

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

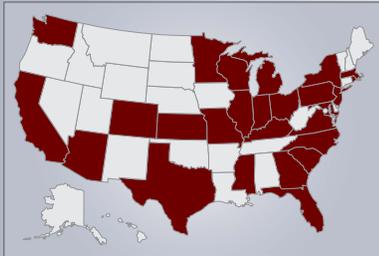
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

122 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**

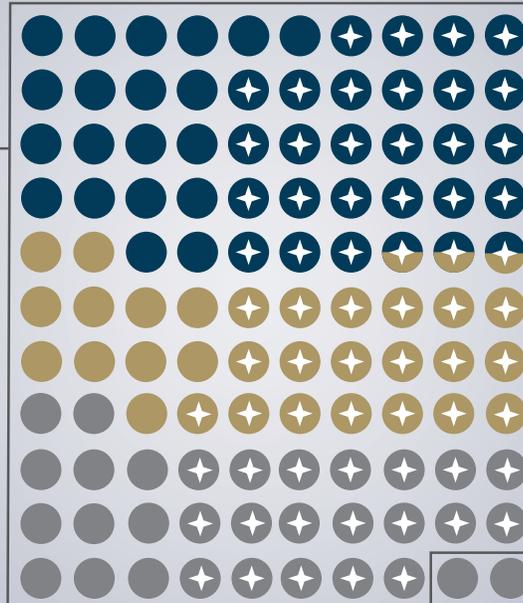
89% are male

Their activities were located in **26** states



The average length of sentence in years **13.6*** **72** HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

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



44% 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.

59% were charged in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

★ indicates law enforcement operation

Islamic State–Related Apprehensions/Charges

ZAKARYIA ABDIN

MAR. 31

18



A South Carolina federal court charged Zakaryia Abdin**, 18, with attempting to provide material support to **IS**. In 2015, when Abdin was a minor, he pleaded guilty to a state-level charge of illegal possession of a gun. According to media reports, officials stated that Abdin had “schemed to rob a gun store and kill soldiers,” and later admitted that he also planned to “wage jihad overseas.” He was sentenced to five years in juvenile detention, but given parole in May 2016. FBI agents arrested Abdin at Charleston International Airport on March 30, 2017, before he was able to board

an outbound flight to an unspecified destination. The FBI stated that Abdin was trying to travel overseas to join IS, but offered few details about the arrest itself.

Source: [Abdin Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [The Post and Courier](#), [NBC News](#)

JOSEPH D. JONES & EDWARD SCHIMENTI

APR. 11

35

35



Joseph D. Jones and Edward Schimenti, both 35-year-old Illinois residents, were charged with conspiring and attempting to provide material support

** Previously included in ISIS in America numbers as a minor.

to **IS**. Jones and Schimenti, who used the respective aliases “Yusuf Abdulhaqq” and “Abdul Wali,” pledged allegiance to and expressed their support for IS on their social media accounts. According to their criminal complaint, they “befriended three individuals whom [they] believed were fellow ISIS devotees” in October 2015. In reality, two were undercover FBI employees (UCEs), and the third was a cooperating source (CS). Throughout the fall of 2015, Jones and Schimenti participated in plans to help one of the UCEs travel overseas to join IS via in-person meetings and email. Last month, Jones and Schimenti “furnished” cellphones to the CS with the understanding that they would be used to detonate bombs in IS attacks overseas. On April 7, 2017, they drove the CS to Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport, believing that the CS was headed to Syria to fight alongside IS. Authorities arrested Jones and Schimenti five days later. Source: [Jones, Schimenti Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#), [Chicago Tribune](#)

