

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

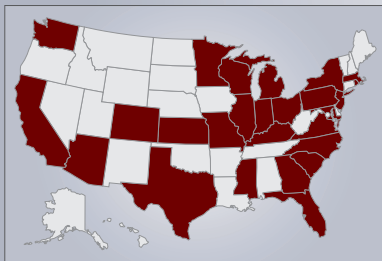
111

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:

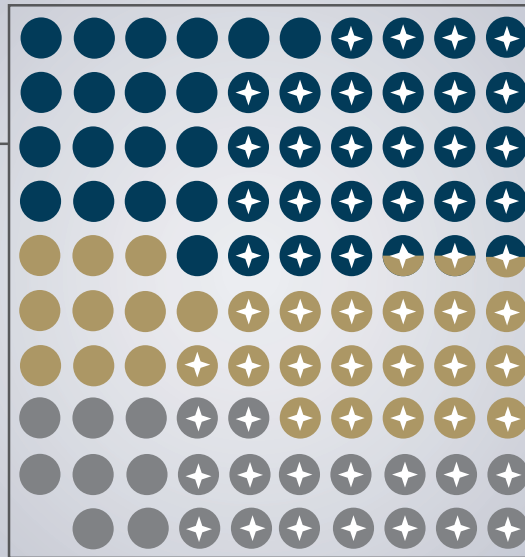
The average age of those charged is **27**

89% are male

Their activities were located in **26** states



The average length of sentence in years **12.9**



60 HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

46% were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad.

30% were accused of being involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

60% were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation

Islamic State–Related Apprehensions/Charges

AARON T. DANIELS

NOV. 7

20



Aaron T. Daniels, 20, was arrested for attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State (IS). Beginning in September 2015, the Ohio resident allegedly used the aliases “Harun Muhammad” and “Abu Yusuf” to electronically communicate his “desire to...engage in violent jihad” and request “financial and logistical support in doing so.” The criminal complaint alleges that Daniels, using an alias, wired \$250 to an intermediary for the now-deceased IS operative Abu Isa al-Amriki. Daniels eventually began an electronic correspondence with an FBI undercover employee (UCE).

In June 2016, he informed the UCE that he wished to travel to Libya to fight on behalf of IS. FBI agents apprehended Daniels before he could board a flight from Ohio to Texas, from where he planned to fly to Trinidad and Tobago before continuing on to his alleged destination of Libya. Source: [Daniels Arrest Warrant & Criminal Complaint](#), DOJ Press Release

MOHAMED RAFIK NAJI

NOV. 21

37



New York-based permanent resident Mohamed Rafik Naji, 37, was arrested for attempting to provide

material support to IS. Starting in September 2014, Naji allegedly operated a Facebook account under an alias that he used to express support for IS. The complaint also alleges that the Yemeni national traveled overseas to destinations including Turkey and Yemen at least four times between March and September 2015, in order to reach IS-controlled territory. During a trip to Yemen, Naji allegedly engaged in conversations with a confidential source, instructing him on how to join “dawlat islam (sic),” another name for IS. Naji returned to the U.S. in September 2015, where he continued to express support for IS online. Source: [Naji Complaint](#), [Naji Permanent Detention Order Request](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

Other Group Apprehensions/Charges

SAMUEL BAPTISTE & JOSE NOEL

NOV. 10 23 ?  FL

Samuel Baptiste, 23*, and Jose Noel, of Florida, were charged with one count of conspiracy to smuggle goods from the U.S. In addition, Baptiste was charged separately with one count of felony possession of a firearm, while Noel was charged with one count of alien possession of a firearm. The complaint transpired as a result of the FBI monitoring Baptiste’s social media accounts, which he allegedly used in order to “to disseminate extremist propaganda,” praise attacks conducted by al-Qaeda, and “promote travel to Syria for jihad.” Video surveillance from October 2016 captured Baptiste and Noel “renting, possessing, and shooting firearms” at the Florida Gun center. Later, Baptiste allegedly told an FBI undercover employee about an online communication platform he started called “Jihadi Gear,” and likened it to a “preparation channel.” The website featured images of guns, knives, and YouTube videos of instructions for building weapons. Source: [Baptiste Criminal Complaint](#), [Baptiste Court Minutes](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

ABDULLAHI YUSUF, ABDIRIZAK WARSAME, & ZACHARIA ABDURAHMAN

NOV. 14 20 21 21  MN

Abdullahi Yusuf, 20, Abdirizak Warsame, 21, and Zacharia Abdurahman, 21, were sentenced in a Minnesota district court for conspiring to provide material support to IS. Yusuf received time served (22 months in custody), Warsame received 30 months, and Abdurahman received 120 months. All three additionally received 20 years supervised release. According to Yusuf’s guilty plea, in April 2014 he attempted to travel to Turkey to join IS, but “was stopped at the airport by federal agents.” As per Warsame’s guilty plea, he “participated in the conspiracy in various capacities” throughout 2014 and early 2015, including by helping an unindicted co-conspirator “obtain contact information to aid” him in joining IS. Abdurahman’s guilty plea states that he and three co-conspirators traveled to New York’s JFK International Airport and “attempted to fly overseas to join ISIL in Syria” in November 2014. Despite being stopped by federal agents, he continued planning another travel attempt. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

YUSUF WEHELIE

NOV. 15 25  VA

Twenty-five-year-old Yusuf Wehelie, of Virginia, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Wehelie was arrested in July 2016 for transporting four machine guns from Maryland to Virginia, under direction from an undercover FBI agent. Owing to a prior burglary conviction, Wehelie could not legally possess a gun. Though his charges are not terrorism-related, authorities testifying at an earlier hearing described Wehelie’s “dangerous statements” about IS, including that “he would love to jihad.” He also told undercover agents he “would like to join the group abroad,” but would settle for attacking a U.S. military recruitment station. Source: [Wehelie Plea Agreement](#), [Wehelie Statement of Facts](#), [Washington Post](#)

* According to Baptiste’s Tumblr account “[Khilafahaiti](#).”

