

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

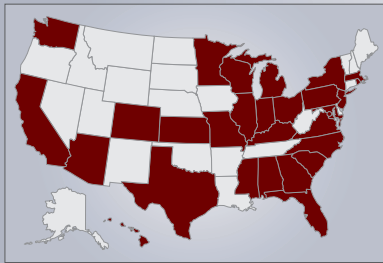
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

186 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:

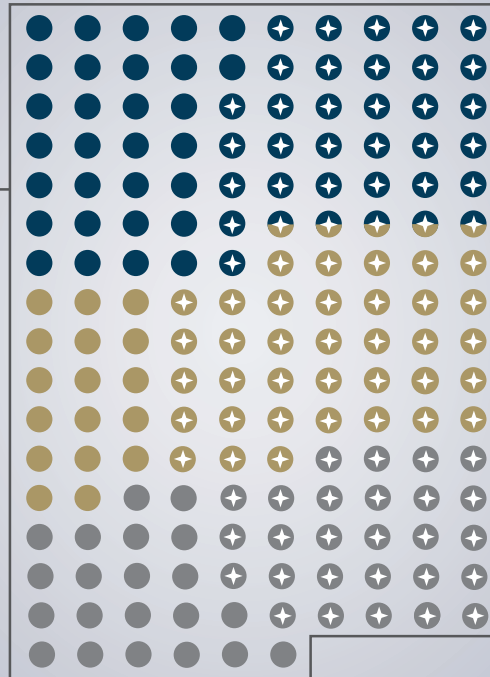
The average age of those charged is **28**

89% are male

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



136 PLEAD OR WERE FOUND GUILTY



39% 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 IS **13.5***

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

Arrests (Islamic State)

ASHIQU ALAM

JUN 6 22 NY

Ashiqu Alam, a 22-year-old former resident of Queens, New York, was arrested and charged with purchasing firearms with obliterated serial numbers. Alam allegedly expressed his support for IS to an FBI undercover employee and was formulating plans to attack Times-Square in support of the group. He conducted multiple trips to Times Square with the undercover employee, allegedly in search for potential targets. Alam was arrested after purchasing two Glock 19 semiautomatic pistols with obliterated serial numbers from undercover FBI employees. *SOURCES:*

DOJ Press Release, Alam Criminal Complaint, Queens Chronicle, Associated Press

MUSTAFA MOUSAB ALOWEMER

JUN 18 21 PA

Mustafa Mousab Alowemer, a 21-year-old former resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was arrested and charged with one count of attempting to provide material support to IS and on two counts of distributing information relating to explosives, destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction. Alowemer is alleged to have been plotting an attack on a church in Pittsburgh. After exchanging multiple communications and meeting in person, Alowemer and an FBI undercover employee (UCE) whom Alowemer

believed to be an IS supporter began formulating plans for a bombing. Alowemer purchased materials for the construction of an explosive device and provided them to the UCE alongside instructional materials on explosives construction. He was arrested while meeting with the UCE to plan and coordinate the bombing. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [UPI](#), [Alowemer Criminal Complaint](#)

NOAH D. STIRN

JUN 20 24  FL

Noah D. Stirn, a 24-year-old former resident of Pensacola, Florida, was indicted on 12 charges of issuing threatening communications involving explosives and mailing threatening communications to injure others. Stirn was being held at Blackwater River Correctional Facility in Milton, Florida on charges of witness tampering and grand theft of a motor vehicle. In the two months leading up to his indictment, Stirn sent multiple letters to federal and state agencies-- including the Pensacola Police Department and U.S. Attorney's Office-- threatening to use explosive devices to harm the occupants of their buildings. According to court documents, Stirn claimed the attacks were intended to be carried out in support of IS. Stirn is now in federal custody. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [ABC News](#), [Miami New Times](#), [Stirn Indictment](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

ALI SALEH

JUN 3 26  NY

Ali Saleh, a 26-year-old former resident of Queens, New York, pleaded guilty to assaulting a federal correctional officer and possessing contraband while serving time at the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) in Brooklyn, New York. Saleh was an inmate awaiting sentencing at the MDC after pleading guilty to attempting to provide material support to IS in 2015. On July 13, 2018, Saleh slashed the arm of a correctional officer who was retrieving trash through

an access slot of his cell using an improvised knife. He now faces up to 25 years in prison on assault and prison contraband charges in addition to the possible 35 years stemming from his material support charge.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Patch](#)

ZAKARYIA ABDIN

JUN 10 20  SC

Zakaryia Abdin, a 20-year-old former resident of Ladson, South Carolina, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to IS. In the months leading up to his arrest in 2017, he met in person and exchanged multiple communications online with an undercover FBI agent to express his support for IS and desire to join the group overseas. Abdin also purchased multiple weapons, including an assault rifle, and practiced shooting at a local outdoor range. Abdin was arrested by the FBI in March of 2017 at Charleston International Airport while attempting to board a flight to travel overseas and join IS. He pleaded guilty in August of 2018.

