

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

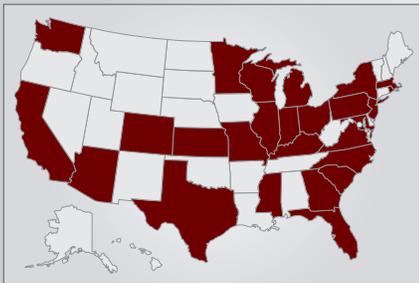
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

104 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:

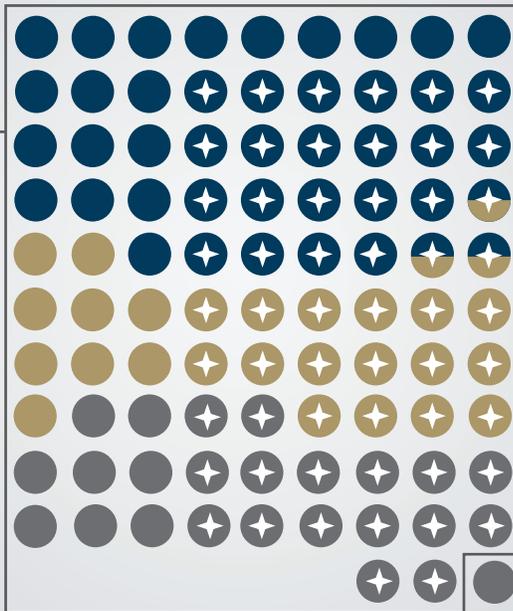
The average age of those charged is **26**

89% are male

Their activities were located in **26** states



The average length of sentence in years **11.8**



52 HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

45% 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.

58% were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation

ISIS-Related Apprehensions/Charges

SEBASTIAN ZACHARY GREGERSON

AUG. 2

29



Sebastian Zachary Gregerson, 29, was charged with unregistered possession of a destructive device and unlicensed receipt of explosive materials. Court documents unsealed on August 29 showed that the FBI began investigating Gregerson in April 2015, following a tip that the Michigan resident was amassing weapons. The criminal complaint states that Gregerson, who went by the alias Abdurrahman Bin Mikaayl, allegedly began building up an arsenal of grenades and assault rifles in early 2015. It further alleges that he was a vocal ISIS supporter and sympathizer and “fantasized” about carrying out deadly attacks on U.S. soil. He was arrest-

ed on July 31, 2016 after buying explosives from an undercover FBI officer. Source: [Gregerson Criminal Complaint](#), [The Detroit News](#)

MARIE CASTELLI

SEP. 8

55



Fifty-five-year-old Marie Castelli was arrested at her Kentucky home for communicating threats online and making false statements in a matter involving terrorism. Authorities also accused her of promoting ISIS propaganda via her social media accounts, though her indictment does not list ISIS by name. The indictment also does not indicate which social media platform Castelli used to post terroristic threats, but states that under the alleged alias of “Jihad Marie Antoinette Castelli,” she posted the names and addresses of three unnamed individuals and encour-

aged others to “execute” them. FBI agents confronted Castelli about her online activities and allege that she lied about them during the interview. She has been detained pending further court proceedings. Source: [Castelli Indictment](#), [ABC News](#), [WCPO](#)

Apprehensions/Charges Related to Other Jihadist Groups

AHMAD KHAN RAHAMI

SEP. 20 28 

Ahmad Khan Rahami was charged by New Jersey and New York district courts following his arrest on September 19. The 28-year-old New Jersey resident, originally from Afghanistan, was “directly linked” by investigators to explosions in Seaside Park, NJ, and Chelsea, NY, as well as to a explosive-laden backpack found in Elizabeth, NJ. He faces a total of ten charges, six in his home state and four in New York, for using and attempting to use weapons of mass destruction, attempting to bomb a place of public use, destroying and attempting to destroy property by means of an explosive, and using a destructive device in furtherance of a crime of violence.

On September 17, a pipe bomb exploded in a garbage can minutes before a Marine Corps charity race began in Seaside Park, NJ. That night, a dumpster in Chelsea, NY, exploded and sent shrapnel flying through a busy thoroughfare, wounding 29. On September 18, police confiscated an undetonated backpack containing bundled explosives in Elizabeth, NJ. While reviewing surveillance footage, New York police saw Rahami carrying a backpack believed to contain the pressure cooker bomb found unexploded on West 27th Street. A fingerprint on the pressure cooker was traced back Rahami. Source: [Rahami Complaint \(NJ\)](#), [Rahami Complaint \(NY\)](#), [CNN](#), [NY Times](#)

Legal Proceedings (ISIS and Other Groups)

KHALIL ABU RAYYAN SEP. 13 22 

Khalil Abu Rayyan, 22, pleaded guilty to one count of making a false statement to acquire a firearm and possession of weapon by an unlawful user of a controlled substance. Abu Rayyan’s criminal complaint charged him with making violent online threats to carry out a domestic attack on behalf of ISIS. The nature of his threats

began escalating in May 2015, and in December 2015, he began communicating with an undercover FBI agent about his plans to attack a local church. He was arrested on February 6, 2016. Source: [Abu Rayyan Criminal Complaint](#), [The Detroit News](#)

