

# GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

## TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

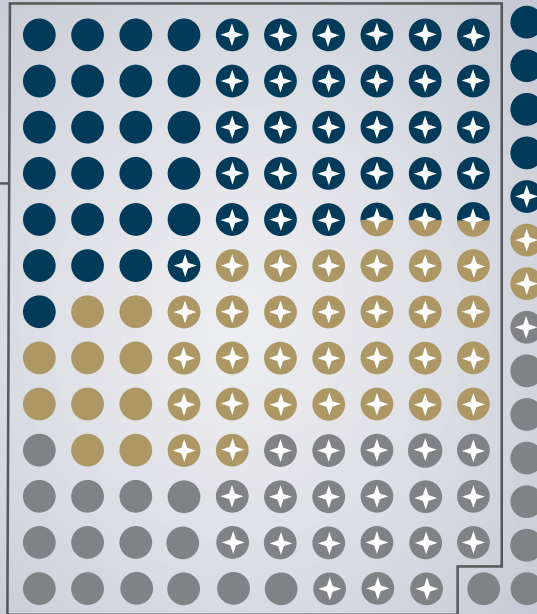
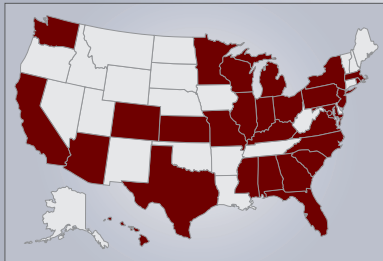
Program on Extremism  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**144** 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



**42%** 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

The average length of sentence in years **13.7\*** **86** HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

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

## Islamic State–Related Apprehensions/Charges

### ABDULRAHMAN ELBAHNASAWY, TALHA HAROON & RUSSELL SALIC

OCT 6

19

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Charges and court documents were unsealed against Abdulrahman Elbahnasawy, a 19-year-old Canadian citizen, Talha Haroon, a 19-year-old U.S. citizen living in Pakistan, and Russell Salic, a 37-year-old citizen of the Philippines. The three men allegedly communicated online and plotted large-scale bombing attacks on several targets in New York City, including Times Square, concert venues, and subway stations in support of IS. According to court records, Salic sent money to an undercover FBI agent, whom

he believed would forward it to Elbahnasawy and Haroon for the purposes of constructing explosives. Meanwhile, Elbahnasawy and Haroon coordinated a date for the attack (Memorial Day weekend) and planned to travel to New York City. On May 21, 2016, Elbahnasawy traveled from Canada to the United States, and was promptly arrested and charged with seven counts of terrorism-related charges. Haroon and Salic were subsequently arrested in Pakistan and the Philippines respectively; they await extradition to the United States. In October 2016, Elbahnasawy pleaded guilty to all seven counts of the indictment, and is scheduled to be sentenced in December of 2017. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Elbahnasawy Criminal Complaint](#), [Elbahnasawy Indictment](#),

[Elbahnasawy Superseding Information](#), [Haroon Criminal Complaint](#), [Salic Sealed Complaint](#)

## MOHOMMAD ALI & SUMAIYA ALI

OCT 10

57

49



Unsealed court documents show that 57-year-old Mohammad Ali and 49-year-old Sumaiya Ali, both residents of Plano, Texas, were charged in May 2017 with making false statements to the FBI in regard to an international terrorism case. The Alis' two sons, Omar and Arman Ali, traveled to Syria to fight for IS in late 2014. They remained in contact with their parents via email, and told them that they were fighting for the group. On May 5, 2015, Mohammad and Sumaiya Ali provided false information to the whereabouts of their sons in an interview with federal agents, telling them that Omar and Arman were in Cairo, Egypt. Both have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Sources: [Dallas News](#), [M. Ali Information](#), [M. Ali Factual Basis](#), [M. Ali Sentencing Memorandum](#), [S. Ali Information](#), [S. Ali Sentencing Memorandum](#)

## VICENTE SOLANO

OCT 23

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Vicente Solano, a 53-year-old resident of Miami, Florida and a citizen of Honduras, was charged with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. According to the criminal complaint, Solano planned to detonate an explosive device at an unnamed Miami mall. Prior to being arrested, Solano allegedly discussed his plans with multiple undercover agents and confidential human sources, including recording a video where he declares his support for IS. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Solano Criminal Complaint](#)

## Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

### MICHAEL QUEEN

OCT 13



Michael Queen was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to providing false information in an international terrorism case and obstruction of justice. Queen, a former resident of Woodbridge, Virginia, and Soufian Amri, of Falls Church, Virginia,

lied to federal agents about their friend Haris Qamar's attempt to travel to Syria to join IS. Queen and Amri first provided vague details that someone they knew had attempted to travel to federal authorities, and then provided a false name for Qamar. Qamar was sentenced in February 2017 to eight and a half years in prison for attempted material support; Amri was sentenced later in October 2017. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Queen Judgement in a Criminal Case](#)

