

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

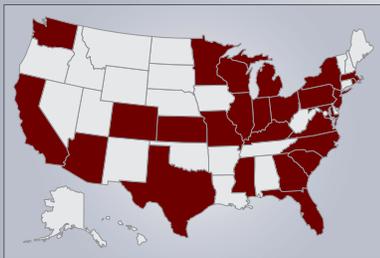
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

114 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:

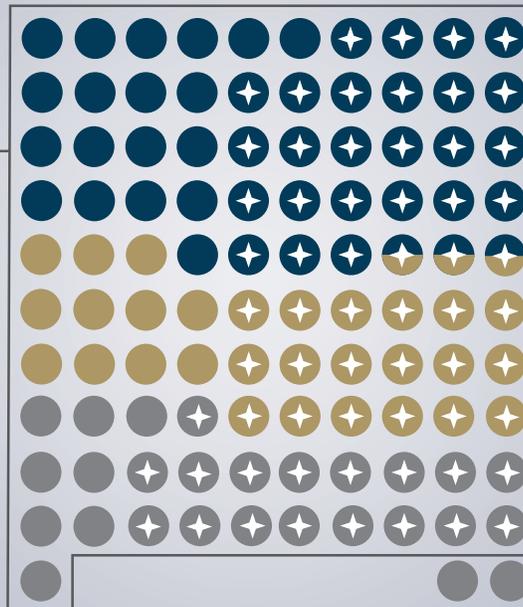
The average age of those charged is **27**

89% are male

Their activities were located in **26** states



The average length of sentence in years **13.1**



64 HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

46% were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad.

30% were accused of being involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

59% were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation

Islamic State–Related Apprehensions/Charges

NOOR ZAHI SALMAN

JAN. 12 30 FL

Former Florida resident Noor Zahi Salman, widow of Pulse Nightclub shooter Omar Mateen, was charged with “aiding and abetting his attempted provision and provision of material support” to the Islamic State, as well as obstruction of justice. Prosecutors allege that Salman, 30, “knowingly misled the F.B.I. agents and Fort Pierce police officers who interviewed her” for 12 hours after the attack, in which 49 people were killed. According the indictment, they also believe that from April 2016 until the shooting on June 12,

2016, she “aided and abetted” Mateen by accompanying him on trips to get ammunition and to Orlando, during which time he “apparently scouted his target.” Aiding and abetting can carry a sentence of life in prison. Source: [Salman Indictment](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [NYT](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

MOHAMAD JAMAL KHWEIS

JAN. 5 27 VA

Mohamad Jamal Khweis, 27, of Virginia, was indicted on additional charges of providing and attempting to provide material support to IS, and possessing firearms in furtherance of a crime of violence. These

counts are in addition to a May 2016 criminal complaint charging Khweis of conspiracy to provide material support to IS. In March 2016, Kurdish forces apprehended Khweis in northern Iraq. In subsequent interviews with the FBI, Khweis allegedly admitted that he had answered “yes” when asked if he would be a suicide bomber “during the ISIL intake process.”

Source: [Khweis Superseding Indictment](#), [Khweis Government’s Response In Opposition](#), [CNN](#)

ABDUL RAHEEM ALI-SKELTON

JAN. 10 23 MN

Minnesotan resident Abdul Raheem Ali-Skelton, 23, was sentenced to 38 months for making false statements to FBI agents. During a July 2015 interview, Ali-Skelton told agents that his last contact with Syria-based members of IS, such as Junaid Hussain, was in May or early June 2015, when in reality Ali-Skelton “well knew that he had been communicating with such individuals as recently as July 4, 2015.” In a separate March 2016 incident, he was arrested for communicating threats of violence after “threatening to blow up a Walgreens” during a drunken rant. Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Kovats stated that the episode represented Ali-Skelton’s tendency to “act out,” which in conjunction with his “covert contact” with IS members, demonstrated that “he’s not ready to be out on the streets.” During his sentencing hearing, Ali-Skelton expressed remorse for his actions. Source: [MPR News](#), [Fox 9](#), [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#)

JUSTIN KALIEBE

JAN. 10 22 NY

Twenty-two-year-old Justin Kaliebe received 13 years in prison and 20 years of supervised release for attempting to provide material support to terrorists, and attempting to provide material support to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). According to court documents introduced during the sentencing hearing, the New Yorker “attempted to travel from the U.S. to Yemen for the purpose of joining AQAP and waging violent jihad.” Beginning in June 2012,

