

# GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

## TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Program on Extremism  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**168** 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**

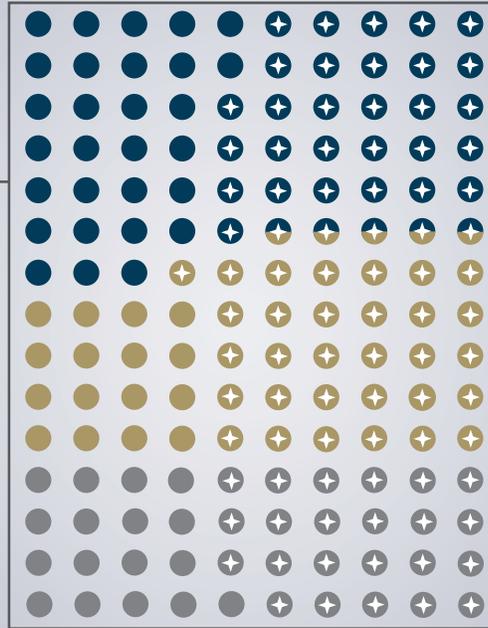
**89%** are male

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



The average length of sentence in years **13.2\*** **117** HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

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



**42%** were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad.

**33%** were accused of being involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

**56%** were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

✦ indicates law enforcement operation

### Arrests Related to the Islamic State

#### ASHRAF AL SAFOO

OCT 16 34 IL

Ashraf Al Safoo, a 34-year-old resident of Chicago, Illinois, was charged with one count of conspiracy to provide material support and resources to IS, namely personnel and services. The criminal complaint claims Al Safoo aided IS by creating and spreading propaganda, recruiting supporters, and encouraging attacks online. Al Safoo allegedly provided editorial support to the propaganda group "Al Khattab," which collaborated with and took orders from IS and IS' media offices. The complaint alleges that Al Safoo

disseminated IS propaganda online and created original violent jihadist media on behalf of IS. Al Safoo allegedly worked with 17 co-conspirators in the Al Khattab group, using encrypted messaging applications and operational security measures to avoid detection. FBI agents arrested Al Safoo at his residence on October 17, 2018. sources: [Al Safoo Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Washington Post](#)

#### NASER ALMADAOJI

OCT 24 19 OH

Naser Almadaoji, a 19-year-old resident of Beavercreek, Ohio, was charged with attempting to provide material support to Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-KP), the Islamic State's province in

Afghanistan. In August 2018, Almadaoji allegedly began communicating with two FBI undercover agents whom he believed to be working with IS. In messages to the undercover agents, Almadaoji allegedly discussed a previous attempt to join a terrorist organization and plans to cause the collapse of the United States. The documents claim Almadaoji also sent a video to an undercover FBI agent in which he pledged allegiance to the leader of IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Law enforcement officers arrested Almadaoji at the John Glenn Columbus International Airport, as he allegedly planned to travel to Kazakhstan and ultimately join IS in Afghanistan. Sources: [Almadaoji Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [CNN](#)

## Apprehensions and Charges for Other Jihadist Groups

### ALAA MOHD ABUSAAD

OCT 22 22 AL

Alaa Mohd Abusaad, a 22-year-old former resident of Alabama, was charged with attempting to provide material support to Al-Qaeda and aiding and abetting others. Abusaad allegedly coordinated with a known Al-Qaeda financial facilitator to solicit funding from an undercover FBI agent. The criminal complaint alleges that Abusaad coached the undercover agent throughout the process, encouraging her to give money to the financial facilitator and instructing her on operational security measures to avoid detection. FBI agents arrested Abusaad in Ohio on October 23, 2018. Sources: [Abusaad Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Alabama News](#)

## Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

### CLARK CALLOWAY

OCT 18 39 DC

Clark Calloway, a 39-year-old resident of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to charges of interstate transportation of a firearm, unlawful possession of a firearm, and illegal possession of a machine gun. Calloway

also pled guilty to acquiring the firearm with intent to commit assault. On May 4, 2017 the FBI arrested Calloway after he purchased an AK-47 from an undercover agent. Calloway's public, online affinity for IS sparked the FBI investigation. The May 2017 criminal complaint claimed Calloway used Facebook to post pro-IS propaganda and connect with IS sympathizers and fighters. Sources: [Calloway Guilty Plea](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Calloway Criminal Complaint](#)

### JASON MICHAEL LUDKE

OCT 25 37 WI

Jason Michael Ludke, a 37-year-old resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pled guilty to conspiring to provide material support to IS. On October 5, 2016, law enforcement officers apprehended Ludke in Texas as he attempted to travel to join IS in the Levant. Ludke planned to drive to Mexico to circumvent flight restrictions due prior criminal convictions, then travel to Syria and Iraq. In messages to an FBI undercover employee, Ludke sent a video pledging allegiance to the leader of IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and expressed that his training in jiu-jitsu and computers would benefit IS. According to the plea agreement, Ludke acted with co-conspirator Yosvany Padilla-Conde in his attempted travel to join IS. Ludke faces a maximum sentence of 20 years. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Ludke Guilty Plea](#)

### ABDULRAHMAN AHMAD ALSHEIKH

OCT 29 38

Abdulrahman Ahmad Alsheikh, a 38-year-old dual American and Saudi citizen and former Louisiana resident, was released by the U.S. military in Iraq. In September 2017, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) captured Alsheikh at a security checkpoint in Syria. The SDF turned Alsheikh over to U.S. forces in Iraq, where he was held for 13 months as a wartime detainee suspected of IS membership. The U.S. Department of Defense alleges that Alsheikh was an IS member, as his name was found on a July 2014 recruit intake form. Alsheikh disputes these allegations, attesting that he traveled to Syria as a

freelance reporter. Alsheikh was released in Bahrain in October 2018. Sources: [The New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#)

## **ALI CHARAF DAMACHE**

OCT 30

53

Ali Charaf Damache, a 53-year-old dual Algerian and Irish citizen, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to provide material support to

terrorists. Damache coordinated a terrorist cell from Ireland, consolidating support for violent jihad and recruiting European and American members. Damache conspired with three Americans, Collen La Rose of Pennsylvania, Jamie Paulin-Ramirez of Colorado, and Mohammad Hassan Khalid of Maryland. In 2011, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania indicted Damache in absentia. In 2017, Spain extradited Damache to the United States where he pled guilty in July 2018.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Damache Sentencing Memorandum](#), [Associated Press](#)