## AHMAD KHAN RAHIMI

OCT 16



A jury found Ahmad Khan Rahimi guilty of multiple counts of use of a weapon of mass destruction, in conjunction with the September 17-18, 2016 bombings in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York City, Seaside Park, New Jersey, and Elizabeth, New Jersey. Rahimi, a resident of Elizabeth, was apprehended following a shootout with police in nearby Linden, New Jersey, one day after the bombing. During the course of the investigation, multiple writings of Rahimi's were found; some of them carried direct praise for Al Qaeda operatives and leaders Osama bin Laden, Anwar al-Awlaki, Nidal Malik Hassan, and the spokesperson for IS, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Times](#)

## DAVID WRIGHT

OCT 18

28



David Wright was convicted of conspiracy to provide material support to IS, conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism, and two counts of obstruction of justice. Wright, a 28-year-old from Everett, Massachusetts, conspired with his uncle Usaamah Rahim and his friend Nicholas Rovinski to form a "Martyrdom Operations Cell" for IS in the United States. Rahim communicated directly with IS external operations planner Junaid Hussain, a UK national who was killed in an August 2015 airstrike. Rahim relayed instructions from Hussain to Rovinski and Wright. In June 2015, Rahim attempted to attack police officers in Roslindale, Massachusetts; he was shot and killed in the facilitation of the plot. Soon after, Wright and Rovinski were arrested; prior to Wright's arrest, he obstructed justice by deleting all records of communication between him and the other co-conspirators from his computer. Rovinski additionally pleaded guilty in September 2016. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

## ABDELLAH TOUNISI

OCT 19

18



IL

Abdellah Tounisi was sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to attempting to provide material support to Al Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, Jabhat al-Nusra. In 2012, at the age of 18, Tounisi left his hometown of Aurora, Illinois for Syria after pledging to commit himself to the group on a fake recruitment website operated by the FBI. Before boarding a Chicago-Istanbul flight, en route to Syria, law enforcement arrested him. Tounisi pleaded guilty to the charges in August 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

## MOHAMAD JAMAL KHWEIS

OCT 27

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VA

Mohamad Jamal Khweis was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison after being convicted of providing material support to IS. Khweis left Alexandria, Virginia for Syria in December 2015, and spent two and a half months as a member of IS before being captured on the battlefield by Kurdish Peshmerga forces. He was subsequently extradited to the United States and tried; a jury found Khweis guilty in June 2017. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

## SOUFIAN AMRI

OCT 27

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VA

Soufian Amri was sentenced to two years in federal prison after pleading guilty to providing false information in an international terrorism case and obstruction of justice. Amri, a former resident of Falls Church, Virginia, and his friend Michael Queen, both lied to federal agents regarding their friend Haris Qamar's attempt to travel to Syria to join IS. Queen was also sentenced to two years in prison earlier in the month. Source: [Amri Judgement in a Criminal Case, Washington Post](#)

## ABDURASUL JURABOEV

OCT 27

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NY

A District Judge in the Eastern District of New York sentenced 27-year-old Abdurasul Juraboev to 15 years in federal prison for conspiring with others to provide material support to IS. Juraboev, a citizen of Uzbekistan and a permanent resident in Brooklyn, New York, and his friend Akhror Saidakhmetov made plans in 2015 to travel to join IS in Syria. They were allegedly financed by five other individuals in the New York and Chicago metropolitan areas. In addition to attempted travel, in 2014 Juraboev also posted on an Uzbek language pro-IS website declaring his intention to die as a martyr for the group and to kill then-President Barack Obama. After serving his sentence, Juraboev will likely be deported to Uzbekistan. Source: [DOJ Press Release, Juraboev Sentencing Memorandum](#)

## Attacks

### SAYFULLO SAIPOV

OCT 31

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NY

An attacker, using a rented truck, intentionally drove into a small crowd on a bike path in the Lower Manhattan area of New York City, killing eight and injuring at least eleven. Following the initial attack, the driver exited the vehicle with non-lethal weapons, and was shot by police and arrested. After being taken to Bellevue Hospital, law enforcement identified the attacker as Sayfullo Saipov, a 29-year-old permanent resident and citizen of Uzbekistan, who lived in Paterson, New Jersey. Investigators allegedly found a note in Arabic claiming that IS would "endure" at the truck crash scene; they also found pro-IS images and videos on Saipov's phone. While hospitalized, Saipov reportedly claimed that he "felt good about what he had done" and asked to display the flag of IS in his hospital room. Saipov was formally charged on November 1st with one count of providing material support to IS and one count of destruction of a motor vehicle. Sources: [Reuters, New York Times, Saipov Complaint](#)