

# GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

## TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

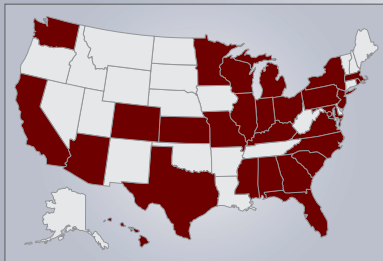
Program on Extremism  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**164** 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**

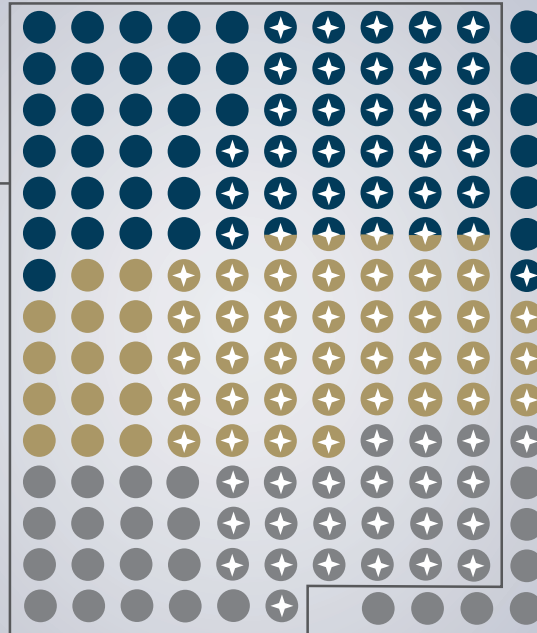
**89%** are male

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



The average length of sentence in years **13\***

\* Uses 470 months for life sentences per the practice of the U.S. Sentencing Commission<sup>1</sup>



**42%** 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

**113** HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

### Arrests

#### IBRAHEEM IZZY MUSAIBLI

JUL 24 28 MI

Ibraheem Izzy Musaibli, a 28-year-old resident of Dearborn, Michigan, was charged with providing and attempting to provide material support to IS. This month, Musaibli was captured in Syria by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fleeing IS territory. The SDF transferred him to U.S. custody and U.S. authorities extradited him to the U.S. to face trial. The indictment built against Musaibli states he began providing support to IS in April 2015. According to family members, before traveling to Syria, Musaibli lived in Yemen with

his wife and son. Source: [Musaibli Indictment, DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Times](#), [The Detroit News](#)

#### SAMANTHA ELHASSANI

JUL 24 32 IN

In an unsealed indictment from March 2018 Samantha Elhassani, a 32-year-old resident of Elkhart, Indiana, was charged with making false statements to the FBI. Elhassani had been held in Kurdish detention in Syria before being returned to the U.S. to face trial. In 2015, Elhassani traveled to Syria with her husband and two children to join IS where she gave birth to two additional children. Her husband died serving as a sniper for IS. In interviews conducted with the media after

her detention, ElHassani claims her husband tricked her into entering Syria while they were on vacation in Turkey. While living under IS-rule, her eldest son appeared in an IS propaganda video threatening attacks on the West. Her four children are now in the custody of the Indiana Department of Child Services.

Source: [Elhassani Indictment](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Washington Post](#), [PBS](#)

## Apprehensions and Charges for Other Jihadist Groups

### DEMETRIUS NATHANIEL PITTS

JUL 2 48 OH

FBI officials arrested and charged Demetrius Nathaniel Pitts, a 48-year-old resident of Maple Heights, Ohio, with one count of attempting to provide material support to al Qaida. Court documents reveal that Pitts expressed a desire to kill Americans and sought to meet with a member of al Qaida. On June 22, 2018, Pitts met with an undercover FBI agent, whom he believed to be an al Qaida operative, and discussed his plans to orchestrate an attack on the fourth of July in Cleveland, Ohio. On June 26, Pitts conducted reconnaissance of locations he intended to attack. He also created two videos where he pledged allegiance to al Qaida and identified the potential attack locations. Sources: [Pitts Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Times](#)

## Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

### AARON TRAVIS DANIELS

JUL 6 21 OH

Aaron Travis Daniels, a 21-year old resident of Columbus, Ohio, was sentenced to 80 months in prison for attempting to provide material support to IS. Starting in 2015, Daniels expressed interest in traveling abroad to join IS and actively sought to do so. In January 2016, he sent \$250 to the well known IS recruiter Abu Isa al Amriki, and later attempted to travel to Libya to join the terrorist group. FBI officials arrested him at the airport on November 7, 2016.

