

TERRORISM IN THE U.S.

Program on Extremism

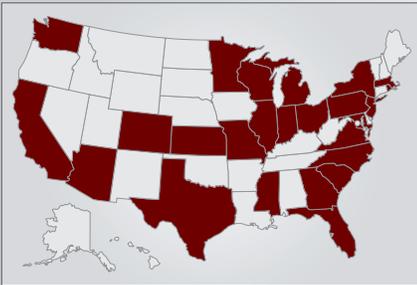
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

June 2016 Update

ISIS IN AMERICA

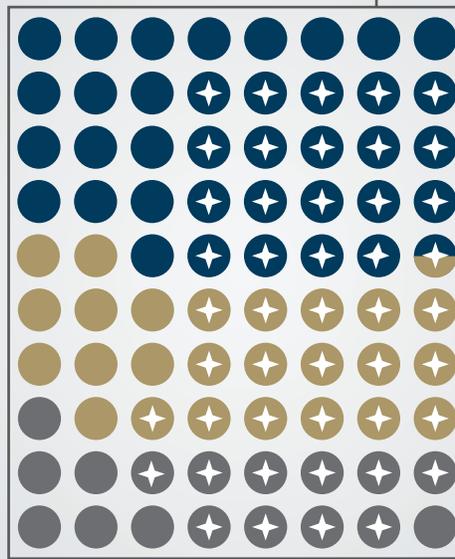
The average age of those charged is **26**

Their activities were located in **25** states



Approximately **36%** are converts to Islam

91 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN CHARGED IN THE U.S. on offenses related to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) since March 2014, when the first arrests occurred. Of those:



88% are male

46% 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.

55% were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation

45 HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

ISIS-Related Apprehensions/Charges

MOHAMAD JAMAL KHWEIS

MAY 11 26 VA

Mohamad Jamal Khweis, a 26-year-old Virginia resident, was charged with conspiring to provide and providing material support to ISIS. Kurdish forces apprehended Khweis near Sinjar, in northern Iraq, in March 2016, at which point he identified himself as an ISIS defector. The DOJ press release explains, "Khweis admitted to renting a car in Alexandria [Virginia] and flying out of Baltimore-Washington International Airport to begin his travel to join ISIL in mid-December 2015. His travel included stops in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands before ultimately crossing into Syria through Turkey with the help of ISIL facilitators." Khweis was arraigned in Virginia on June 9. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Khweis Criminal Complaint](#)

AKRAM MUSLEH

JUNE 21 18 IN

Akram Musleh, an 18-year-old U.S. citizen, was arrested on charges of attempting to provide material support to ISIS. According to the criminal complaint, the FBI initially questioned Musleh, an Indiana resident, at his high school in or around December 2013 after he posted three videos of Anwar al Awlaki, the late al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula ideologue. The complaint further states, "Following this interview, the school, in coordination with the FBI took steps to dissuade Musleh from engaging in radical extremism." In the time between this initial FBI contact and his arrest, Musleh allegedly purchased an ISIS flag, attempted to recruit local "juveniles" to ISIS, made numerous plans to travel to ISIS-controlled territory, and expressed his "affiliation with and support for" ISIS on a

variety of social media platforms. Musleh was arrested while attempting to board a bus to Indianapolis to New York, from where he planned to travel to ISIS-controlled territory via Morocco. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Musleh Criminal Complaint](#)

MOHIMANUL BHUIYA

JUNE 30 25  NY

June 30: The identity of ISIS-defector Mohimanul Bhuiya, a 25-year-old U.S. citizen and resident of New York, was made public. In June 2014, Bhuiya departed the U.S. for Syria, flying from New York to Istanbul, Turkey, and then crossing the border to Syria. In October 2014, Bhuiya sent an email to the FBI in which he explained he was an “American who’s trying to get back home from Syria.” In November 2014, Bhuiya arrived at a U.S. consulate office in Turkey where he explained to officials that after arriving in Syria he “served as a guard at an [ISIS] headquarters building, subsequently served in an administrative and inventory position, and was then assigned to teach other [ISIS] members how to use computer software.” Bhuiya further “claimed that he was never involved in any fighting.” After returning to the U.S. in November of 2014, Bhuiya was arrested and charged with providing material support to ISIS and receipt of military-type training from a foreign terrorist organization. Bhuiya pleaded guilty in the fall of 2014. Source: [NBC](#), [Washington Post](#)

