

# GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

## TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

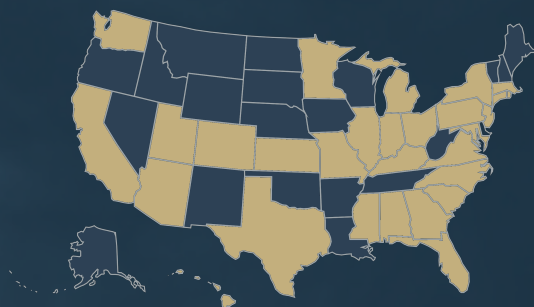
Program on Extremism

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



**217** 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.

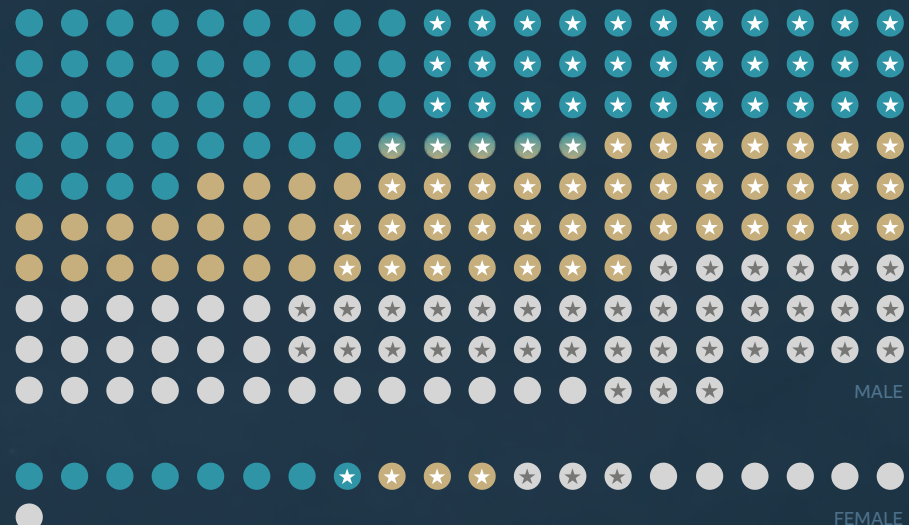
**31%**

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



### Acknowledgement

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Grant Award Number 20STTPC00001-01

### 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.

## Apprehensions & Charges for Other Jihadist Groups

---

OCT 21



The Eastern District of Virginia announced the seizure of two pro-Hizbullah websites, “Aletejahtv.com” and “kataibhezbollah.com,” which were unlawfully owned and operated by a company based in Reston, Virginia. Hizbullah was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 2009, and federal law prohibits designated entities from owning and/or using goods or services (including websites). The two seized websites hosted content from previous Hizbullah websites that were seized in the District of Arizona in August, including videos, articles, photos, and false information related to COVID-19 designed to damage U.S. reputation in Iraq to the benefit of Iran.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Miami Herald](#)

## Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

---

### ALEXANDA AMON KOTÉY & EL SHAFEE ELSHEIKH

OCT 7

36



VA

OCT 7

32



VA

Two British citizens, Alexandra Amon Kotey (36) and El Shafee Elsheikh (32), were charged in the Eastern District of Virginia with crimes related to their alleged involvement in the death of American citizens in Syria as well as other terrorism offenses in support of the Islamic State (IS). Kotey and Elsheikh are alleged to have traveled from London to Syria in 2012 and subsequently joined the Islamic State. According to the indictment, while members of the Islamic State, Kotey and Elsheikh and their co-

conspirators were involved in the IS “hostage-taking scheme,” which resulted in the kidnapping and subsequent death of James Foley, Kayla Mueller, Steven Sotloff, Peter Kassig, as well as British and Japanese nationals. The pair, who also face material support charges, were captured in January of 2018 by the Syrian Democratic Forces and transferred to American custody in 2019.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Times](#), [Kotey Elsheikh Indictment](#)

### MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AHMED

OCT 20

46



TX

Mohammed Ibrahim Ahmed, a 46-year-old inmate of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP), was sentenced in the Eastern District of Texas to 300 months for additional terrorist activity that he committed while an inmate. In 2013, Ahmed was convicted and sentenced in the Southern District of New York for conspiring to provide material support to and receive military-type training from a foreign terrorist organization after attending an AQ training camp in Afghanistan in 1996. Ahmed was transferred to the Federal Correctional Institute in Beaumont, Texas, where he provided his fellow inmates with a training manual on how to carry out violent jihad and discussed a plot to bomb a detention center in New York City. Ahmed also recruited a number of inmates to join IS and conduct terrorist attacks after their release.

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

### ENRIQUE MARQUEZ JR

OCT 23

28



CA

Enrique Marquez Jr., a 28-year-old resident of Riverside, California, was sentenced in the Central District of California to 240 months in prison for conspiring to commit terrorist attacks and for providing assault rifles later used in the 2015 San

Bernardino terrorist attack. In 2015, Marquez made false statements related to his role as the “straw buyer” of two assault rifles that he provided to Syed Rizwan Farook, and which Farook and his wife used in the 2015 attack. Marquez also admitted to previously conspiring with Farook to attack Riverside City College. In furtherance of this plot, Marquez purchased Christmas tree lightbulbs and a container of smokeless powder for use in making a radio-controlled improvised explosive device.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [The San Bernardino Sun](#), [KTLA](#)

## SABIRHAN HASANOFF



Sabirhan Hasanoff, a 44-year-old resident of Brooklyn and inmate of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, was ordered released by a judge in the Southern District of New York. The district judge ruled that Hasanoff had demonstrated extraordinary and compelling circumstances that meet federal standards for compassionate release. Hasanoff was arrested in 2010 for his role in supporting AQ. From 2007 to 2009, he surveilled the New York Stock Exchange for an attack, and sent remote-control devices to purported AQ operatives overseas to use in IEDs. In 2013, Hasanoff was sentenced to 18 years in prison..

Sources: [Hasanoff Release Order](#), [Reuters](#)

## HAJI NAJIBULLAH



An indictment was unsealed in the Southern District of New York charging Haji Najibullah, a 44-year-old Afghan national and alleged former Taliban commander, with six counts related to the 2008 kidnapping of American journalist David Rhode and two Afghan nationals. In 2008, Najibullah is alleged to have kidnapped Rhode and the two Afghan nationals at gunpoint

and held them hostage for over seven months at a Taliban compound in Pakistan. All three hostages managed to escape from the compound, and Najibullah was later arrested and transferred into U.S. custody from Ukraine in 2014.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Najibullah Indictment](#), [New York Times](#)