MICHAEL QUEEN & SOUFIAN AMRI

APR. 18 28 32  VA

Virginia residents Michael Queen, 28, and Soufian Amri, 32, were indicted on two charges of obstruction of justice, and three charges of conspiring to make and making false statements in a matter involving international terrorism. The charges were brought in connection with Haris Qamar, their mutual friend who was arrested in July 2016 for attempting to provide material support to **IS**. Qamar planned to travel to Syria to fight alongside IS, even purchasing plane tickets to Turkey before realizing that his parents had confiscated his passport. The indictment alleges that Queen and Amri knew about Qamar’s attempted travel, but “denied it to protect him.” It further states that the pair intentionally “engaged in misleading conduct” when they gave FBI agents the name of a Hindu individual they said supported IS, rather than information about Qamar. Later, Queen allegedly told Qamar that he’s “never going to throw a Muslim underneath the bus” for trying to do the “right thing.” Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Queen, Amri Indictment](#)

LAITH WALEEB ALEBBINI

APR. 26 26  OH

Laith Waleeb Alebbini, 26, was arrested at Kentucky’s Cincinnati/Kentucky International Airport for attempting to provide material support to **IS**. A federal complaint alleges that Alebbini, a Jordanian citizen with permanent resident status since April 2014, has attempted to travel to Syria to fight alongside IS.

Source: [WDTN](#)

Apprehensions & Charges Related to Other Jihadist Groups

KHALED ABU AL-DAHAB

APR. 20 57  CA

The Justice Department revoked the naturalized U.S. citizenship of Khaled Abu al-Dahab, who admitted to being a member of **Egyptian Islamic Jihad** (EIJ), a terrorist organization. The former Californian also admitted that he “operated a communications hub for EIJ operatives” out of his apartment, helping to transfer fraudulent passports, documents, and money between EIJ members. Al-Dahab also admitted to recruiting Islamic Americans to **al-Qaeda** while he resided in California, telling the FBI that Osama bin Laden “personally congratulated him” for helping use the recruits’ U.S. passports to “facilitate international travel by al-Qaeda terrorists.” Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Al-Dahab Memorandum Opinion](#), [Al-Dahab Order](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

SEBASTIAN GREGERSON

MAR. 30 30  MI

Thirty-year-old Sebastian Gregerson pleaded guilty to charges of unregistered possession of destructive devices. The Michigan resident, who also used the alias “Abdurrahman Bin Mikaayl,” accepted a plea deal months after he was charged with unregistered pos-

session of a destructive device and unlicensed receipt of explosive materials. Gregerson was arrested after he bought explosives from an undercover FBI officer. According to court filings, Gregerson began building an arsenal of “weapons, ammunition, tactical gear and tactical training materials” in early 2015, and a Facebook account allegedly linked to Gregerson expressed support for jihadist groups. Source: [ABC News](#)

MUNA OSMAN JAMA & HINDA OSMAN DHIRANE

MAR. 31 36 46 VA WA

Muna Osman Jama, 36, of Virginia, and Hinda Osman Dhirane, 46, of Washington were sentenced in connection to charges of conspiracy to provide and provision of material support to **al-Shabaab**. Jama and Dhirane received 12 years and 11 years respectively, as well as 10 years supervised release following the completion of their sentences. Court documents revealed that Jama and Dhirane “sent money to financiers of al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya” and organized a “Group of Fifteen,” which included women from Somalia, Kenya, Egypt, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Minnesota. The women met regularly in a private chatroom created by Jama, and tracked monthly payments that would fund al-Shabaab military operations and safehouses. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Washington Post](#)

SANTOS COLON

APR. 3 17 NJ

New Jersey resident Santos Colon**, 17, pleaded guilty as an adult to one count of attempting to provide material support to terrorists. In August 2015, at the age of 15, Colon was arrested while plotting to carry out an attack on the Pope during his September 2015 visit to Pennsylvania. According to court documents, the plot involved a sniper who would “shoot the Pope during his Papal mass,” as well as explosive devices he would detonate in surrounding areas. The

two individuals, whom Colon approached to be the sniper and to purchase materials for the explosive devices, were in fact undercover FBI personnel. Colon, who also used the alias “Ahmad Shakoor,” faces up to 15 years in prison. Source: [Colon Plea Agreement](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

