

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Program on Extremism

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



239 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 **34** states and the District of Columbia



90% are male

28 the average age of those charged.

194 have pleaded or were found guilty

13.3* 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.

29%

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



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Arrests (Islamic State)

HERMAN LEYVOUNE WILSON



Herman Leyvoune Wilson, aka Bilal Mu’Min Abdullah, a 45-year-old resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was arrested and charged in the District of New Mexico with attempting to provide material support to IS and attempting to obstruct, influence and impede an official proceeding. According to the indictment, Wilson allegedly attempted to establish an “Islamic State Center” in New Mexico that would teach IS ideology, provide training in tactical maneuvers and martial arts, and support individuals preparing to travel and fight on behalf of IS in the United States and abroad. Wilson also allegedly helped administer an online platform promoting IS ideology which sought to recruit like-minded individuals. After two individuals associated with Wilson were arrested, Wilson allegedly instructed users to destroy evidence of their use of this platform.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Wilson Indictment](#), [Christian Post](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

JAYLYN CHRISTOPHER MOLINA & KRISTOPHER SEAN MATTHEWS



Jaylyn Christopher Molina, a 24-year-old resident of Cost, Texas, and **Kristopher Sean Matthews**, a 36-year-old resident of South Carolina, were each sentenced in the Western District of Texas to 240 months and 216 months incarceration, respectively, for conspiring to provide material support to IS. Molina and Matthews, who both recorded videos pledging allegiance to IS,

were members of an encrypted online chat used by IS supporters. In this chat, the pair disseminated IS propaganda, instructional material related to explosives, and discussed traveling together to join IS. Molina and Matthews were arrested in September 2020.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Molina Judgment](#), [Matthews Judgment](#), [San Antonio Express News](#)

ROMEO XAVIER LANGHORNE



Romeo Xavier Langhorne, a 32-year-old resident of St. Augustine, Florida, was sentenced in the Middle District of Florida to 240 months incarceration for attempting to provide material support to IS. Langhorne, who pleaded guilty in May 2021, admitted that he created an IS propaganda video to spread detailed information instructing viewers how to create triacetone triperoxide (TATP), a deadly explosive. In communications with an undercover FBI agent, Langhorne described his intentions to make and distribute this instructional video with the intent that it would be used by IS adherents to engage in acts of terrorism in support of IS.

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

DILSHOD KHUSANOV



Dilshod Khusanov, a 37-year-old citizen of Uzbekistan and resident of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced in the Eastern District of New York to 132 months incarceration for attempting to provide material support to IS and Al-Nusra Front. Khusanov, who pleaded guilty in October 2021, admitted that he was a member of an IS financing network aimed at funding the travel of group members to Syria in order to join the group. Khusanov worked with his co-conspirators to raise and contribute funds in

order to support the travel of Abdurasul Juraboev and Akhror Saidakhmetov to Syria.

Sources: DOJ Press Release, Khusanov Judgment

MUHAMMAD MASOOD



Muhammad Masood, a 30-year-old resident of Rochester, Minnesota, pleaded guilty in the District of Minnesota to attempting to provide material support to IS. According to court documents, Masood communicated with two individuals he believed to be IS members through an encrypted social media platform and expressed his desire to travel to Syria in support of IS. Masood initially attempted to fly to Jordan from Chicago, Illinois, but was prevented from doing so due to border closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Masood was arrested at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minnesota as he attempted to fly to Los Angeles, California, with the intended goal of meeting with an individual who he believed would assist him with travel via cargo ship to IS territory.

Sources: DOJ Press Release, AP News

ELSHAFEE ELSHEIKH



Elshafee Elsheikh, a 34-year-old Sudanese-born resident of London, England, was sentenced in the Eastern District of Virginia to eight concurring sentences of life imprisonment for his role in a hostage-taking scheme which led to the deaths of American, British, and Japanese nationals in Syria. Elsheikh, a member of an IS cell colloquially known as the "Beatles," was the leader of a wide-ranging conspiracy which involved the captivity of 26 hostages in Syria. According to evidence presented during trial, Elsheikh and his co-conspirators

participated in the physical and psychological abuse of hostages, including forcibly exposing the hostages to the murder of other hostages held by IS. Elsheikh was captured by the Syrian Democratic Forces as they attempted to escape Syria for Turkey and was subsequently transported to the United States to face trial. Elsheikh was convicted by trial in April 2022.

Sources: DOJ Press Release, Elsheikh Government Sentencing Memorandum, BBC

AWAIS CHUDHARY



Awais Chudhary, a 22-year-old resident of Queens, New York, pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of New York to attempting to provide material support to IS. In pleading, Chudhary admitted that he pledged allegiance to IS in August 2019 and subsequently began planning to carry out a terrorist attack in Queens, New York. Chudhary identified targets, including several pedestrian bridges, where he intended to carry out the attacks, and sought guidance from individuals he believed to be fellow IS supporters on the execution of the attack. Chudhary additionally sent a screenshot of a document from an IS propaganda magazine that included a diagram of the human body depicting where to stab victims with a knife. In furtherance of this plot, Chudhary conducted reconnaissance of the planned attack locations ordered items online that he intended to use to commit this attack - including a tactical knife, mask, gloves, and items to allow Chudhary to record or livestream the attack. Chudhary was arrested as he attempted to retrieve these items from a locker in Queens, New York, in August 2019.

Sources: DOJ Press Release, Fox News