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

MUSTAFA AL-IMAM

JUN 13 48

Mustafa al-Imam, a 48-year-old Libyan national, was found guilty on terrorism charges stemming from his participation in the September 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. Special Mission and Annex in Benghazi, Libya. Al-Imam was captured in Libya on October 29, 2017. He was found guilty of conspiracy to provide material support and resources to terrorists as well as maliciously destroying and injuring a dwelling and placing lives in jeopardy. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Times](#), [CNN](#)

LAITH W. ALEBBINI

JUN 13 28  OH

Laith W. Alebbini, a 28-year-old former resident of Dayton, Ohio was sentenced to 15 years in prison for attempting and conspiring to provide material support to IS. Alebbini, a Jordanian citizen and U.S. legal

permanent resident, indicated to relatives and friends that he wished to join IS. Alebbini was arrested by the FBI in April of 2017 while attempting to board a flight to join IS in Syria. He was convicted in December of 2018 on both counts and is expected to be deported after serving his sentence. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Dayton Daily News](#), [Fox28](#)

MOHAMED RAFIK NAJI

JUN 14 40  NY

Mohamed Rafik Naji, a 40-year-old former resident of Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to IS. A permanent resident with Yemeni nationality, Naji was active online in his support of IS throughout 2014 and 2015 and initiated contact with an FBI confidential source to provide advice on how to join IS. Naji flew from New York City to Yemen in March of 2015 to join IS, returning in September 2015. Email exchanges between Naji and an undisclosed individual show he had tried and failed 5 times to enter IS-controlled territory. After returning to the U.S., Naji exchanged multiple messages with an FBI confidential source indicating his continued support for IS and expressing interest in committing an attack in Times Square. He was arrested in November of 2016 and pleaded guilty in February of 2018. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Daily News](#)

MEDIHA MEDY SALKICEVIC

JUN 18 39  IL

Mediha Medy Salkicevic, a 39-year-old former resident of Chicago, was sentenced to 6 and one-half years in prison for conspiring to provide material support to IS. Salkicevic was part of a larger network of individuals with Bosnian nationality residing in Chicago and St. Louis that collectively sent thousands of dollars and tactical gear to Abdullah Ramo Pazara, a Bosnian-American national fighting with IS in Syria. Salkicevic made multiple transfers to Istanbul, Zenica, and St. Louis to intermediary sources who she believed would either transfer the money to Pazara or buy equipment for him. Salkicevic was charged in February of 2015 and was being

held in federal custody before this month's sentencing. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [ABC News](#), [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

FARUQ KHALIL MUHAMMAD 'ISA

JUN 18 51

Faruq Khalil Muhammad 'Isa, a 51-year-old former resident of Edmonton, Canada, was sentenced to 26 years in prison for his role in a 2009 suicide bombing against coalition forces in Iraq on April 10, 2009. The bombing, which killed five American soldiers, took place at the United States Military's Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. 'Isa pleaded guilty in March of 2018 to the charge of conspiring to kill Americans abroad. According to court documents, while residing in Canada, 'Isa was in communication with individuals who conducted the suicide bombing, as well as individuals who attempted to travel to Iraq to conduct suicide attacks. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [CNN](#), [CBC](#)

JOSEPH D. JONES & EDWARD SCHIMENTI

JUN 21 37 37  IL

Joseph D. Jones (37) and Edward Schimenti (37), both former residents of Zion, Illinois, were convicted of conspiring to provide material support to IS. Schimenti was also convicted for making false statements to the FBI. Jones and Schimenti met multiple times with FBI undercover employees and confidential human sources, at one point providing mobile phone devices that they believed would be used for detonating explosive devices. They provided the devices to an FBI source who they transported to O'Hare with the belief that he would bring the devices to IS in Syria. When later questioned about the devices by the FBI, Schimenti stated he never discussed the phones' functions as detonators. Jones and Schimenti were arrested in April of 2017, and both face up to 20 years each for material support charges. Schimenti faces an additional 8 years for making false statements to the FBI. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Chicago Sun Times](#)

SINMYAH AMERA CEASAR

JUN 26

24



Sinmyah Amera Ceasar, a 24-year-old former resident of New Jersey, was sentenced to 48 months in prison for obstruction of an official proceeding. Ceasar was first arrested in November of 2016 while trying to board a flight out of JFK to join IS. She pleaded guilty in February of 2017 and was sentenced in June of that year to two and a half years in prison as part of a cooperation agreement with the government. While free on bail between April and July of 2018, however, she reconnected online with previous contacts she believed to still be supporting IS, and was subsequently re-arrested by law enforcement. *Sources:*

[Daily Beast](#), [NY Post](#), [NorthJersey](#)

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