DARREN ARNESS JACKSON

APR. 4 51 FL

Darren Arness Jackson, 51, of Florida, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to **IS**. Jackson and his two co-defendants, Dayne Atani Christian and Gregory Hubbard, allegedly condemned media portrayals of IS, expressed a desire to join the group, and repeatedly praised terrorist attacks such as those in Orlando and Nice. The three were arrested in July 2016, when Hubbard attempted to board a flight to Germany in an attempt to reach Syria. Jackson was arrested after dropping Hubbard off at the airport. Christian pleaded guilty last month, and Hubbard continues to fight the charges. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Hubbard, et al. Criminal Complaint](#)

KHALIL ABU-RAYYAN

APR. 7 22 MI

Michigan resident Khalil Abu-Rayyan, 22, was sentenced to 5 years in prison, to be followed by 3 years supervised release. Abu-Rayyan was arrested in February 2016 for making a false statement to acquire a firearm and for being a “prohibited person” in possession of a firearm. Although he was not charged with any terrorism-related offenses, prosecutors argued that he in fact supported **IS**. According to his criminal complaint, Abu-Rayyan made increasingly violent threats about conducting a domestic terrorist attack on behalf of IS, and used a number of Twitter accounts to spread IS propaganda. In December 2015, Abu-Rayyan also spoke with an undercover FBI agent about his desire to conduct an attack, indicating that he was planning to target a local church or a police officer. Source: [Detroit Free Press](#)

** Previously included in ISIS in America numbers as a minor.

NOOR ZAHI SALMAN

APR. 7

30



Noor Zahi Salman, widow of Pulse nightclub shooter Omar Mateen, entered a plea of not guilty. In January 2016, the 30-year-old was charged with aiding and abetting Mateen's provision of material support to **IS**, and obstruction of justice. Prosecutors alleged that Salman, who formerly resided in Florida, "knowingly misled the F.B.I. agents and Fort Pierce police officers who interviewed her" for 12 hours after the attack, which claimed 49 lives. According to the indictment, they also believe that from April 2016 until the shooting on June 12, 2016, she accompanied Mateen on trips to get ammunition and to Orlando, during which time he "apparently scouted his target." Last month, a Florida judge blocked a release on bail, ruling that she will remain in jail while awaiting trial.

Source: [Salman Indictment](#), [Orlando Sentinel](#)

HARLEM SUAREZ

APR. 18

25



Twenty-five-year-old Florida resident Harlem Suarez was sentenced to life in prison for attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction, and attempting to provide material support to **IS**. The pro-IS content on Suarez's Facebook account, which he operated under the alias "Almlak Benitez," brought him to the attention of the FBI in April 2015. In May, Suarez and

an FBI confidential human source (CHS) began communicating via Facebook on the subject of "preparing for violent jihad against the United States." In subsequent communications, Suarez told the CHS that he "wanted to make a timer bomb," bury it on a Key West beach, and detonate it. In July 2015, he was arrested after taking possession of an inert "backpack bomb" from an FBI informant Suarez believed to be a fellow IS sympathizer. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

TERRENCE MCNEIL

APR. 18

24



Terrence McNeil, 24, pleaded guilty to five counts of solicitation to commit a crime of violence and five counts of making threatening interstate communications. According to court filings, the Ohio resident first pledged support for **IS** in a June 2015 Tumblr post. He also operated several Twitter accounts and one Facebook account, through which he disseminated pro-IS propaganda and praised terrorist attacks such as the Boston Marathon bombing. In September 2015, using his Tumblr account, he "reblogged a file with the banner 'Islamic State Hacking Division,' followed by 'Target: United States Military' and 'Leak: Addresses of 100 U.S. Military Personnel.'" He continued posting "kill lists" throughout late 2015, encouraging his social media followers to take the "final step" and "kill them." His sentencing is scheduled for August 2, 2017. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Cleveland.com](#)