Legal Proceedings (ISIS and Other Groups)

GULED ALI OMAR, ABDURAHMAN YASIN DAUD, AND MOHAMED ABDIHAMID FARAH

JUNE 3 40  MN

Guled Ali Omar, Abdurahman Yasin Daud, and Mohamed Abdihamid Farah were convicted by a federal jury of conspiring to commit murder in Syria on behalf of ISIS and to provide material support to ISIS. Six of the men’s co-defendants pleaded guilty prior to trial: Abdullahi Yusuf, Hamza Naj Ahmed, Zacharia Yusuf Abdurahman, Adnan Farah, Hanad Musse, and Abdirizak Warsame. One

co-defendant, Abdi Nur, remains at large. All three men were arrested April 19, 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

NICHOLAS TEAUSANT

JUNE 7 22  CA

Nicholas Teausant, a 22-year-old U.S. citizen and resident of California, was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 25 years supervised release for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Teausant was arrested on March 17, 2015, while en route to the Canadian border with the intent of continuing on to Syria. He pleaded guilty in December 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

ARDIT FERIZI*

JUNE 15 20

Ardit Ferizi, a 20-year-old citizen of Kosovo, pleaded guilty to providing material support to ISIS and accessing a protected computer without authorization and obtaining information. A hacker who went by the name “Th3Dir3ctorY,” Ferizi “admitted to stealing the personally identifiable information of over 1,000 U.S. servicemembers [sic] and federal employees, and providing it to [ISIS] with the understanding that they would incite terrorist attacks against those individuals.” Ferizi was apprehended by Malaysian authorities on a provisional arrest warrant on behalf of the U.S., and was charged by criminal complaint in October 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

MUHANAD BADAWI AND NADER ELHUZAYEL

JUNE 23 25  CA

Muhanad Badawi and Nader Elhuzayel, both 25-year-old California residents, were convicted by a federal jury of conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. Additionally, Elhuzayel was found guilty of 26 counts of bank fraud, and Badawi was found guilty of aiding and abetting Elhuzayel’s attempt to provide material support to ISIS and one count of financial aid fraud. Both men were arrested in May 2015 after Elhuzayel attempted to board a plane to Israel with a layover in Turkey, using a ticket purchased by Badawi. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

* Not included in ISIS in America numbers.

MOHAMED MALEEH MASHA*

JUNE 23

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The Detroit News reported that the FBI is investigating 24-year-old Michigan native, Mohamed Maleeh Masha. *The Detroit News* reported that a sealed search warrant indicates that the FBI is “looking for evidence Masha is supporting Islamic State groups,” include ISIS in Syria. According to the report, the investigation appears to dates back to at least October 2015, when agents executed a search warrant “looking for evidence Masha or others were providing money, personnel and material support” to terrorist organizations. The investigation appears to have begun following Masha’s disappearance in early 2015. “Masha is believed to have been among the first of two waves of medical students and graduates to travel [from Sudan and then] to Turkey before entering Syria, according to news reports.” Court documents have been sealed. source: [*The Detroit News*](#)

Attacks

OMAR MIR SEDDIQUE MATEEN

JUNE 12

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Omar Mir Seddique Mateen, a 29-year-old U.S. citizen, opened fire on Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 and injuring more than 50. During the attack, Mateen made a series of 911 calls during which he claimed responsibility for the attack and pledged allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al Baghdadi. Mateen was killed when law enforcement officials stormed the nightclub. Mateen was previously investigated by the FBI in 2013 and 2014. source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [The Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#)