AKRAM MUSLEH

SEP. 14

18



Eighteen-year-old Akram Musleh of Indianapolis was indicted on one count of providing material support to a terrorist organization. A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf during his first court hearing on September 23. His charges stemmed from an initial FBI probe of Musleh when he posted videos of Anwar al Awlaki, a deceased al Qaeda ideologue. He also bought an ISIS flag, and attempted to recruit “juveniles” to ISIS. In June 2016, FBI agents arrested him as he attempted to board a bus to New York, where he planned to continue on via Morocco to ISIS-held territory. Source: [Musleh Criminal Complaint](#), [Indianapolis Star](#)

JONAS EDMONDS & HASAN EDMONDS

SEP. 20 30 23 

A U.S. district judge sentenced Illinois cousins Jonas Edmonds, 30, and Hasan Edmonds, 23, to 21 years and 30 years, respectively. Hasan Edmonds, a former Illinois National Guard specialist, pleaded guilty last year to conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization after he made arrangements to travel to the Middle East to fight alongside ISIS members. He was arrested in March 2015 while attempting to board a flight to Egypt. Jonas Edmonds pleaded to guilty to the same charge for planning to attack Joliet Armory in his cousin’s uniform, shortly after he left for Egypt. Source: [Edmonds Criminal Complaint](#), [Chicago Tribune](#)

KEONNA THOMAS

SEP. 20

32



During a brief hearing in federal court, Keonna Thomas pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to a terrorist organization. The 32-year-old mother of two had plotted to abandon her children to pursue “martyrdom operations” in Syria with Abu Khalid Al Amriki, a newly recruited ISIS fighter she had met and married over the Internet. Thomas also sought to raise money online using her aliases “Fatayat Al Khilafah” and “YoungLioness.” She was arrested at her Pennsylvania domicile in

April 2015, when federal agents raided her home the day she planned to leave the country. Source: [Thomas Criminal Complaint](#), [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

NICHOLAS ROVINSKI

SEP. 22

24



Rhode Island resident Nicholas Rovinski pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism. He admitted to conspiring with David Wright in a plot to behead an American citizen. Rovinski and Wright also attempted to “recruit others to carry out additional violent attacks in the United States,” though no plot was ever carried out. Rovinski’s sentencing hearing is scheduled for March of next year. Source: [CBS Boston](#), [Boston Globe](#)

ROBERT BLAKE JACKSON

SEP. 23

31



Robert Blake Jackson, 31, pleaded guilty to making false statements in a federal investigation. Between 2014 and 2015, the Florida native expressed support for terrorist groups like ISIS on his Facebook profile, which he operated under the alias “Abdur Rashid Bin Jackson.” He admitted to lying to an FBI officer during an interview when he denied the existence of pro-ISIS content on his Facebook page. He did not disclose at the time his searches for “ISIS news” and videos of Anwar al Awlaki. When asked by a Facebook user, “Are you isis [sic]?” Jackson replied that he was not, but wished he could help them. Source: [Jackson Plea Agreement](#), [Jackson Factual Basis for Guilty Plea](#)

NADER ELHUZAYEL

SEP. 26

25



Nader Elhuzayel, 25, of California, was sentenced to 30 years in prison and given supervised release for life. Elhuzayel, along with friend Muhanad Badawi, was convicted in June 2016 of conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. During his trial, officials showed an October 2014 video of Elhuzayel “pledging to travel to join ISIS to be a fighter” and die a martyr. In May 2015, he was arrested as he attempted to board a flight to Israel with a layover in Turkey using a ticket purchased by Badawi. He was also found guilty of 26 counts of bank fraud. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [ABC 7](#)

Attacks

DAHIR ADAN

SEP. 17

22



A mass stabbing attack occurred at the Crossroads Center shopping mall in Minnesota, injuring 10. The perpetrator, fatally shot by an off-duty police officer, was later identified as 22-year-old Minnesotan Dahir Adan. On September 18, the ISIS-linked Amaq agency claimed the attack and called Adan a “soldier of the Islamic State,” though the claim has not been corroborated. The FBI is now investigating the incident as “a potential act of terrorism.” Source: [CNN](#), [Star Tribune](#)

AHMAD KHAN RAHAMI

SEP. 17-18

28



Ahmad Khan Rahami is accused of being behind the attacks in New York and New Jersey. The first, a pipe bomb, detonated in Seaside Park, NJ, near the starting line of the Marine Corps charity race. The race had been delayed, however, and the explosion did not cause any injuries. The second bomb detonated that evening in Chelsea, NY, and 29 people suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Police discovered a third device, an undetonated pressure cooker bomb, near Chelsea.

The next day, on September 18, two men discovered a backpack containing five explosive devices located near the Elizabeth, NJ, train station. An FBI bomb squad robot was disarming the devices when one exploded, but no injuries resulted. The remaining four explosives were sent to Quantico, VA, for further investigation. Rahami was arrested on September 19 in New Jersey. Though the criminal complaint does not point to Rahami’s affiliation with a specific terrorist group, they mention his admiration for Nidal Hassan, the Ft. Hood shooter, Anwar Al Awlaki, and whom he referred to as “Brother Osama bin Laden.” Rahami’s father had previously voiced concerns about Rahami’s communications with “bad people” overseas and his “terrorist” intentions to the FBI in 2014, but the FBI did not find compelling evidence to place him on a terror watch list. Source: [Rahami Complaint \(NJ\)](#), [NY Times](#), [ABC News](#)