

TERRORISM IN THE U.S.

Program on Extremism

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

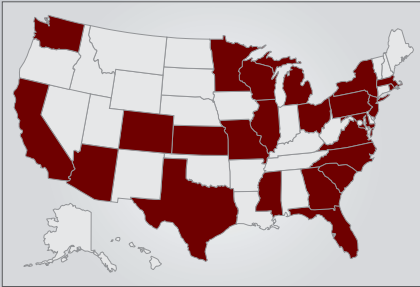
February 2016 Update

ISIS IN AMERICA

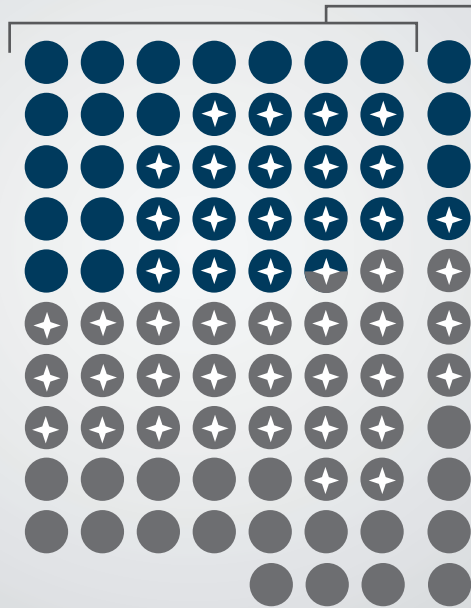
84 individuals have been arrested in the U.S. on charges related to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) since March 2014. Of those:

The average age of those arrested is **26**

Their activities were located in **24** states



Approximately **38%** are converts to Islam



★ indicates law enforcement operation

87% are male

45%

were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad

68%

were not charged with plotting domestic terrorist attacks

55%

were arrested in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

ISIS-Related Arrests/Charges/Indictments in February



KHALIL ABU-RAYYAN

FEB. 6

21



Khalil Abu-Rayyan, a 21-year-old man from Michigan, was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm by an unlawful user of a controlled substance. According to the criminal complaint, Abu-Rayyan allegedly made increasingly violent threats about conducting a domestic terrorist attack on behalf of ISIS, beginning in May 2015. Abu-Rayyan allegedly used a number of Twitter accounts to spread ISIS propaganda. Beginning in December 2015, Abu-Rayyan talked to an undercover FBI agent about his desire to conduct an attack, indicating that he was planning to target a local church. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Criminal Complaint](#)

DANIEL FRANNEY

FEB. 6

33



Daniel Franey (aka Abu Dawuud), a 33-year-old U.S. citizen residing in Washington State, was arrested on three counts of unlawful possession of firearms and two counts of unlawful possession of machineguns (Franey is barred from possessing firearms as part of a protective order). Beginning in approximately April 2015, law enforcement officials received numerous complaints that Franey was espousing violent, pro-ISIS rhetoric and advocating the murder of non-Muslims and U.S. law enforcement and military personnel. In particular, Franey reportedly



expressed interest in targeting Joint Base Lewis-McCord in Tacoma, Washington. Franey served in the U.S. Army from October 2002 to October 2008. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Criminal Complaint](#)

SAFYA ROE YASSIN

FEB. 18

38



Safya Roe Yassin, a 38-year-old U.S. citizen residing in Missouri, was arrested and charged with communicating threats of violence over the Internet. The criminal complaint details Yassin's alleged yearlong use of Twitter and Facebook to promote ISIS and endorse and encourage violence against U.S. citizens and government employees. As of January 27, 2016, the FBI claims to have identified at least 97 Twitter accounts, using variations of the term "muslimah" (an Arabic term for a Muslim woman), Yassin used to promote ISIS. At a detention hearing on February 23, Yassin was ordered held without bond. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Criminal Complaint](#), [KY3 News](#)

Legal Proceedings (All Groups)

JUSTIN NOJAN SULLIVAN

FEB. 1

19



The indictment charging Justin Nojan Sullivan with attempting to provide material support to **ISIS**; receipt of a silencer in interstate commerce with intent to commit a felony; receipt and possession of an unregistered firearm; possession of a stolen firearm; use of interstate facilities in the attempted commission of a murder-for-hire; and making false statements to an agency of the U.S. was unsealed. Filed on January 20, 2016, the indictment alleges that Sullivan murdered his elderly neighbor, John Bailey Clark, in December 2014. Sullivan, a 19-year-old U.S. citizen from North Carolina, was arrested in June 2015. Somali authorities in December 2015 while en route to Yemen; he was later extradited to the U.S. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Criminal Complaint](#)

destruction and attempted destruction of government property by fire or explosion. In his plea, Booker admitted that he plotted a domestic terrorist attack targeting U.S. military personnel in order to assist **ISIS**. Booker was arrested in April 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

