

GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

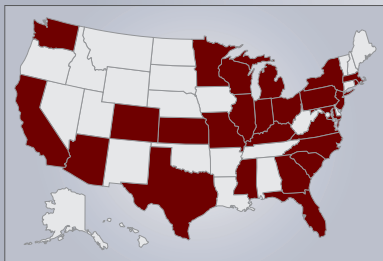
Program on Extremism
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

115 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:

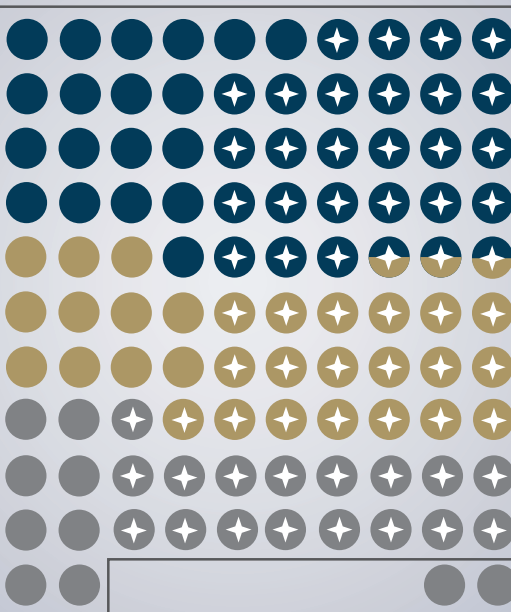
The average age of those charged is **27**

89% are male

Their activities were located in **26** states



The average length of sentence in years **13.2**



67 HAVE PLEADED OR BEEN FOUND GUILTY

45% 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.

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

★ indicates law enforcement operation

Islamic State–Related Apprehensions/Charges

ROBERT LORENZO HESTER

FEB. 21 25 MO

Robert Lorenzo Hester, Jr., 25, of Missouri, was charged with attempting to provide material support to IS, based on allegations that Hester was “making preparations to launch a terrorist attack with persons he believed were associated with ISIS, who were actually undercover law enforcement personnel.” In September 2016, the FBI began a review

of Hester’s social media posts, which demonstrated “an adherence to radical Islamic ideology” and “a propensity for violence.” During this time, while under electronic monitoring from a prior unrelated case, Hester allegedly maintained “regular contact” with FBI undercover employees (UCE) via an encrypted messaging app and in-person meetings. Court filings further allege that in January 2017, he met a UCE to discuss a list of items for Hester to purchase, which the UCE implied “would be used to make bombs.” Hester allegedly expressed his excitement to the UCE, saying: “I can’t wait.” He was arrested on February 17, shortly after meeting with a second UCE. Source: [Hester Criminal Complaint](#), [DOJ Press Release](#)

Apprehensions/Charges Related to Other Jihadist Groups

GARRETT GRIMSLEY

FEB. 21

27



NC

Twenty-seven-year-old Garrett Grimsley, of North Carolina, was charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce to injure the person of another. According to his criminal complaint, Grimsley posted a message on Whisper, an anonymous messaging app, which stated: "Salam...don't go to Cary tomorrow." The FBI traced the post to Grimsley, and during a search of his home, agents found "an AK-47, four 30-round magazines, and approximately 340 rounds of ammunition." They also discovered a video on Grimsley's computer titled "Soldiers of Allah," along with a note that allegedly said that he "was only reading [an ISIS magazine] for the pictures." According to media reports, however, the FBI has not found evidence directly linking Grimsley to a terror group. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [CBS](#)

Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Groups)

HARLEM SUAREZ

JAN. 31

25



FL

Harlem Suarez, 25, of Florida, was found guilty by a federal jury of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and providing material support to IS. Suarez first came to the attention of the FBI in April 2015, due to the pro-IS content on a Facebook account he was operating under the alias "Almlak Benitez." 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. According to media reports, Suarez also filmed a recruitment video for IS at a local

Florida motel, "using a script he wrote himself." He was arrested in July 2015, after taking possession of an inert, nail-filled "backpack bomb" from an FBI informant whom Suarez believed to be a fellow IS sympathizer. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Sun Sentinel](#), [Suarez Criminal Complaint](#)

ABDUL MALIK ABDUL KAREEM

FEB. 8

45



AZ

Arizona resident Abdul Malik Abdul Kareem, 45, was sentenced to 30 years in prison, followed by lifetime supervised release. In March 2016, a federal jury found Kareem guilty on five charges: conspiring to provide material support to IS; conspiring to transport and transporting firearms and ammunition in interstate commerce with the intent to commit murder and aggravated assault; making false statements to the FBI; and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Evidence presented at trial demonstrated that Kareem discussed traveling to Syria and conducting terrorist attacks with his roommates, Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi. One target discussed was the May 2015 "Muhammad Art Exhibit and Contest" in Garland, TX, where Simpson and Soofi were killed by security personnel while attempting to attack the event. Kareem was arrested in June 2015. Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

