



NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | June 6, 2016

Homegrown Violent Extremists: Three Minnesota Men Convicted by Jury of ISIS-Related Charges

On June 3, three Minnesota men were convicted by a federal jury of conspiracy to commit murder in Syria on behalf of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and to provide material support to the terrorist organization. Mohamed Farah, age 22, Guled Omar, age 21, and Abdirahman Daud, age 22 (see photo), each face a potential life sentence for the most serious charge, conspiracy to commit murder outside the United States. In the largest ISIS-related case ever prosecuted in the United States, 10 defendants were accused of inspiring and recruiting each other to join ISIS. In addition to the three who stood trial and were convicted, six have pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS. The 10th defendant, Abdi Nur, age 22, succeeded in joining ISIS in Syria and remains a fugitive.



With the three convictions last week, five defendants have been convicted by juries in ISIS-related cases, including New Jersey resident Tairod Pugh, who faces a possible maximum sentence of 35 years. Most of those charged have pleaded guilty and agreed to plea bargains, with an average sentence of about 10 years. None have been acquitted.

Europe: German Police Disrupt ISIS Plot for Terror Attack in Dusseldorf

On June 2, police in Germany arrested three Syrian men—identified only as Hamza C., age 27, Mahood B., age 25, and Abd Araham A. K., age 31—on suspicion of plotting to conduct a terrorist attack in Dusseldorf on behalf of ISIS. (Photo shows Dusseldorf's historic downtown section, popular with tourists.) Two attackers were planning to blow themselves up with suicide vests, and then others would kill bystanders with guns and explosives. The planning for the attack went back as far as May 2014, when two of the suspects received approval for the attack from ISIS leadership. The suspects then reportedly slipped into Europe from Turkey through Greece, blending in with migrants. A statement from German prosecutors said there were no indications that the plot was in an advanced stage of implementation.



A fourth Syrian suspect, Saleh A., age 25, has been in custody in Paris since he turned himself in last February. His statements to police reportedly led to the investigation that uncovered the Dusseldorf plot. Germany has now requested his extradition.

State Department Country Reports: Terror Attacks Decrease Worldwide, but ISIS Remains a Threat

According to the State Department's *Country Reports on Terrorism* for 2015, which was issued last week, the total number of terrorist attacks last year decreased by 13 percent in comparison to 2014. The statistics, which were prepared by the University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), also show that total fatalities due to terrorist attacks decreased by 14 percent, mainly as a result of fewer attacks and deaths in Iraq, Pakistan, and Nigeria. This was the first decline in total terrorist attacks and resulting fatalities since 2012. ISIS remains the greatest terrorism threat worldwide. Instability in key regions of the world continues to provide terrorist groups such as ISIS with the opportunity to extend their reach, terrorize civilians, and attract new recruits. Toward the end of 2015, ISIS fighters conducted a series of external attacks in France, Lebanon, and Turkey, demonstrating the group's capabilities to carry out deadly plots beyond Iraq and Syria.

The United States and its partners around the world face a significant challenge in contending with the return of foreign terrorist fighters from Iraq and Syria, the risk of terrorist groups exploiting migratory movements, and new technology and communications platforms that enable terrorist groups to more easily recruit adherents and inspire attacks.

Contact Information

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