



EXTREMIST CONVERTS

PART I: U.S. & CANADIAN EXTREMIST CONVERTS

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MARCH 2017

Terrorist groups like [ISIS](#) and [al-Qaeda](#) have for years relied on foreign recruits and lone-wolf supporters to bolster their ranks. Jamal Ahjjaj, an imam at As-Soennah Mosque in The Hague, told the *Washington Post* that converts are “the most vulnerable because they do not yet fully understand Islam.” The imam noted that “sometimes there are people — the wrong people — waiting outside the mosque to greet them.”

CEP’s *Extremist Converts* resource has identified 131 American, Canadian, Australian, and European converts to Islam from diverse backgrounds who have become or attempted to become extremist propagandists or recruiters (13), foreign fighters (53), or domestic terrorists (74).

Analysis of the profiles finds that:

- At least 79 (60 percent) were 25 years old or younger at the age of conversion
- At least 37 (28 percent) pledged allegiance to, or allegedly acted on behalf of, ISIS
- At least 27 (21 percent) reportedly had prior criminal records, while at least 11 (8 percent) reportedly converted to Islam while in prison
- At least 24 (18 percent) were influenced indirectly or directly by deceased al-Qaeda propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki
- At least 23 (18 percent) allied themselves with al-Qaeda or its affiliates
- At least 18 (14 percent) had a history of drug use
- At least 17 (13 percent) served or aspired to serve in their countries’ military
- At least 14 (11 percent) had disciplinary problems in high school or dropped out before graduating

PART I:

U.S. & CANADIAN EXTREMIST CONVERTS

CEP has identified dozens of **U.S. and Canadian converts to Islam** who have attempted or succeeded in launching domestic terror attacks, joining terrorist movements abroad, or financing acts of terror. Notable examples include Adam Gadahn, a former senior operative in al-Qaeda and U.S. convert from California who served as a translator and propagandist for al-Qaeda, as well as John Georgelas, a U.S. convert to Texas who became what *Atlantic* reporter Graeme Wood described as the “most important and prominent” American in ISIS’s ranks.

CEP has to date identified 79 American cases and 11 Canadian cases in which susceptible converts either attempted or succeeded in becoming foreign fighters (37), domestic terrorists (53), or propagandists (3). Of these, 54 (60 percent) converted at or before the age of 25.

U.S.

1. [Abdul Alim Musa](#)

- a. Propagandist, Washington, D.C: Ex-convict who now directs As-Sabiqun (“the Vanguard”) from the Al Masjid Mosque in Washington, D.C. As-Sabiqun is an American Muslim organization whose “current mission, inside and outside of the U.S. is to struggle to neutralize the efforts of the top three enemies of our global Ummah, which together constitute the Triangle of Terror [the U.S., Israel, and Saudi Arabia].” The United Kingdom banned Musa from entering the country in 2008 due to his history of “glorifying terrorist violence in furtherance of his particular beliefs and seeking to provoke others to terrorist acts.” Musa has voiced support for Hamas and claims the Americans, Israelis, and Saudis created ISIS.
- b. Converted to “traditional orthodox Islam” while imprisoned in the U.S. Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, for smuggling heroin, Musa told the *Washington Post*.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Washington Post](#), [As-Sabiqun Blog](#), [Anti-Defamation League](#), [BBC News](#), [Press TV](#))

2. [Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif](#)

- a. Domestic terrorist, Washington: Purchased machine guns with Walli Mujahidh, a.k.a. Frederick Domingue, Jr., for an attack on the Military Entrance Processing Station in Seattle. Abdul-Latif was arrested in June 2011. He pled guilty in December 2012 to conspiracy to murder officers and agents of the United States and conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. Abdul-Latif was sentenced in March 2013 to 18 years in prison followed by 10 years of supervised release.
- b. Converted to Islam while serving a three-year prison sentence for robbery. Born Joseph Anthony Davis, Abdul-Latif reportedly received a translated Quran from another prisoner. He was homeless and reportedly mentally ill before his robbery conviction. Abdul-Latif married and had a child after his release and started a

janitorial business. Between 2010 and 2011, he posted extremist videos on YouTube in which he praised AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki.

(Age at conversion: 25)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [YouTube](#), [BBC News](#), [Seattlepi.com](#))

3. [Adam Dandach](#)

a. Attempted foreign fighter, California: Arrested in July 2014 after purchasing a plane ticket from California to Istanbul in order to join ISIS in Syria. Dandach pled guilty to conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. Dandach also pled guilty to making a false statement on a passport application after his family confiscated his passport. Dandach had told authorities he lost his passport so he could obtain a new one. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

b. Reportedly converted to Islam and changed his name to Fadi Fadi. According to his attorney, Pal Lengyel-Leahu, religion provided Dandach with a sense of purpose in life. U.S. Attorney Eileen Decker said that Dandach fell victim to ISIS's "online recruiting efforts."

