

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

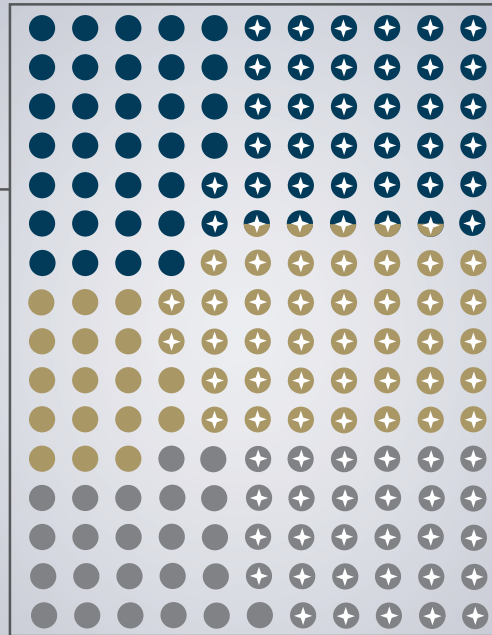
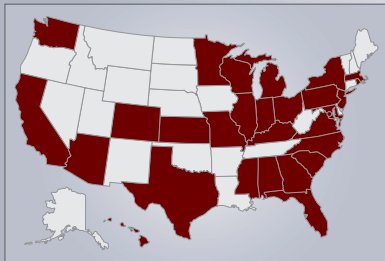
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

196 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 **28** states and the District of Columbia



40% were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad.

32% were accused of being involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

57% were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.
★ indicates law enforcement operation

146 PLEAD OR WERE FOUND GUILTY

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)

ABDUL-MAJEED MAROUF AHMED ALANI

SEPT 5 **60** FL

Abdul-Majeed Marouf Ahmed Alani, a 60-year-old resident of Miami, Florida, was arrested and charged in the Southern District of Florida with willfully damaging, destroying or disabling an aircraft. According to the criminal complaint, on July 17, 2019, Alani deliberately inserted styrofoam-type material into the air data module system of an aircraft, which reports the aircraft speed, pitch, and other flight data. The aircraft's takeoff was aborted, and Alani was subsequently arrested. According to the detention order, Alani's brother is alleged to be a member of IS in Iraq, and Alani failed to report a trip to Iraq earlier this year to

Pretrial Services. Furthermore, Alani allegedly downloaded and retained and IS propaganda video on his personal phone, and sent the video to another person.

Sources: [Alani Complaint](#), [Alani Order of Detention](#), [NBC News](#)

NAYEF QASHOU

SEPT 17 AL

Nayef Qashou, a former resident of Auburn, Alabama, was arrested and charged in the Middle District of Alabama with providing false statements to a federal agency and destruction, alteration, or falsification of records in a federal investigation. According to court documents, Qashou made false statements to federal agents regarding the nature and content of videos he had distributed to several individuals. Additionally,

Qashou allegedly deleted the contents of his phone, including an encrypted messaging application, prior to an interview with the FBI. Qashou reportedly attempted to travel to Syria in January of 2014 to join IS, but was detained by Jordanian authorities. Sources: [Qashou Affidavit](#), [Qashou Indictment](#), [Montgomery Advisor](#)

Apprehensions & Charges for Other Jihadist Groups

ALAA MOHD ABUSAAD

SEPT 3 23  AL

Alaa Mohd Abusaad, a 23-year-old former resident of Tuscaloona, Alabama, pleaded guilty in the Northern District of Alabama to the charge of concealment of terrorism financing, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2339C and 2. Abusaad, who was arrested in Ohio in October of 2018, admitted she directed an FBI undercover employee (UCE) to send money to an individual who could then send the money to al-Qaeda (AQ). Abusaad also coached the UCE on how to conceal their identity and gave advice on how to avoid detection by law enforcement when transferring the money. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Abusaad Plea Agreement](#), [Al.com](#)

ALI HASSAN SAAB

SEPT 19 42  NJ

Ali Hassan Saab, a 42-year-old resident of Morristown, New Jersey, was charged in the Southern District of New York in a nine-count indictment for offenses stemming from his support for Hezbollah. Saab is charged with conspiracy to provide and provision of material support to Hezbollah, conspiracy to receive and receipt of military-type training from Hezbollah, marriage-fraud and naturalization offenses, and with making false statements. According to court documents, Saab received military training from Hezbollah and was an active member of the organization before traveling to the United States in 2000. While in the United States, he allegedly conducted extensive surveillance on American cities and landmarks, including

structural weaknesses and soft spots of buildings that could be targeted in the future. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Saab Complaint](#), [Saab Indictment](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

RUSLAN ASAINOV

SEPT 4 43  NY

Ruslan Asainov, a 43-year-old former resident of Brooklyn, New York, was charged in the Eastern District of New York in a five-count indictment with conspiracy to provide material support to IS; providing material support to IS in the form of personnel, training, expert advice and assistance and weapons; receipt of military-type training from IS; and obstruction of justice. As alleged in court documents, Asainov traveled to Turkey in December of 2013 and crossed the border into Syria, where he joined IS. Asainov allegedly trained other individuals in the use of weapons and attempted to recruit another individual from the United States to join IS. Asainov was captured by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and transferred into U.S. custody in July of 2019. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Asainov Indictment](#), [Voice of America](#)

MICHAEL KYLE SEWELL

SEPT 16 18  TX

Michael Kyle Sewell, an 18-year-old former resident of Fort Worth, Texas, was sentenced in the Northern District of Texas to 20 years in prison for conspiring to provide material support to Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistani-based foreign terrorist organization. Sewell was arrested in February of 2019 after arranging contact between a co-conspirator who wanted to travel to join LeT in Pakistan and an FBI undercover employee Sewell believed to be a facilitator. Additionally, Sewell told the FBI undercover employee that he would recruit more individuals to join the group in Pakistan. He pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to LeT in May of 2019. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Sewell Judgment](#), [DFW](#)

DILKHAYOT KASIMOV

SEPT 24

31



A jury in the Eastern District of New York returned a verdict finding Dilkhayot Kasimov, a 31-year-old citizen of Uzbekistan and former resident of Brooklyn, New York, guilty of conspiracy and of attempting to provide material support to IS. Kasimov provided his own savings and money he raised from other sources in his network to finance co-conspirator Akhror Saidakhmetov's attempted travel to Syria to fight for IS in February 2015. Saidakhmetov was arrested before boarding a plane departing for Turkey, and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Brooklyn Eagle](#), [UPI](#)

ROBERT LORENZO HESTER JR

SEPT 24

28



Robert Lorenzo Hester Jr., a 28-year-old former resident of Columbia, Missouri, pleaded guilty in the Western District of Missouri to attempting to provide material support to IS. Hester was arrested in February of 2017 after acquiring materials from FBI undercover employees he believed to be members of IS. Hester intended to use these materials to construct a bomb to launch an attack, and believed he would be part of an attack involving multiple operatives using improvised explosives and firearms to inflict mass casualties. Hester communicated with multiple FBI undercover employees online and in-person and expressed his support for IS in numerous conversations with the individuals. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Hester, Jr. Plea Agreement](#), [Fox News](#)