), [The New York Times](#)

## NICHOLAS YOUNG

FEB 23

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Nicholas Young, a former Washington, D.C. transit police officer, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to IS and obstruction of justice. Young, a 38-year-old Fairfax, Virginia, resident, purchased several gift cards and transmitted their codes to IS members overseas. Later, Young attempted to impede a federal investigation by concealing the whereabouts of a confidential human source whom he believed traveled to Syria to join IS. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Washington Post](#), [NBC 4 Washington](#)

## SAFYA ROE YASSIN

FEB 28

38



Safya Roe Yassin, a 38-year-old woman from Missouri, pleaded guilty to two counts of communicating threats. Yassin faced a total of three counts for allegedly conspiring to use her Twitter accounts to threaten and solicit violence against two current FBI employees and two former U.S. military personnel. From May 2015 until her arrest on February 18, 2016, Yassin used at least 97 Twitter accounts to promote IS and advocate violence against U.S. citizens and employees of the U.S. government and military. Sources: [Yassin Plea Agreement](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)