FAREED MUMUNI & MUNTHAR OMAR SALEH

FEB. 9 & 10

22

21



NY

On February 9, Fareed Mumuni, 22, pleaded guilty to conspiring and attempting to provide material support to IS, assaulting and conspiring to assault federal officers, and attempted murder of federal officers. On February 10, Munther Omar Saleh, 21, pleaded guilty to conspiring and attempting to provide material support to IS. According to their respective court filings, the two New Yorkers "conspired to place a pressure cooker bomb in the New York metro" on behalf of IS, as well as facilitated their New Jersey-based co-conspirators' attempt-

ed travel to IS-controlled territory. Saleh was arrested on June 13, 2015, after he and another individual charged at a federal officer with a knife. Four days later, during a warrant-issued search of his home, Mumuni “repeatedly stabbed an FBI agent” with a kitchen knife. Mumuni failed to penetrate the agent’s body armor, however, and was immediately arrested.

Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Reuters](#), [CBS](#)

MOHAMED BAILOR JALLOH

FEB. 10 27  VA

Mohamed Bailor Jalloh, a 27-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen residing in Virginia, was sentenced to 11 years, followed by 5 years supervised release, for attempting to provide material support to IS. In March 2016, a now-deceased member of IS “brokered an online connection” between Jalloh and a U.S.-based individual later revealed to be an FBI confidential human source (CHS). According to the complaint, Jalloh told the CHS he had recently traveled to Nigeria, where he met local IS members. He expressed interest in joining IS in Libya, as well as in conducting a terrorist attack in the U.S. In July 2016, Jalloh purchased an assault rifle in Virginia, but “unbeknownst to [him], the rifle was rendered inoperable” by the FBI. Jalloh, a former Army National Guardsman, was arrested on July 3, 2016.

Source: [DOJ Press Release](#)

ENRIQUE MARQUEZ

FEB. 14 25  CA

Enrique Marquez, Jr.*, 25, of California, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to terrorists and making false statements in connection with the purchase of a firearm. In 2011 and 2012, Marquez, Jr. and Syed Rizwan Farook, one of two shooters in the San Bernardino attack, plotted to detonate pipe bombs on a college campus and freeway, both located in California. Ultimately, the attacks were not carried out. On December 2,

2015, however, Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, opened fire at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 and wounding 22. Marquez, Jr. had “collaborated with and purchased weapons for” the couple, acting as the “straw buyer” of two assault rifles.” He was arrested on December 17, 2015, and has remained in custody since.

Source: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Marquez Plea Agreement](#)

JOSHUA RAY VAN HAFTEN

FEB. 17 36  WI

Thirty-six-year-old Wisconsin resident Joshua Ray Van Haften was sentenced to 10 years for attempting to provide material support to IS, to be followed by lifetime supervised release. According to the government’s evidence, Van Haften “traveled to Turkey in 2014 and attempted to cross into Syria.” He also posted an online oath of loyalty to IS, stating that the only thing that mattered to him was joining his brothers for the “war against America [sic] liars.” He was in Turkish custody from October 2014 until April 8, 2015, when he was flown back to the U.S. and arrested at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport. Source:

[DOJ Press Release](#), [Van Haften Judgment](#)

HARIS QAMAR

FEB. 17 26  VA

Haris Qamar, 26, of Virginia, was sentenced to 102 months in prison and 20 years supervised release, for attempting to provide material support to IS. According to court filings, Qamar operated more than 60 pro-IS Twitter accounts, each of which included “newerajihadi” in the account name. Qamar also intended to travel to Syria in order to “die a shaheed [martyr],” even purchasing plane tickets to Turkey before realizing that his parents had confiscated his passport. Unable to travel, Qamar then bought several gift cards at the request of a cooperating witness (CW) and messaged their codes to the CW’s “cousin,”

* Not included in “The Islamic State in America” numbers

whom Qamar believed to be a Syria-based IS fighter. In reality, the codes were sent to the FBI. Qamar was arrested in July 2016. source: [DOJ Press Release, Qamar Statement of Facts](#)

MAHMOUD AMIN MOHAMED ELHASSAN

FEB. 24

26



VA

A judge sentenced Mahmoud Amin Mohamed Elhassan, 26, to 11 years for attempting to provide material support to IS, and making false statements to the FBI. The Sudanese national also received 10 years of supervised release following the completion of his sentence. Elhassan was arrested on January 15, 2016 for aiding and abetting Joseph Hassan Farrokh's "attempt to provide himself" to IS. In October 2016, Elhassan admitted to introducing Farrokh to an individual whom he believed could facilitate the latter's travel to IS-held territory in Syria. In his guilty plea affidavit, he further admitted that he drove Farrokh to Richmond, VA, and dropped him off a mile away from the airport. When questioned by FBI agents later that same day about Farrokh, he made false statements in order to "hinder the government's investigation of Farrokh's travel." source: [DOJ Press Release, Elhassan Guilty Plea](#)