

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Program on Extremism

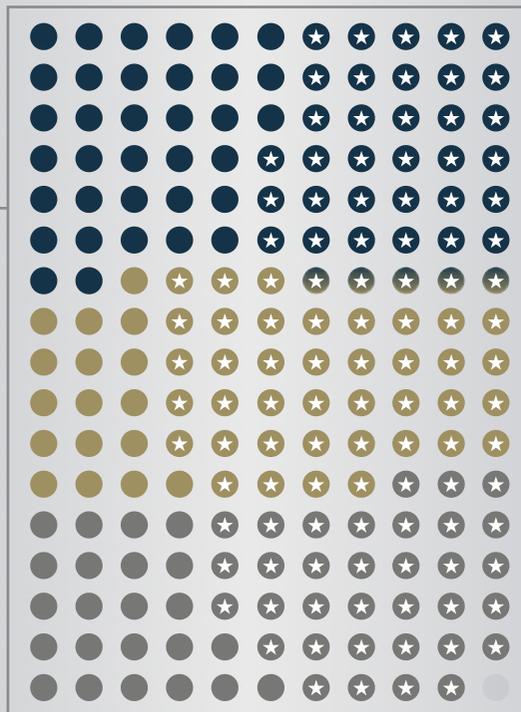
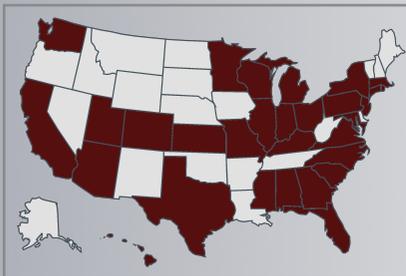
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

207 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 **30** 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

156 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

MURAT SULJOVIC

MAY 5 23 UT

A U.S. District Court judge unsealed a felony information in the District of Utah charging Murat Suljovic, a 23-year-old resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, with attempted provision of material support to IS. According to the order of continuance in the case, Suljovic has also been charged by complaint, which remains sealed, with two additional counts of false statements in connection with an investigation related to terrorism. Suljovic was arrested on August 12, 2019, and has pleaded not guilty to the one-count information. Sources: [Suljovic Information](#), [Suljovic Order of Continuance](#), [Suljovic Arrest Warrant](#), [The Salt Lake Tribune](#)

MUHAMMED MONTAZ AL-AZHARI

MAY 26 23 FL

Charges were filed in the Middle District of Florida charging Muhammed Momtaz Al-Azhari, a 23-year-old resident of Tampa, Florida, with attempting to provide material support to IS. According to the court documents, Al-Azhari, who was previously charged with terrorism offenses in Saudi Arabia, attempted to purchase multiple firearms while under investigation. Al-Azhari reportedly admired Pulse nightclub shooter Omar Mateen, expressed a desire to carry out a similar attack, and “researched and scouted potential targets in the Tampa area.” Al-Azhari is further alleged to have consumed ISIS propaganda and made statements about “avenging the United States’ imprisonment of Muslims, including ISIS fighters.” Al-Azhari was arrested on May 24th after attempting to purchase a Glock 19 pistol, silencer, extended

magazine and regular magazine from a confidential human source. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Al-Azhari Complaint](#), [The Salt Lake Tribune](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

MUHAMMAD MASOOD

MAY 15 28  MN

A federal grand jury in the District of Minnesota returned an indictment against Muhammad Masood, charging him with attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. According to the court documents, Masood planned to travel to Syria to fight for IS. In furtherance of this plan, Masood is alleged to have 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 reportedly formed a new plan to fly from Minneapolis to Los Angeles, from where he allegedly planned to travel via cargo ship to IS territory. 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 Indictment](#), [CBS Minnesota](#)

LIBAN HAJI MOHAMED

MAY 26 34  VA

Liban Haji Mohamed, a 34-year-old former resident of Alexandria, Virginia, was charged in the Eastern District of Virginia with conspiring and attempting to provide material support to al-Shabaab. In July 2012, Mohamed allegedly left the United States and traveled to Somalia to join al-Shabaab, with the intention of contributing to the group's propaganda output. Mohamed also allegedly attempted to recruit an undercover agent to travel to join al-Shabaab in Somalia and provide the group's fighters with combat training. The FBI officially added Mohamed to its "Most Wanted Terrorists" list in January 2015,

and he remains at large abroad. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Mohamed Indictment](#), [Washington Post](#)

ALISON MARIE SHEPPARD

MAY 29 35  FL

Alison Marie Sheppard, a 35-year-old resident of Punta Gorda, Florida, was sentenced in the Middle District of Florida for attempting to provide material support to IS. Beginning in approximately December 2016, Sheppard engaged in online conversations with undercover FBI employees (UCEs) posing as IS supporters and an FBI confidential witness (CW) who attempted to travel to join IS overseas, but who was interdicted and subsequently entered into an agreement of cooperation. In early 2017, Sheppard sent the CW a PDF file of the ISIS e-book "Hijrah Guide to the Islamic State" prior to his own reported attempt to join IS overseas. Sheppard later purchased 10 cellphones in July 2017 from various stores in the Punta Gorda area, which she mailed to one of the UCEs with the belief that they would be shipped onward to IS to be used as timers for improvised explosive devices. She was arrested in July 2017 and pleaded guilty on May 2, 2019, to attempting to provide material support to IS. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Sheppard Judgment](#), [AP News](#)