

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

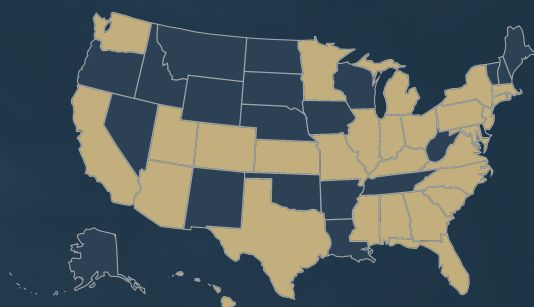
Program on Extremism

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.

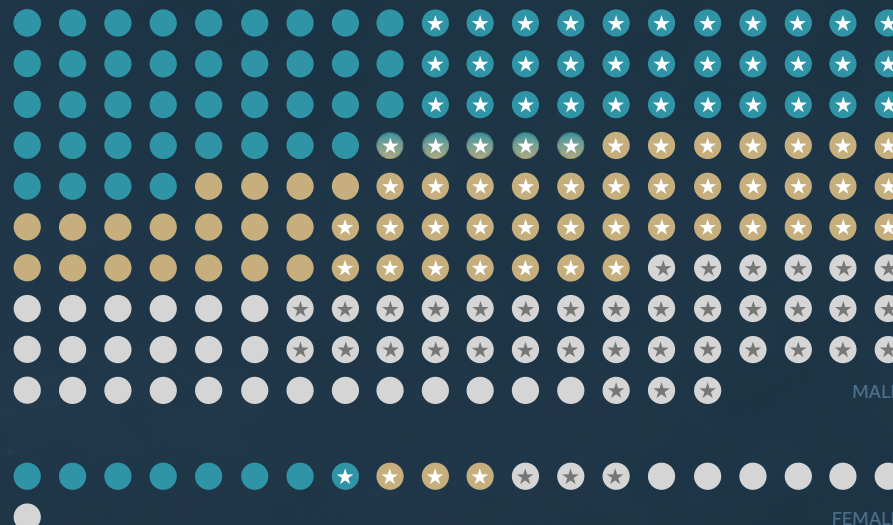
31%

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



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IS Arrests

IBRAHEEM AHMED AL BAYATI

SEP 4 19  TX

Ibraheem Ahmed Al Bayati, a 19-year-old resident of Richmond, Virginia, was charged in the Southern District of Texas with making threats or conveying false information to destroy by means of fire or explosives and making a threat over interstate commerce. Al Bayati allegedly sought out supporters of IS online and helped an individual pledge support to the terrorist group virtually. On September 2, 2020, Al Bayati interrupted a virtual University of Houston lecture to issue a bomb threat against the University, and allegedly proceeded to raise his index finger and utter the phrase, “The Islamic State will remain.”

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Al Bayati Criminal Complaint](#), [Al Bayati Indictment](#), [Houston Chronicle](#)

JAYLYN CHRISTOPHER MOLINA & KRISTOPHER SEAN MATTHEWS

SEP 17 22  TX SEP 17 34  SC

Jaylyn Christopher Molina and Kristopher Sean Matthews, residents of Cost, Texas and Elgin, South Carolina, respectively, were arrested on charges of conspiracy to provide material support to IS. According to the criminal complaint filed against Molina and Matthews in the Western District of Texas, the two were allegedly members of a group in an online encrypted application dedicated to posting and sharing pro-IS content. The pair were alleged to have posted various pieces of propaganda in the group, used a subgroup of the encrypted application to share instructional material related to explosives, and discussed using bomb-making as part of a plan for an attack on behalf of IS.

Sources: [Molina & Matthews Criminal Complaint](#), [Molina Detention Order](#), [NBC News](#)

JONATHAN GUERRA BLANCO

SEP 22 23  FL

Jonathan Guerra Blanco, a 23-year-old resident of Lehigh Acres, Florida, was arrested on charges of attempting to provide material support and resources to IS. The criminal complaint filed against Guerra Blanco in the Southern District of Florida alleges that Guerra Blanco had a role in “directing and coordinating unofficial ISIS media networks online.” Guerra Blanco is alleged to have recruited numerous individuals, who he believed to be IS sympathizers with foreign language skills, to translate and disseminate propaganda for IS media networks. Guerra Blanco is also alleged to have sent funds via Coinbase to an unnamed foreign-based IS operative involved in the direction of the IS media networks.