NISREEN ASSAD IBRAHIM BAHAR*

FEB. 8

25

Nisreen Assad Ibrahim Bahar* (aka Umm Sayyaf), a 25-year-old Iraqi citizen and wife of deceased ISIS leader Abu Sayyaf, was charged with conspiracy to provide material support to **ISIS**. From approximately August 3, 2013, to May 16, 2015, Bahar and her husband allegedly maintained a number of residences in ISIS-controlled territory where at least three women kidnapped by ISIS were held; one of these women was American citizen Kayla Jean Mueller. Bahar was apprehended by U.S. military personnel at her home on May 15, 2015; she has since admitted that, among other things, she and her husband were responsible for maintaining custody of the captured women. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Criminal Complaint](#)

**Not included in ISIS in America statistics.*

[UNNAMED MINOR]

FEB. 3

17



An unnamed 17-year-old male from South Carolina who pleaded guilty to gun-related charges in April 2015 was denied parole. The teen, aged 16 at the time of his arrest in February 2015, admitted to attempting to travel abroad to join **ISIS** and, with the assistance of an unnamed man from North Carolina, plotting a domestic terrorist attack targeting U.S. military personnel. Although he was sentenced to juvenile detention up to age 21 when he pleaded guilty in April 2015, the charge only carries an 18-month sentence; unless additional charges are filed the teen is expected to be released later in 2016. Source: [Rock Hill Herald](#)

ABDIRIZAK WARSAME

FEB. 11

20



Abdirizak Warsame, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen from Minnesota, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS. Warsame, the fourth man from Minnesota to plead guilty to ISIS-related charges, was part of a cluster of approximately ten men attempting to travel to Syria to join the terrorist organization. Beginning in early 2014,

JOHN T. BOOKER

FEB. 3

21



John T. Booker, a 21-year-old U.S. citizen from Kansas, pleaded guilty to attempted use of a weapon of mass

Warsame and his co-conspirators discussed both mean to fund their travel to Syria and potential routes to evade law enforcement, and in May 2014 Warsame assumed the position of “emir,” or leader, of the group. Warsame was arrested December 9, 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

HAMZA AHMED, ADNAN FARAH, GULED OMAR, & ABDIRAHMAN DAUD

FEB. 11

A federal judge ruled against the argument that conspiracy murder charges against Hamza Ahmed, Adnan Farah, Guled Omar, and Abdirahman Daud should be dropped because of “combatant immunity” granted in both common and international law. Ahmed was arrested for conspiring and attempting to provide material support to **ISIS** and making false statements in February 2015; the other three men were arrested in April 2015 on charges of conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS. A superseding indictment returned in May 2015 charged Ahmed with financial aid fraud, and Omar and Daud with attempting to provide material support to ISIS. In a second superseding indictment returned in October 2015, all four men were charged with conspiracy to murder overseas; Farah and Daud were charged with perjury for false testimony provided to the grand jury; and Omar was charged with attempted financial aid fraud. The four men are scheduled to go to trial in May 2016. Source: [Ahmed Complaint](#), [Farah, et al Complaint](#), [Superseding Indictment](#), [FBI Press Release](#), [MPR News](#), [MPR News](#), [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#)

ABDUL MALIK ABDUL KAREEM

FEB. 17

Opening statements in the trial of Abdul Malik Abdul Kareem began, marking the start of the first **ISIS**-related trial in the U.S. Kareem was indicted on charges of providing material support and resources to ISIS; conspiracy to transport and transporting firearms and ammunition in interstate commerce with the intent to commit crimes; making false statements; and possess in and affecting interstate commerce firearms. Kareem, together with Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi, allegedly

plotted a number of attacks—including that on the Draw Muhammad Cartoon Contest in Garland, Texas, in May 2015—and helped train the two men for their attack.

Source: [Washington Post](#), [ABC15](#)

SULTANE ROOME SALIM

FEB. 23

41



A federal judge reinstated the conditions of bond for Sultane Roome Salim, a 41-year-old U.S. citizen who resided in Illinois and Ohio prior to his arrest in February 2015. Salim and three co-conspirators are charged with attempting to provide and providing material support and resources—in the form of currency, property, services, and expert advice and services—to Anwar al Awlaki, the late al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula ideologue, and conspiracy to obstruct justice. The hearing on February 23 addressed allegations that Salim violated the terms of his bond, confining him to his mother’s home except for authorized outings. At the hearing, the judge dismissed one violation, while Salim admitted to a second. Additional GPS monitoring and restrictions on computer and Internet use were added to the conditions of Salim’s bond. Source: [Toledo Blade](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Indictment](#)

Attacks in February

MOHAMED BARRY

FEB. 11

30



Mohamed Barry, a 30-year-old Guinean native, was shot and killed by police after attacking patrons of a Columbus, Ohio-area restaurant with a machete. The owner of the restaurant told authorities that he believed his restaurant was targeted because of his Israeli descent. Local police contacted federal authorities, federal counterterrorism officials, and the bomb squad after a computer alert indicated Barry’s car had been flagged. The FBI briefly investigated Barry four years ago after he made unspecified radical comments. The investigation into the attack is ongoing. Source: [Columbus Dispatch](#), [Columbus Dispatch](#), [Columbus Dispatch](#), [ABC6](#), [NBC News](#)