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [Department of Justice](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Gatestone Institute](#))

4. Adam Gadahn

a. Foreign fighter and propagandist, California: Also known as Azzam the American. Gadahn was a propagandist and translator for al-Qaeda who appeared in multiple al-Qaeda propaganda videos calling for attacks on the United States. Gadahn joined al-Qaeda in 1998. He translated al-Qaeda training manuals and propaganda into English, and reportedly advised Osama bin Laden on U.S. media. He also reportedly had multiple meetings with 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Gadahn died in a U.S. drone strike in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region on January 19, 2015.

b. Converted to Islam in 1995 in Orange County, California. The Islamic Society of Orange County banned Gadahn after he assaulted a mosque leader. He pled guilty to misdemeanor assault and battery and received a sentenced of two days in jail and community service. Gadahn moved to Pakistan in 1998. His parents last heard from him in 2002.

(Estimated age at conversion: 17)

(Sources: [FBI](#), [CNN](#), [New Yorker](#), [CNN](#))

5. Alton Nolen

a. Domestic terrorist, Oklahoma: Accused of beheading co-worker Colleen Hufford at Vaughan Foods grocery store in Moore, Oklahoma, in September 2014, a day after store management suspended his employment. Nolen pled guilty to murdering his coworker in August 2016 and requested the death penalty. A Cleveland County district judge rejected his plea and demanded a competency test first to insure against multiple appeals. The FBI has labeled the attack an act of workplace violence instead of terrorism, saying that it appeared to be motivated by revenge, not religion. Texas's then-Governor Rick Perry called for the crime to be labeled as an act of terrorism.

- b. Converted to Islam from Christianity while in prison between 2011 and 2013 on drug charges and charges of assault and battery of a police officer. He was released after two years of a six-year sentence for good behavior. Nolen subsequently tried to convert other employees at Vaughan Foods, according to police. His Facebook page included images of Osama bin Laden and beheadings. Nolen told members of the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City that he was looking to connect through mosques, churches, synagogues, and Buddhism. Mosque members have described Nolen's behavior as "odd" in conversations with the media.
(Estimated age at conversion: 26-30)
(Sources: [Washington Post](#), [Washington Post](#), [NewsChannel KFOR](#), [Associated Press](#), [Oklahoman](#), [Associated Press](#), [Hill](#))

6. [Alexander Ciccolo](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Massachusetts: Accused of planning to detonate homemade pressure-cooker bombs at Boston-area college cafeterias and dormitories in 2015. Ciccolo allegedly told to a cooperating witness that he would execute students and livestream their executions on the Internet. Ciccolo was arrested in July 2015 after buying weapons from an undercover FBI agent. He stabbed a nurse in the head with a pen during a medical evaluation after his arrest. Ciccolo pled not guilty to terrorism charges in July 2016.
- b. According to neighbors, Ciccolo was a "recent convert to Islam" when he assumed the name Abu Ali al-Amriki and plotted to kill civilians. Ciccolo subsequently became "obsessed" with Islam, according to reports. With parents who divorced at age 5, Ciccolo was the subject of a contentious custody battle. At age 13, he was suspended from public school for attacking a student and teacher with drum sticks. Ciccolo's father is a Boston police captain who reported his son to the FBI in 2014. Prosecutors allege Ciccolo "came under the sway" of ISIS.
(Estimated age at conversion: 21-23)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [ABC News](#), [Associated Press](#), [ABC News](#), [NBC News](#))

7. [Amir Said Abdul Rahman al-Ghazi](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist: Arrested in June 2015 after purchasing an AK-47 from an undercover FBI agent in preparation for a domestic attack. Ghazi pled guilty in March 2016 to attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization, ISIS, and to two counts of unlawful possession of a firearm.
- b. Converted to Islam from Methodism during a previous drug-related incarceration, according to his mother. Ghazi's mother said that Islam became an "anchor" for him and made him a better person. Ghazi formally changed his name from Robert McCallum to Amir Said Abdul Rahman al-Ghazi in 2014, and Ghazi's mother began noticing concerning changes in her son in early 2015.
(Estimated age at conversion: 38)
(Sources: [Cleveland.com](#), [NBC News](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Henry Jackson Society](#), [Cleveland.com](#))

