

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

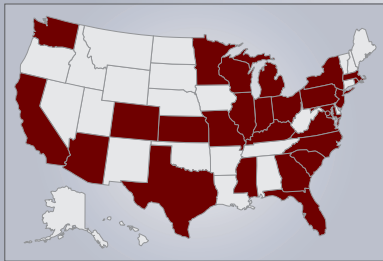
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

128 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**

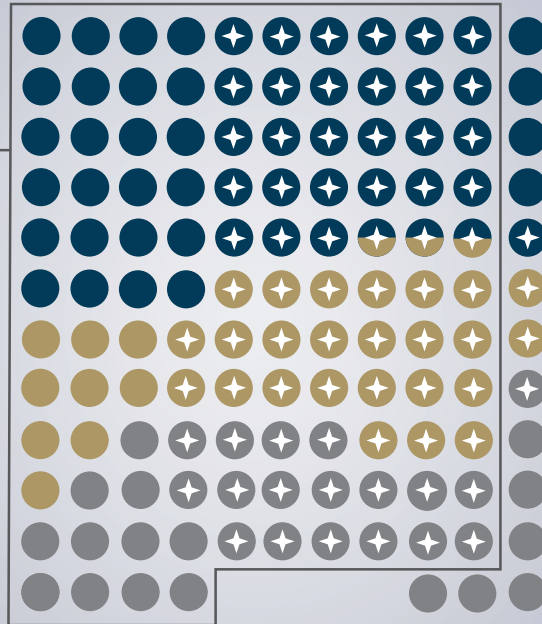
89% are male

Their activities were located in **26** states and the District of Columbia



The average length of sentence in years **13.7*** **75** HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

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



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

29% 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

ALEXANDER SAMUEL SMITH

JUN 21

29



Alexander Samuel Smith, 29, of North Carolina, was charged with making false statements to the FBI regarding travel plans he made for another individual in 2014 and 2015, allegedly to join the Islamic State (IS) in Syria. According to the criminal complaint, Smith discussed booking plane tickets for an FBI confidential human source from Tampa, FL to Buffalo, NY, from where “a few brothers” would bring the individual across the border into Canada before traveling onwards to Syria via Turkey. Smith’s girlfriend, an airline employee, had a “buddy pass” that Smith planned to

use to purchase flights. In a February 2016 FBI interview, Smith denied making these plans, and was subsequently arrested and charged. Source: [Smith Criminal Complaint](#), [Charlotte Observer](#)

SADDAM MOHAMED RAISHANI

JUN 22

30



Saddam Mohamed Raishani, a 30-year-old resident of New York, was arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport for allegedly attempting to travel to Syria to join IS. Raishani was charged in a criminal complaint with attempting to provide material support

to a foreign terrorist organization. According to the complaint, Raishani repeatedly conveyed his support for and interest in joining IS to several NYPD and FBI undercover sources, and purchased equipment and a plane ticket to travel to join the group. Sources: [Raishani Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

Apprehensions/Charges Related to Other Jihadist Groups

ALI KOURANI & SAMER EL DEBEK

JUN 8 32 37  NY  MI

Ali Kourani, 32, and Samer el Debek, 37, were charged with receiving military training from and materially supporting the Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO), a subsection of Hizballah, in addition to weapons charges. The two men, residents of New York and Michigan respectively, allegedly staked out targets for future terrorist attacks, including US military bases and the Israeli Embassy in New York City. Both men reportedly received military and explosives training abroad from IJO. In addition to targets on US soil, the two men also traveled to Panama, allegedly to plan an attack on the Panama Canal. Sources: [Kourani Criminal Complaint](#), [el Debek Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

TAIROD NATHAN WEBSTER PUGH

MAY 31  NJ

Tairod Nathan Webster Pugh, a former US Air Force service member and New Jersey resident, was sentenced to 35 years in federal prison for attempting to provide material support to IS and obstruction of justice. Pugh's conviction in March 2016 was the first time that an individual charged with material support for IS was found guilty by a jury. Pugh left Egypt for Istanbul, Turkey en route to Syria in January 2015, but was detained by Turkish authorities and summarily deported to the United States to face trial. At the time of his arrest, Pugh had a substantial amount of pro-IS

material on his computer, including a letter to his wife stating that he intended on "[using] the talents and skills given to me by Allah to establish and defend the Islamic State". Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [New York Times](#)

MICHELLE BASTIAN

JUN 2 50  AZ

Michelle Bastian, a 50-year-old resident of Arizona, pleaded guilty to terrorism and conspiracy to commit misconduct involving weapons. Bastian provided her husband, Thomas Bastian, with the official magazines of both Al Qaeda and IS as well as detailed instructions for constructing an explosive device. Thomas Bastian was already serving a life sentence in an Arizona prison for a separate murder when he was re-charged for plotting to kill the prison warden in October of 2016. Michelle Bastian's sentencing hearing is scheduled for July; she faces 10 years in prison. Source: [Fox 10 Phoenix](#)

MOHAMAD JAMAL KHWEIS

JUN 7 27  VA

Mohamad Jamal Khweis, 27, of Virginia, was convicted on charges of providing and attempting to provide material support to IS and a related firearms charge. During the trial, Khweis admitted spending over two months as an IS fighter, and receiving religious and military training from the group in a training camp in Raqqa, Syria. In March 2016, Kurdish forces apprehended Khweis in northern Iraq and extradited him to the United States to face trial. Khweis faces a minimum sentence of five years and a maximum of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Reuters](#)

JUSTIN NOJAN SULLIVAN

JUN 27 21  NC

Justin Nojan Sullivan, a 21-year-old resident of North Carolina, was sentenced to life in prison for attempting

to commit an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries in support of IS. Sullivan pleaded guilty to the charge in November 2016. Sullivan, with the online assistance of an IS attack planner located in Raqqa, Syria, actively planned an attack on US soil and discussed filming a video pledging allegiance to IS. Sullivan also purchased an assault rifle with help from an undercover FBI agent, which he planned to use in the proposed attack. [source: DOJ Press Release](#)

AARON DANIELS

JUN 29 20  OH

Aaron Daniels, 20, of Columbus, Ohio, pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. In November of 2016, 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 to Libya. He faces twenty years in prison. [source: US News](#)

Attacks

AMOR FTOUHI

JUN 21

50

Amor Ftouhi, a 50-year-old resident of Canada, was charged with violence at an international airport after an attempted stabbing of a police officer at Flint, Michigan's Bishop International Airport. Authorities claim that Ftouhi stabbed Lt. Jeff Neville with a 12-inch knife while yelling "God is great" in Arabic. After the stabbing, Ftouhi allegedly remarked that "you have killed people in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and we are all going to die". Ftouhi was stopped in the process of the attack by airport police, arrested, and charged. The FBI is investigating the attack as an act of terrorism. [Sources: Detroit Free Press, DOJ Press Release](#)