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## GW Extremism Tracker: Terrorism in the United States

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# GW EXTREMISM TRACKER

## TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

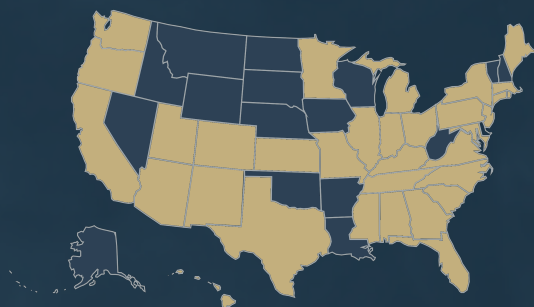
Program on Extremism

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



**246** 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:

Their activities were located in **34** states and the District of Columbia



**90%** are male

**28** the average age of those charged.

**203** have pleaded or were found guilty

**13.3\*** the average length of sentence in years.

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

**39%**

were accused of attempting to travel or successfully traveled abroad.

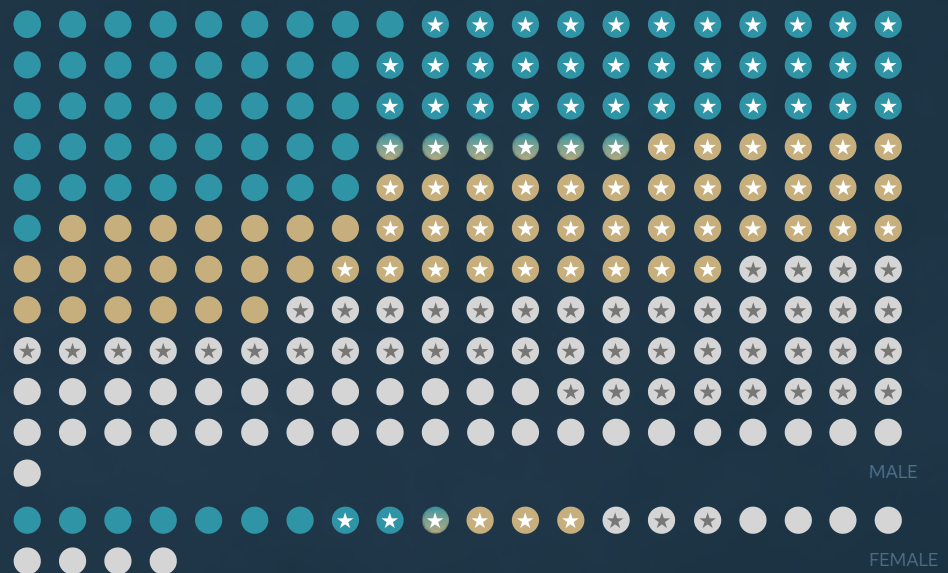
**28%**

were accused of being involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.

**57%**

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

★ indicates law enforcement operation



MALE

FEMALE

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### Disclaimer

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

## Arrests (Islamic State)

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### MOAD MOHAMED BENKABBOU

JAN 17 22  FL

**Moad Mohamed Benkabbou**, a 22-year-old resident of Kissimmee, Florida, was indicted by a federal grand jury in the Middle District of Florida on three counts of false statements to a federal agency. According to the indictment, in the course of an international terrorism investigation by the FBI, Benkabbou was asked if he had ever talked about IS with a person known to the FBI. He falsely answered, “No, I didn’t.” Benkabbou was also asked if he had ever made plans to travel overseas to join IS, or pledged allegiance to IS. To both these questions, Benkabbou falsely answered that he did not. According to evidence presented during his detention hearing, Benkabbou pledged allegiance to IS in January 2020, and made plans to travel to Turkey and Syria to join IS that same year. He allegedly purchased plane tickets in August of 2020 and January of 2021, and sent IS propaganda to others, including images of himself dressed as an IS fighter with the statement, “Hey Crusaders hey Jews die within your rage.”

Sources: Benkabbou Indictment, DOJ Press Release, Orlando Sentinel

## Legal Proceedings (IS & Other Jihadist Groups)

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### KEVIN IMAN MCCORMICK

JAN 12 29  CT

**Kevin Iman McCormick**, a 29-year-old resident of Hamden, Connecticut, pleaded guilty in the District of Connecticut with attempting to provide material support to IS. Between August and October 2019, McCormick made numerous statements

expressing a desire to travel to Syria to fight for the group. On October 12, 2019, McCormick attempted to board a flight from Connecticut to Jamaica - with the ultimate goal of reaching Syria - but was prevented by doing so by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Subsequently, McCormick made a video pledging his allegiance to IS and its then-leader, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, and purchased a plane ticket from Toronto, Canada, to Amman, Jordan. McCormick was arrested on October 21, 2019, after he arrived at a private airport in Connecticut where he expected to board a flight to Canada.