8. [Antonio Benjamin Martinez](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Maryland: Arrested in December 2010 for attempting to blow up a military recruiting station in Maryland. Martinez pled guilty in January 2012 to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction against federal property and sentenced later that year to 25 years in prison.
- b. Converted “months” before his December 2010 arrest at the age of 21, according to his attorney. Martinez changed his name to Muhammad Hussain. He wrote on Facebook that he hated “Any 1 who opposes Allah.” Martinez reportedly praised AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki in a post on Facebook.
(Estimated age at conversion: 21)
(Sources: [FBI](#), [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [CBS News](#), [CBS DC](#))

9. [Ariel Bradley](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, Tennessee: American citizen who reportedly joined ISIS in Syria.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2011 while living in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Bradley became progressively more fundamentalist after her conversion, according to friends. Before converting to Islam, Bradley had reportedly changed her religion and belief system several times to ingratiate herself with her romantic partners. Bradley began studying Islam after being rejected by a Muslim love interest.
(Age at conversion: 25)
(Sources: [Think Progress](#), [Buzz Feed](#))

10. Barry Walter Bujol Jr.

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, Texas: Arrested in May 2010 during an FBI sting while attempting to board a flight to Algeria in order to continue on to Yemen and join al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). Bujol was sentenced to 15 years in prison for providing material support to a terrorist group.
- b. Converted from Southern Baptist Christianity in the early 2000s. Bujol met a Muslim man while working at Hewlett-Packard and was reportedly impressed with his dedication to his faith. He reportedly began exchanging e-mails with AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki in 2008 and was reportedly stopped at the U.S.-Canada border trying to leave the country in 2009. Bujol later said he was trying to fly to Egypt. He was arrested and briefly incarcerated later that year in New Jersey for driving without a license. Bujol met the future FBI informant while incarcerated. He told the *Intercept* he “wanted to get to the bottom of the jihad question.”
(Estimated age at conversion: 21-29)
(Sources: [FBI](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Intercept](#), [Houston Press](#), [ABC News](#))

11. [Bryant Neal Vinas](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, New York: Joined al-Qaeda in Pakistan in April 2008. While in Pakistan, Vinas reportedly proposed U.S.-based attacks, including setting off bombs inside a Walmart store, but al-Qaeda rejected the idea. Pakistani authorities arrested Vinas in November 2008 and transferred him to U.S. authorities. He pled guilty in 2009 to aiding a rocket attack on U.S. troops and supplying al-Qaeda with information on New York transit for a failed attack on the Long Island Railroad. Vinas has since become a cooperating U.S. government source. He is scheduled to be sentenced in April 2017.

- b. Converted to Islam in 2002 from Catholicism after he failed out of U.S. Army boot camp. Vinas began participating in missionary work with a Long Island mosque and, after clashing with his father, temporarily moved out. A friend reportedly introduced Vinas to the hardline Islamic Thinkers Society, which authorities accuse of supporting al-Qaeda. It was around then that Vinas reportedly became convinced that the United States is at war with Islam. Vinas also frequented extremist websites, and claimed that he had been inspired by AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki. (Estimated age at conversion: 18-19)
(Sources: [NYPD](#), [CNN](#), [CBS News](#), [New York Daily News](#), [Newsday](#), [CNN](#))

12. [Carlos Eduardo Almonte](#)

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, New Jersey: Arrested in June 2010 at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport while trying to board a flight to Egypt on his way to Somalia. Pled guilty to one count of conspiring to commit murder outside the United States on behalf of al-Shabab.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2004 after multiple arrests for bringing a knife to his high school, drinking beer in a public park, and assaulting a minor. Reportedly became interested in Islam after hearing a preacher at a mall in Paramus, New Jersey. Shortly after converting to Islam, Almonte began spending time with Mohamed Alessa, with whom he had attempted to travel to Somalia. Almonte reportedly viewed and listened to audio lectures and videos by AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki. (Estimated age at conversion: 19-20)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#))

13. Carlos Bledsoe

- a. Domestic terrorist, Arkansas: Convicted of killing Private Quinton Ezeagwula in an attack on an Army recruiting center in Little Rock, Arkansas, in June 2009. He told police he was angry about the treatment of Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan. He called himself a soldier of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Bledsoe was sentenced to life in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam as a teenager and began using the name Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad. Bledsoe spent 16 months in Yemen teaching English, and he was arrested and imprisoned for overstaying his visa. Bledsoe's father believes that his son became radicalized in Yemen. Bledsoe was deported from Yemen in January 2009. (Estimated age at conversion: 13-19)
(Sources: [CNN](#), [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#))

14. [Christopher Lee Cornell](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Ohio: Arrested in January 2015 for allegedly planning with an undercover FBI agent to set off pipe bombs at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. on behalf of ISIS. Cornell pled guilty in August 2016 to attempting to kill government employees, possession of a firearm intended for violent crime, and attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison followed by a lifetime of supervised released.

