

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Program on Extremism

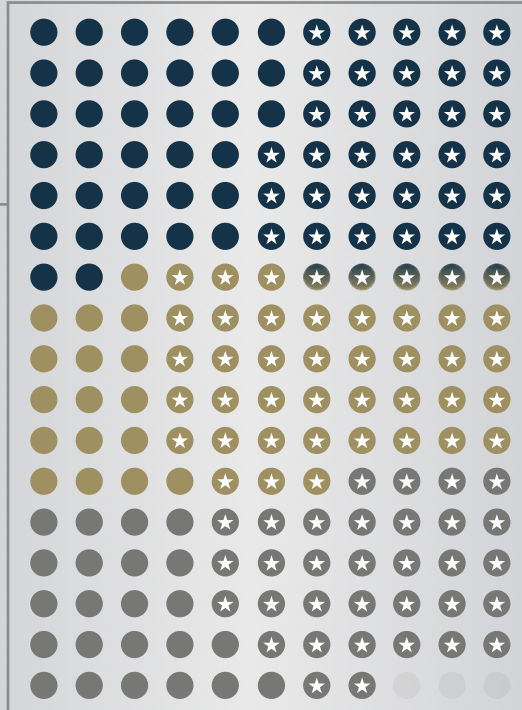
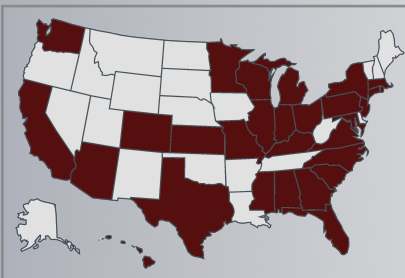
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

204 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**

90% are male

Their activities were located in **29** states and the District of Columbia



40% 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.

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

★ indicates law enforcement operation

155 HAVE PLEADED OR WERE FOUND GUILTY

THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF SENTENCE IN YEARS IS **13.4***

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

IS Arrests

MUHAMMAD MASOOD

MAR 19 28 MN

Muhammad Masood, a 28-year-old resident of Rochester, Minnesota, was charged in the District of Minnesota with attempting to provide material support to IS. Masood, a Research Coordinator for a medical clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, made statements expressing his support for IS and pledged allegiance to the group. He planned to travel to Syria to fight on the group's behalf, and purchased a plane ticket from Chicago, Illinois, to Amman, Jordan, on February 21, 2020, with the intention of traveling onward to Syria from Jordan. In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, Jordan subsequently closed its borders to incoming travel, and Masood formed a new plan to fly from Minneapolis to Los Angeles.

Once there, he planned to receive help from an individual Masood believed would help him travel via cargo ship to IS territory, but who was really working for the FBI. On March 19, 2020, Masood attempted to board a flight to Los Angeles from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, where he was arrested by the FBI. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Masood Affidavit](#), [New York Times](#), [Voice of America](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

ABDUL KHABIR WAHID

MAR 3 54 AZ

Abdul Khabir Wahid, a 54-year-old resident of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced in the District of Arizona to 67 months in prison for making false statements during an investigation involving

international terrorism and witness tampering. Wahid was affiliated with Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi at the time of their attack on the Muhammad Art Exhibit and Contest in Garland, Texas, in May 2015, which was later claimed by IS. Two days before the attack, Wahid delivered a key and an envelope to a third individual on instruction from Simpson, which he later concealed during an interview with FBI agents in the wake of the attack. Wahid also attempted to persuade Soofi's brother not to speak with the FBI and to lie about a number of events that occurred in the weeks before the attack. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [AP News](#), [AZ Central](#)

RAFIA SULTANA SHAREEF

MAR 3 66  CA

Rafia Sultana Shareef, a 66-year-old resident of Redlands, California, pleaded guilty in the Central District of California to intending to impede a federal criminal investigation through alteration, destruction, and mutilation of records. Shareef is the mother of San Bernardino attacker Syed Rizwan Farook, and lived with Farook and his wife and co-attacker, Tashfeen Malik, at their residence in Redlands. On the morning of December 2, 2015, Farook and Malik launched a deadly attack in San Bernardino that left 14 dead (not including Farook and Malik) and 24 injured, having pledged allegiance to IS prior to their attack. After learning that law enforcement had identified Farook as a suspect on the morning of the attack, Shareef went into her son's bedroom and seized a document that appeared to be a map and shredded it. Shareef admitted to knowing that her son was the author of the document, and that she knew it was related to Farook's attack plan. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [NBC News](#), [San Bernardino County Sun](#)

ROBERT LORENZO HESTER JR.

MAR 4 28  MO

Robert Lorenzo Hester, Jr., a 28-year-old resident of Columbia, Missouri, was sentenced in the Western District of Missouri to 236 months in prison for attempting to provide material support to IS. Hester, Jr. was arrested in February 2017 while making

preparations to launch a terrorist attack with individuals he believed to be IS operatives, but who were undercover FBI agents (UCEs). Over the course of the investigation, Hester, Jr. maintained regular contact with the UCEs through an encrypted messaging application and in-person meetings. In February 2017, he provided one of the UCEs roofing nails to construct an IED that the two would use in a planned attack on President's Day (February 20, 2017). Hester, Jr. was arrested on February 17, 2017, while attempting to deposit the nails and other items for the attack with the UCE at a storage facility in preparation for their upcoming attack. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [ABC News](#), [KRCCG](#)

OMER KUZU

MAR 11 24  TX

Omer Kuzu, a 24-year-old former resident of Dallas, Texas, pleaded guilty in the Northern District of Texas to conspiring to provide material support to IS. Kuzu and his brother traveled from Houston, Texas, to Istanbul, Turkey, in October 2014 to join IS. Kuzu confessed to FBI agents that, during his time with IS, he was paid \$125 per month to repair communications equipment for the group's fighters in Syria. He was captured by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in early 2019, transferred into FBI custody, and subsequently returned to Texas to face federal charges in August 2019. Sources: [Kuzu Plea Agreement](#), [Kuzu Factual Resume](#)

ZOOBIA SHAHNAZ

MAR 13 29  NY

Zoobia Shahnaz, a 29-year-old resident of Brentwood, New York, was sentenced by the Eastern District of New York to 156 months in prison for providing material support to IS. Between March 2017 and July 2017, Shahnaz defrauded a number of financial institutions to obtain money for IS, including a loan of approximately \$22,500 and approximately \$62,000 obtained through fraudulent credit card applications that she laundered through Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies and deposited into her bank account. Using these funds and an additional approximately \$65,000 in her personal funds,

Shahnaz sent over \$150,000 total to individuals and entities associated with IS in China, Pakistan, and Turkey between May 2017 and July 2017. After completing these transfers, Shahnaz then attempted to board a flight leaving Queens, New York, with a layover in Istanbul, Turkey, where she planned to disembark and travel to join IS in Syria. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [CNBC](#), [Newsday](#)