Daniels pleaded guilty on July 6, 2017. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [The Columbus Dispatch](#)

### SEAN ANDREW DUNCAN

JUL 6 22 VA

Sean Andrew Duncan, a 22-year-old resident of Sterling, Virginia, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for obstructing a counterterrorism investigation and receiving child pornography. An FBI interview with a co-conspirator of Duncan's revealed that he began expressing support for IS as early as 2015. According to a co-conspirator, Duncan expressed interest in joining IS in Syria and conducting an attack on U.S. soil; he also sent her instructions on how to make a homemade bomb. On February 26, 2016, Duncan and his wife departed the U.S. for Turkey but were denied entry into the country. A law enforcement search of Duncan's phone, conducted during an unrelated investigation, revealed Internet searches of IS content, which included material on attacks, weapons, and surveillance and defense tactics. While FBI officials were executing a search warrant of Duncan's residence on December 29, 2017, he attempted to discard evidence. The evidence recovered included a snapped thumb drive placed in an acidic liquid. Officials also found evidence of child pornography on Duncan's phone. Duncan pleaded guilty to both charges on April 9, 2018. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [The Washington Post](#)

### AMER SINAN ALHAGGAGI

JUL 18 23 CA

Amer Sinan Alhaggagi, a 23-year-old resident of Oakland, California, pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to IS and identity theft. According to court documents unsealed in July 2017, Alhaggagi told an undercover FBI agent that he wanted to kill 10,000 people in the San Francisco Bay Area. Through an online chat forum, he expressed to the agent that he wanted to set off bombs in downtown San Francisco, plant explosives at the University of California at Berkley, and distribute cocaine laced with rat poison at local clubs. He also admitted to opening

social media accounts for IS sympathizers in the fall of 2016. When authorities arrested Alhaggagi on November 29, 2016, he was also in possession of a device used to make counterfeit credit cards. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Times](#), [NBC News](#)

## SEIFULLAH CHAPMAN

JUL 19

45



Seifullah Chapman, a 45-year old resident of Alexandria, Virginia, was released from prison after serving 14 years of a 65-year sentence on charges relating to conspiracy to support a terrorist group and conspiring to use firearms in connection with a violent crime. Before the September 11, 2001 attacks, Chapman had trained with the Pakistani militant group Lashkar e-Taiba, which later became a designated terrorist organization. After returning to the U.S., he became a member of the Virginia network that used paintball games to prepare for violence abroad. He also sold a rifle to a man who was later convicted of joining al Qaida. In April, a Supreme Court ruling declared that the legal description of a violent crime was unconstitutionally vague. The ruling prompted a review of Chapman's case and led to his release. Sources: [Washington Post](#), [NPR](#)

## ALI CHARAF DAMACHE

JUL 23

53

Ali Charaf Damache, a 53-year-old dual Algerian and Irish citizen, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist group

and one count of attempted identity theft to facilitate an act of international terrorism. In 2011, Damache was indicted in absentia. In 2017, U.S. authorities extradited him from Spain to face prosecution in the U.S. According to court documents, Damache and others conspired to support, recruit, and coordinate a terrorist cell in Europe and the U.S. to wage violent jihad. In 2009, Damache and American Colleen LaRose conspired to murder Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks. LaRose is currently serving 10 years in prison for her role in the plot. In his plea agreement, Damache agreed to serve a 15-year sentence that will be followed by his removal from the U.S. to either Ireland or Algeria. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Washington Post](#), [ABC News](#)

## ALI SALEH

JUL 24

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Ali Saleh, a 25-year-old resident of Queens, New York, pleaded guilty to two counts of attempting to provide material support to IS. According to court records, in 2013 Saleh pledged allegiance to IS online and in 2014, he made multiple attempts to travel to the Middle East to join IS. In October 2015, he sent \$500 to an IS supporter in Mali and communicated with IS supporters in Australia and the United Kingdom to facilitate their support for the terrorist organization. On July 24, 2015, Saleh made a flight reservation from NYC to Egypt however he was denied boarding. He then unsuccessfully attempted to fly to the Middle East from three other airports. After returning home, he continued make pro-IS statements. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Jamaica Patch](#), [The Journal Gazette](#)