

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

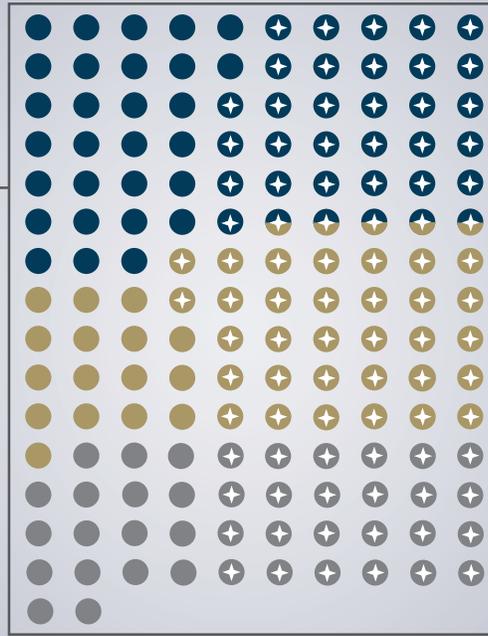
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

170 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 **28**

89% are male

Their activities were located in **28** states and the District of Columbia



41% were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad.

33% were accused of being involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

56% were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation

The average length of sentence in years **13.6*** **122** HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

* Uses 470 months for life sentences per the practice of the U.S. Sentencing Commission'

Arrests (Islamic State)

DAMON MICHAEL JOSEPH

DEC 7 21 OH

Authorities arrested Damon Michael Joseph, a 21-year-old resident of Holland, Ohio, for allegedly planning an attack on a local synagogue in the name of the Islamic State. In May 2018, Joseph came to the attention of authorities for his pro-IS activity on social media. In communication with undercover FBI agents, Joseph allegedly stated his support of IS, shared plans to attack a synagogue, and discussed conducting a mass shooting. Authorities arrested Joseph once he obtained (inoperable) semi-automatic rifles from

an undercover agent. On December 10, Joseph was charged with one count of attempted material support to IS. Sources: [Joseph Affidavit in Support of Criminal Complaint and Arrest Warrant, DOJ Press Release, The Washington Post](#)

TAYYAB TAHIR ISMAIL

DEC 13 33 FL

Authorities charged Tayyab Tahir Ismail, a 33-year-old resident of Pembroke Pines, Florida, for distributing information pertaining to explosives over the internet. From July to September 2018, Ismail allegedly

posted bomb-making instructions on encrypted mobile messaging chat rooms used by IS sympathizers. Ismail allegedly pulled the instructions from Google searches, shared them in chat rooms and took steps to hide his online activity by using VPNs, TOR and other cyber security applications. Authorities began investigating Ismail in October 2010, when he allegedly made terroristic threats at a homeless shelter. Additionally, from July 2015-April 2016 Ismail was an associate of James Gonzalo Medina who was convicted for attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction against a synagogue in Florida. During the Medina investigation, Ismail allegedly expressed an affinity for IS to an FBI confidential human source and shared a jihadist propaganda website which he ran. The criminal complaint states there is cause to believe Ismail shared the explosives instructions intending they be used to conduct violence on behalf of IS. Authorities arrested Ismail on December 14. Sources: [Ismail Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Miami Herald](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

IKAIKA ERIK KANG

DEC 4 35 HI

Ikaika Erik Kang, a 35-year-old U.S. Army Sergeant formerly stationed at Wheeler Army Airfield in Oahu, Hawaii, was sentenced to 25 years in prison on four counts for attempted material support to IS. On August 29, 2018, Kang pleaded guilty to all four counts, agreeing to the 25-year sentence and a 20-year minimum supervised release after incarceration. According to court documents, Kang became sympathetic to IS in 2016 when he began watching IS propaganda online. After the Army referred his case to the FBI, officials found IS propaganda and classified military documents at his personal residence. The subsequent investigation revealed Kang's multiple attempts to provide material support, including the provision of classified military documents to an undercover agent which he believed would assist IS. Authorities arrested Kang on July 8, 2017. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Hawaii Star Advertiser](#)

LAITH WALEED ALEBBINI

DEC 6 28 OH

Federal Judge Walter H. Rice convicted Laith Waleed Alebbini, a 28-year-old resident of Dayton, Ohio, on one count of attempted material support to IS and one count of conspiring to provide material support to IS. According to the court documents, Alebbini expressed an affinity for IS to multiple friends before attempting to travel and join the organization in Syria. Alebbini planned to cross the Turkish border into Syria and join IS as a suicide bomber. Authorities arrested Alebbini on April 26, 2017 as he approached the TSA security checkpoint at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [DOJ Southern Ohio Press Release](#), [Cincinnati Enquirer](#)

KASSIM TAJIDEEN

DEC 6 63

Kassim Tajideen, a 63-year-old resident of Beirut, Lebanon, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. In 2009, U.S. Department of the Treasury designated Tajideen as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist for his financial support to Hezbollah. In November 2016, authorities issued an 11-count indictment against Tajideen for evading U.S. sanctions imposed on himself. Tajideen and 5 co-conspirators conducted over \$50 million in transactions, restructuring and misrepresenting his businesses to buy food commodities and security equipment in violation of U.S. sanctions. Authorities arrested Tajideen in Morocco in March 2017 and extradited him to the United States. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [The Washington Post](#)

AHMED MOHAMMED EL GAMMAL

DEC 18 48 AZ

U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos sentenced Ahmed Mohammed El Gammal, a 48-year-old resident of Arizona, to 12 years in prison. From 2014-2015, El Gammal actively supported IS online and helped recruit 24-year-old New York resident Samy El-Goarany. In May 2015, Samy El-Goarany traveled

to Syria to join and fight with IS. El-Goarny died in combat in November 2015. El Gammal facilitated El-Goarny's travel and remained in contact with him during his IS training. Authorities arrested El Gammal on August 24, 2015. A jury convicted El Gammal on four federal terrorism charges on January 30, 2017.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [AP News](#)

ABDULRAHMAN EL BAHNASAWY

DEC 19

20

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman sentenced Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy, an 20-year-old Canadian citizen and resident, to 40 years in prison. According to court documents, El Bahnasawy communicated and plotted with Talha Haroon and Russell Salic to conduct large-scale bombing attacks on several targets in New York City on behalf of IS. Authorities arrested El Bahnasawy on May 21, 2016 when he traveled from Canada to the New York City area in preparation for the attacks. In October 2016, El Bahnasawy pleaded guilty to seven counts of material support and explosives charges. Sources: [DOJ SDNY Press Release](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [CBC Canada](#)