- b. Converted to Islam in or around June or July of 2014. Cornell claimed to attend the Masjid Abubakr Siddique mosque in Cincinnati, but mosque members questioned by the FBI after his arrest did not recognize his picture. Cornell's parents said that they believe their son was coerced into the plot, calling him in media interviews a "mama's boy" whose "best friend is his kitty cat." Cornell had recently become interested in Islam, according to his father. He had previously protested at a September 11 memorial in 2013, asserting that the attacks were actually carried out by the secretive Freemasons fraternity. Cornell began posting pro-jihadist messages on social media in the summer of 2014, attracting the FBI's attention. Cornell later told the FBI that AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki had approved of his terrorist plot, though Awlaki was killed in a drone strike three years before Cornell's conversion.

(Estimated age at conversion: 19-20)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Cincinnati.com](#), [CNN](#), [Washington Post](#), [Al Jazeera](#))

15. Christopher Paul

- a. Foreign fighter, Ohio: Traveled to Pakistan and Afghanistan in 1994 to join jihadists there, ultimately training at an al-Qaeda camp. Paul later returned to Ohio and began teaching martial arts and assembling a local jihadist cell. Paul pled guilty in June 2008 to conspiring with others to use a weapon of mass destruction against targets in Europe and the United States. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam between 1998 and 1999 while in college, where he wore traditional Islamic dress. Born Paul Kenyatta Laws, Paul changed his name to Abdul Malek after his conversion. He later again changed it to Christopher Paul.

(Estimated age at conversion: 32-34)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Columbus Dispatch](#), [Columbus Dispatch](#), [Columbus Dispatch](#))

16. [Colleen LaRose](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Florida: Arrested in October 2009 for plotting to kill Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks, known for drawing cartoons of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Also known as Jihadi Jane, LaRose pled guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to terrorist and other terrorism charges in 2011, and was later sentenced to 10 years in prison.
- b. A "recent" convert to Islam at the time of her arrest in 2009, according to Reuters, and was reportedly converted online. LaRose was reportedly listed as a "friend" of a YouTube channel known to host sermons by AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki. Physically and sexually abused as a child, LaRose reportedly told the sentencing judge in 2014 that she "don't want to be in jihad no more."

(Estimated age at conversion: 45-46)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [NewsMax](#))

17. Clement Rodney Hampton-el

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist and foreign fighter, New York: Charged with others of plotting to bomb the United Nations building in New York. Hampton-el conspired with “Blind Sheikh” Omar Abdel Rahman in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. He was arrested in 1993, convicted in 1996, and sentenced to 35 years in prison.
- b. Converted from the Moorish Science Temple and took the name Abdul Rashid Abdullah. He reportedly joined the U.S.-based extremist sect Jama`at al-Fuqara`. Hampton-el fought in the Afghanistan jihad in the 1980s and returned to the United States in 1988.
(No estimated age of conversion)
(Sources: [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#), [CNN](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [CTC Sentinel](#))

18. Clevon Raphael Holt

- a. Foreign fighter, Washington, D.C.: Traveled to Lebanon in 1980 and fought alongside the Palestine Liberation Organization and Hezbollah. He reportedly fought against NATO forces in Bosnia in the 1990s and returned to the United States, where he now lives. Holt was the subject of the documentary film *American Jihadist: The Life and Times of Isa Abdullah Ali*.
- b. Dropped out of ninth grade and began associating with a motorcycle gang in 1972 at the age of 15. Holt enlisted in the U.S. Army later that year and was dispatched to Korea. Holt was investigated in the death of another black soldier but never charged. He was honorably discharged when the Army discovered he was only 16. Holt converted in approximately 1974 after hearing a student speak about the Arab-Israeli war and Palestinian suffering. He reportedly took up an orthodox brand of Sunni Islam. He moved into a group house with other black Muslims in the late 1970s. He later converted to Shiite Islam and swore allegiance to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He is also known as Isa Abdullah Ali and Pancho.
(Estimated age at conversion: 18)
(Sources: [Washington Post](#), [IMDB](#), [CTC Sentinel](#))