Sources: [Guerra Blanco Criminal Complaint](#), [Guerra Blanco Order of Detention](#), [Wink News](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

OMER KUZU

SEP 2 23  TX

Omer Kuzu, a 23-year-old U.S. citizen, pleaded guilty in the Northern District of Texas to conspiring to provide material support to IS. Kuzu traveled with his brother, Yusuf, from their home in Texas to join IS in Iraq and Syria in 2014. The two were smuggled across Syria’s border with Turkey by IS facilitators and brought to Mosul, Iraq, where they underwent physical and

weapons training. Afterwards, the Kuzu brothers were sent to Raqqa, Syria, where Omer worked in the terrorist group's communications department before being sent to provide communications support for frontline IS fighters. He was captured in March 2019 by the Syrian Democratic Forces and was repatriated to the U.S and transferred into FBI custody several months later.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Kuzu Plea Agreement](#), [CBS DFW](#)

JONATHAN XIE



Jonathan Xie, a 21-year-old resident of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, pleaded guilty in the District of New Jersey to concealing attempts to provide material support to Hamas. In December 2018, Xie sent \$100 to an individual whom he believed to be a member of the Al-Qassam Brigades (Hamas' military wing), later admitting that he knew the money would be used to commit or assist in the commission of a violent act. In April 2019, Xie also sent a link to an Al-Qassam Brigades online fundraising webpage to an undercover FBI employee, claiming that he had previously donated to the group. Xie later showed the undercover FBI employee how to make donations to the group using Bitcoin.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Xie Plea Agreement](#), [NJ.Com](#)

ABDELHAMID AL-MADIOUM



Abdelhamid Al-Madioum, a 23-year-old resident of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, was charged in the District of Minnesota with providing material support to IS. In June 2015, Al-Madioum and his family traveled from Minnesota to Morocco to visit their extended family. Al-Madioum then left his family in Morocco in July 2015 and traveled onward to Turkey and then Syria, where

he joined IS. According to the affidavit, Al-Madioum served as a soldier in the Tariq Bin-Ziyad Battalion of the Abu Mutaz al-Qurashi Division before his capture and detention by the Syrian Democratic Forces in March 2019. Al-Madioum was recently transferred into FBI custody and repatriated to the United States to stand trial.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Al-Madioum Affidavit](#), [Al-Madioum Indictment](#), [Al-Madioum Government Memorandum in Support of Detention](#), [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#)

LIRIM SYLEJMANI



Lirim Sylejmani, a Kosovo-born naturalized U.S. citizen, was charged in the District of Columbia with conspiring to provide, providing, and attempting to provide material support to IS, and also with receiving training from IS. In 2015, Sylejmani is alleged to have joined IS in Syria, where he received military training and provided various services to the terrorist group. He was later captured by the Syrian Democratic Forces in 2019, and recently transferred into FBI custody and repatriated to the United States to stand trial.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Sylejmani Indictment](#), [Sylejmani Government Memorandum in Support of Pretrial Detention](#), [The New York Times](#)

NAYEF AMJAD QASHOU



Nayef Amjad Qashou, a 26-year-old resident of Auburn, Alabama, was sentenced in the Middle District of Alabama to 57 months in prison for making false statements to federal agents during an investigation. In 2014, Qashou was arrested by Jordanian officials while en route to join IS in Iraq and Syria, but was subsequently released. The FBI began monitoring Qashou

after receiving anonymous tips that he wanted to join IS and after suspicions were raised that he was distributing terrorist video propaganda. In 2019, FBI agents conducted several interviews with Qashou about his suspicious activities, during which he lied to federal agents regarding the nature and purpose of the videos, and about the total number that he had compiled and shared.

Sources: [Nayef Qashou Judgment](#), [WHNT](#), [AP News](#)

EMRAAN ALI & JIHAD ALI



53-year-old U.S. citizens Emraan Ali and his 19-year-old son, Jihad Ali, were charged in the Southern District of Florida with providing and attempting to provide material support to IS, and conspiring to provide material support and resources to IS, respectively. After obtaining U.S. citizenship in 2007, Emraan Ali moved his family, including his eldest son, Jihad back to Trinidad and Tobago, his country of birth. In March 2015, Emraan and his wife, stepchild, and five children are alleged to have traveled from Trinidad and Tobago to Syria to join IS, where Emraan and Jihad then reportedly received military and religious training and fought on behalf of the terrorist group. After Emraan was discharged from his unit for medical reasons, he allegedly continued to support the group by, among other means, providing money remittance services to other Trinidadian IS fighters through a network of contacts. Emraan and Jihad surrendered to the SDF in March 2019 in Baghuz, Syria, and were subsequently transferred into U.S. custody and repatriated to face charges in the United States.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Emraan Ali Criminal Complaint](#), [Jihad Muhammad Ali Criminal Complaint](#), [Voice of America](#)