HAMZA NAJ AHMED, ADNAN ABDIHAMID FARAH & HANAD MUSTOFE MUSSE

NOV. 15 21 20 21 MN

A Minnesota district court sentenced Hamza Naj Ahmed, 21, Adnan Abdihamid Farah, 20, and Hanad Mustofe Musse, 21, for conspiring to provide material support to IS. Ahmed was given an additional count of financial aid fraud. All three received 10-year sentences and 20 years supervised release. According to Ahmed's guilty plea, in May 2014 he used federal financial aid to buy a bus ticket from Minnesota to New York, and airfare "that he thought would enable him to travel to Syria to join ISIL." He was apprehended at JFK airport. Farah's guilty plea indicates that through 2014 into early 2015, he "attempted to obtain a real passport to travel to Syria to join ISIL." When he failed, he attempted to secure a fake passport and aided Musse's attempts to also obtain one. In November 2014, as per his guilty plea, Musse took a bus to JFK airport, where he bought a ticket to Greece "with the intention of traveling onward to Syria" to join IS. Federal agents apprehended Musse before he could board the flight. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [MPR News](#)

AHMAD KHAN RAHIMI

NOV. 16 28 NY

Ahmad Khan Rahimi, 28, was indicted with eight counts related to his alleged bombing and attempted bombings in New York City. His criminal complaint alleges that on September 17, 2016, Rahimi placed two bombs in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, one on 23rd Street and another on 27th Street. The 23rd Street bomb detonated, injuring over 30 people. The 27th Street bomb, which failed to detonate, was located by law enforcement. Rahimi planted two additional bombs in New Jersey. The charges include using a weapon of mass destruction, bombing a place of public use, and interstate transportation and receipt of explosives. Though Rahimi's indictment did not affiliate him with a terrorist organization, and court records indicate that he car-

ried a diary in which he praised al-Qaeda ideologues Anwar al-Alwaki and Osama bin Laden. It has also been reported that he praised IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [FOX](#)

GULED OMAR, MOHAMED ABDIHAMID FARAH & ABDIRAHMAN YASIN DAUD

NOV. 16 22 22 22 MN

Minnesotans Guled Omar, 22, Mohamed Abdihamid Farah, 22, and Abdirahman Yasin Daud, 22, received sentences for conspiring and attempting to provide material support to IS. Omar was additionally charged with attempted financial aid fraud, and Farah with perjury and making a false statement. All three also received lifetime supervised release. In May 2014, Omar and two other co-conspirators attempted to join IS by crossing the U.S.-Mexico border near San Diego, but were stopped by Omar's family. In April 2015, Daud and Farah drove from Minnesota to California, where "they intended to purchase fake passports, cross the border into Mexico, and travel to Syria to join ISIL." The individual from whom they bought fake passports was a law enforcement officer, leading to their immediate arrests. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

MOHAMMED HAMZAH KHAN

NOV. 18 21 IL

A U.S. District Judge sentenced Mohammed Hamzah Khan, 21, of Illinois to 40 months in prison, followed by 20 years supervised release, for attempting to provide material support to IS. Khan was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in October 2014, before he and his two younger siblings could board a flight to Turkey. Once there, the three planned to continue on to Syria in order to join IS. When FBI agents questioned Khan, he admitted to coordinating "the logistics of his admission into ISIL-controlled territory" with IS members online. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

MUNIR ABDULKADER

NOV. 23

22



OH

Twenty-two-year-old Munir Abdulkader, of Ohio, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and lifetime supervised release for plotting to murder a military base employee and attack a Cincinnati area police station in the name of IS. Abdulkader, who was in contact with the deceased IS operative Junaid Hussain, “coordinated and planned violent murders of military members and police officers.” He planned to kill a specific military base employee, videotape the murder for potential IS propaganda, and then attack a Cincinnati-area police station. He began expressing support for IS on Twitter in July 2014, even communicating his desire to travel to IS territory to a confidential human source (CHS). He was arrested on May 21, 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

JUSTIN SULLIVAN

NOV. 29

20



NC

Justin Sullivan, 20, of North Carolina, pleaded guilty to attempted acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries. A February indictment accused Sullivan of killing his neighbor and stealing his money to buy an “assault rifle to carry out an IS-inspired shooting.” An August indictment further revealed that Sullivan had been in contact with deceased IS

operative Junaid Hussain. Sullivan admitted that he planned to make a video of the attack to be used as propaganda by the IS. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Sullivan Factual Basis](#), [Sullivan Plea Agreement](#)

Attacks

ABDUL RAZAK ALI ARTAN

NOV. 28

18



OH

Investigators named 18-year-old Abdul Razak Ali Artan as the primary suspect in the attack at Ohio State University. Shortly before the attack, Artan posted a message on his Facebook page urging America “to stop interfering with other countries, especially the Muslim Ummah.” He continued, “We will not let you sleep unless you give peace to the Muslims.” In a previous Facebook post, he also “praised” al-Qaeda cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, calling him a “hero” and citing him in a reference to “lone wolf attacks.” Just before 10 a.m., Artan “rammed his car” into a group of college students, exited the car, and charged at the crowd with a knife. Eleven were injured before a police officer fatally shot him for failing “to obey orders to stop.” In light of IS’s media arm claiming the attack and calling him a “soldier of the Islamic State,” the FBI is investigating whether Artan had ties to terrorist organizations. Source: [CNN](#), [NBC](#), [FOX](#)