Sources: DOJ Press Release, Plea Agreement, Stars and Stripes

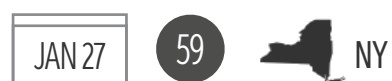
### SAYFULLO SAIPOV

JAN 26 35  NJ

**Sayfullo Saipov**, a 35-year-old resident of Paterson, New Jersey, was convicted in the Southern District of New York on 28 counts related to his vehicular attack in Manhattan in 2017, which killed 8 and injured 11. The jury convicted Saipov on all counts, including murder, attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and provision of material support to IS. Evidence introduced at trial highlighted Saipov’s long-held support for IS and Saipov’s motivations to conduct the attack on behalf of IS. This included significant amounts of IS propaganda found on his phone, which depicted the shooting or beheading of prisoners and instructional material on the construction of explosive devices. The government also noted Saipov’s request to hang an IS flag in his hospital room after the attack, and his custodial statements to the FBI that he committed the attack “to do my part, my part for Allah, my part for my version of Islam, and my part for the caliphate, my part for ISIS.”

Sources: Verdict Form, New York Times

## TREVOR WILLIAM FORREST



**Trevor William Forrest**, also known as Abdullah el-Faisal, a 59-year-old citizen of Jamaica, was convicted in the New York State Supreme Court for providing material support to IS. This conviction, the first-ever New York State terrorism trial, found Faisal guilty on five counts, including Soliciting or Providing Support for an Act of Terrorism in the First Degree. As evidence at trial detailed, Faisal both publicly and privately supported IS since 2014, and provided instructions and logistical support to facilitate foreign fighter travel to IS regions. In this period, Faisal also used his role as one of the most influential English-language jihadist propagandists to incite violence and encourage his supporters to commit acts terrorism or travel to join the Islamic State.

Sources: New York Times, Manhattan District Attorney Press Release

## IBRAHEEM MUSAIBLI



**Ibraheem Musaibli**, a 32-year-old resident of Dearborn, Michigan, was convicted in the Eastern District of Michigan on charges of providing, attempting to provide, and conspiring to provide material support to IS. Evidence presented at trial established that Musaibli moved from Michigan to Yemen in April 2015, before traveling to Syria in the fall of 2015. Once in Syria, Musaibli made his way to Raqqa, IS' capital, where he attended an IS-run religious training camp and later underwent military training. He learned how to fire an assault rifle, ambush tactics, and how to conduct guard duty, and was assigned to an IS foreign fighter battalion at the conclusion of his training. Musaibli remained with IS for over two years, before being apprehended by Syrian Democratic Forces in 2018 and subsequently returned to the U.S. and placed in federal custody.

Sources: DOJ Press Release, Verdict Form, Detroit News

## NASER ALMADAOJI



**Naser Almadaoji**, a 23-year-old resident of Beavercreek, Ohio, was sentenced in the Southern District of Ohio to 120 months in prison for attempting to provide material support to IS. Almadaoji purchased a plane ticket in October 2018, with the intention of traveling to Astana, Kazakhstan, then being smuggled into Afghanistan to join IS-K and receive military training. Prior to his arrest at John Glenn International Airport while attempting to undertake this travel, Almadaoji traveled to Egypt and Jordan for the purpose of joining IS affiliates in the Sinai Peninsula, but was ultimately unsuccessful. Almadaoji also recorded and sent a video of himself pledging allegiance to the leader of IS. Almadaoji pleaded guilty in November 2021.

Sources: DOJ Press Release, FOX19

## JAMES BRADLEY



**James Bradley**, a 21-year-old resident of the Bronx, New York, and Arwa Muthana, a 30-year-old resident of Hoover, Alabama, were sentenced in the Southern District of New York to 132 months and 108 months incarceration, respectively, for attempting to provide material support to IS. Bradley and Muthana, who pleaded guilty in September 2022, admitted they sought to travel to the Middle East to join and fight for IS. Bradley also expressed his desire to conduct a terrorist attack in the United States, specifically discussing a potential attack at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Bradley and Muthana ultimately decided to travel via cargo ship to the Middle East to join IS, and were arrested in Newark, New Jersey, as they were boarding the cargo ship. Court-authorized searches of Bradley and Muthana's electronic devices identified significant extremist content, including IS propaganda, quotations

by Anwar al-Awlaki, a video of an individual in prisoner garb being chained and then burned alive.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [AL.com](#)

## RUSLAN MARATOVICH ASAINOV



**Ruslan Maratovich Asainov**, a 46-year-old resident of Bay Ridge, New York, was convicted by a federal jury in the Eastern District of New York on five counts related to Asainov's travel to Syria to fight on behalf of IS. Evidence presented at trial demonstrated that Asainov traveled from Brooklyn, New York, to Istanbul, Turkey, in order to obtain entry into Syria. Asainov subsequently joined IS, and received military training provided by the group. Asainov volunteered to train as a sniper in mid-2014, and later became a sniper trainer on behalf of IS, training over 100 recruits. He fought in numerous battles over the course of five years on behalf of IS, including at Kobani and Raqqa, before being captured by the Syrian Democratic Forces at Baghouz and transferred into FBI custody. Asainov was convicted on all five counts of the indictment, including conspiracy to provide material support to IS; providing material support to IS in the form of personnel, training, expert advice and assistance; receipt of military-type training from IS; and obstruction of justice. The jury also found that the defendant's provision of material support to IS resulted in the death of one or more persons.

Sources: [DOJ Press Release](#), [Verdict Form](#), [AP News](#)