Kaliebe “explained that he had been searching for an opportunity to travel abroad and fight jihad for two years” during meetings and email correspondence with undercover law enforcement officers. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

AKHROR SAIDAKHMETOV

JAN. 19 21 NY

Akhror Saidakhmetov, a native of Kazakhstan residing in New York, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to IS. According to court documents, in 2014, the 21-year-old referenced a video of mass executions of Iraqi forces by IS members in an online post, commenting, “I was very happy after reading this, my eyes joyful so much victory.” He then became “keenly interested” in traveling to IS-controlled territory during the fall and winter of 2014-2015. Along with Abdurasul Juraboev, his codefendant, Saidakhmetov made plans to travel to Syria via a connecting flight to Turkey. On February 25, 2015, Saidakhmetov was arrested at New York’s JFK International Airport before he could board.

Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

DANIEL FRANEY

JAN. 20 34 WA

A District Court judge sentenced 34-year-old Daniel Franey to six years for illegal firearms possession. The Washington resident was arrested in February 2016 on three counts of unlawful possession of firearms and two counts of unlawful possession of machine-guns (Franey is prohibited from possessing firearms as part of a domestic violence-related protective order). Beginning in approximately April 2015, law enforcement officials received numerous complaints that Franey was espousing violent pro-IS rhetoric, as well as advocating the murder of non-Muslims, U.S. law enforcement officers, and military personnel. Franey expressed a particular interest in targeting Joint Base Lewis–McCord in Tacoma, Washington.

Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [AP](#)

EMANUEL LUTCHMAN

JAN. 23

26



NY

New York resident Emanuel Lutchman, 26, was sentenced to 20 years in prison, to be followed by lifetime supervised release, for conspiring to provide material support to IS. Lutchman was arrested in December 2015, before he could carry out a machete attack on a Rochester, NY restaurant on New Year's Eve. According to his plea agreement, Lutchman wanted to prove himself to now-deceased IS member "Abu Issa Al-Amriki" in order to gain membership into the organization. Lutchman's sentencing memorandum further stated that he was "both inspired and directed by ISIL" through Al-Amriki, operating two Facebook that espoused IS propaganda and pledging allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi the day prior to the planned attack. Source: [Lutchman Sentencing Memorandum](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

JALIL IBN AMEER AZIZ

JAN. 30

20



PA

Jalil Ibn Ameer Aziz, 20, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization, and communicating a threat to injure. As stated in court documents, Aziz operated at least 57 different Twitter accounts to spread pro-IS propaganda and advocate for violence in the U.S. He tweeted his allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in June 2014, and also had an electric correspondence with now-deceased IS operative Junaid Hussain. According to media reports, authorities also suspect that Aziz "may have been plotting an attack before his arrest" in December 2015. During a sweep of his Pennsylvania residence, authorities found a backpack containing five magazines "loaded with ammunition," a modified kitchen knife, and a balaclava. Source: [Aziz Plea Agreement](#), [Aziz Criminal Complaint](#), [Aziz Motion In Limine](#), [ABC](#)

AHMAD MOHAMMED EL GAMMAL

JAN. 30

44



AZ

A jury convicted Ahmad Mohammed El Gammal, of Arizona, on four federal terrorism charges: providing, and conspiring to provide, material support to a foreign terrorist organization (FTO), and receiving, and conspiring to receive, military training from an FTO. El Gammal, 44, "actively touted and glamorized ISIS online," and ultimately helped recruit a New York-based college student, Samy el-Goarany, to the group in early 2015. Prosecutors argued that El Gammal provided IS with "human ammunition" when he abetted el-Goarany, who died "waging jihad" for IS in Syria at the age of 24. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Daily News](#), [Gammal Criminal Complaint](#)

Attacks

ESTEBAN SANTIAGO

JAN. 6

26



FL

A mass shooting occurred at Florida's Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, perpetrated by 26-year-old Esteban Santiago. Santiago opened fire in the baggage claim area, killing five people and injuring six others before law enforcement officers arrested him. On January 26, 2017, Santiago was indicted on 22 federal charges, including causing death during a crime of violence and causing serious bodily injury at an international airport. Although IS has not claimed the attack, Santiago told FBI agents during an interview that "he carried out the attack on behalf of ISIS," and that he had been in contact "via jihadi chat rooms with like-minded people." However, FBI officials found "no evidence" on Santiago's computer or smart phone corroborating his statement of being radicalized online by extremist propaganda, nor have they been able to confirm any links to IS. Source: [Sun Sentinel](#), [CNN](#), [Miami Herald](#)