19. Craig Benedict Baxam

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, Maryland: Former Army intelligence officer who attempted to join al-Shabab in Somalia. Baxam was arrested in Kenya in December 2011. He pled guilty to charges related to destroying records he thought could be used in a terrorism investigation against him. Baxam was sentenced in 2014 to seven years in prison followed by five years of supervised release.
- b. Converted to Islam from Catholicism in or around July of 2011, after reportedly discovering an Islamic website. Baxam informed his mother of his conversion that month when he returned from Army service in South Korea. Baxam had previously failed out of both university and community college before enlisting and serving four years in the Army. He began exploring religions while stationed in South Korea and later served in Iraq. Baxam reportedly tried to convert his mother upon his return.
(Estimated age at conversion: 23 or 24)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [United Press International](#), [CBS News](#), [Baltimore Sun](#), [Guardian](#))

20. Daniel Joseph Maldonado

- a. Foreign fighter, Texas: Charged in February 2007 with receiving training from al-Qaeda in order to fight in Somalia. The Kenyan military captured Maldonado in Somalia in January 2007 and extradited him to the United States. He pled guilty in April 2007 to receiving military training from a terrorist organization and was sentenced to 10 years in prison followed by three years of supervised release. Maldonado was the first American to be charged with training to fight with al-Qaeda in Somalia.
- b. Converted after marrying and having a child. Maldonado and his wife began exploring different religions together. Maldonado had previously dropped out of high school during his junior year in 1997. He moved to Egypt in 2005 and ran an online forum, Islamic Networking.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), [New York Times](#), [Houston Chronicle](#))

21. Daniel Patrick Boyd

- a. Foreign fighter, North Carolina: Received military training in Pakistan and Afghanistan between 1989 and 1992. Boyd was arrested in July 2009 with seven others for planning to kidnap, kill, and maim people abroad. He pled guilty in February 2011 to related charges and was sentenced to 216 months in prison followed by five years of supervised release.
- b. Converted from Episcopalian Christianity in approximately 1987 after his mother married a Muslim man. Boyd moved to Pakistan in 1998. He was later arrested with his brother Charles for bank robbery and reportedly received prison visits from Islamic hardliners.
(Age at conversion: 17)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Associated Press](#), [CBS News](#), [FBI](#), [Washington Examiner](#))

22. [Daniel Seth Franey](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Washington: Alleged ISIS sympathizer who pled guilty to illegally possessing machine guns and other firearms in July 2016. Franey had previously been barred from possessing firearms because of a 2014 domestic violence-related Order of Protection. The FBI began investigating Franey after neighbors reported him to authorities because of his public support of ISIS. During encounters with undercover FBI agents, Franey praised Anwar al-Awlaki as a “scholar” who spoke “the truth.” Franey was sentenced to six years in prison in January 2017.
- b. Reportedly converted to Islam, though details of his conversion could not be determined. Franey served in the U.S. Army between 2002 and 2008. In 2013, he began posting extremist material and praising ISIS on Facebook.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Vice News](#), [Los Angeles Times](#))

23. Derrick Shareef

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Illinois: Arrested in December 2006 for planning to set

off grenades at an Illinois shopping mall. Shareef was sentenced to 35 years in prison after pleading guilty to related charges.

- b. Reportedly converted through the Nation of Islam as a teenager.

(Age of conversion: 16)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [NBC News](#), [ABC 7 Eyewitness News](#), [Anti-Defamation League](#), [WIFR](#), [Fox News](#))

24. Diego Chara

- a. Domestic terrorist, Florida: Arrested after allegedly issuing death threats and shouting “allahu akbar” (God is great) at a rabbi outside a local Miami synagogue in March 2015. Chara was charged with assault with religious prejudice and stalking. Chara has claimed that he never threatened the rabbi and just wanted to convert him. He was released on bond but rearrested the same day on immigration charges, and is awaiting deportation to Brazil.

- b. Converted to Islam from Christianity in 2012 while in prison on drug charges.

(Estimated age at conversion: 21)

(Sources: [Sun-Sentinel](#), [CBS Miami](#), [ABC Local 10 News](#), [Local 10 News](#), [Gatestone Institute](#))

25. Donald Ray Morgan

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, North Carolina: Moved to Lebanon in January 2014 and pledged allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi that June. Morgan was arrested upon his return to the United States in August 2014 on charges of attempt to illegally sell a rifle online as a felon. Morgan pled guilty to related charges in October 2014 and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

- b. Converted in 2008, a year after divorcing his wife. Morgan told NBC News that he first learned about Islam in a college class on contemporary Islam. He worked as a sheriff’s deputy and aspired to join U.S. Special Forces, having previously attended military school. Morgan claimed that he had an epiphany in 2012 that he had to commit to fully practicing Islam, and soon began posting more extreme Facebook posts and wearing traditional Islamic dress. He said he found order and discipline in Islam, and that he supports ISIS “because they’ve proven time and time again to put Islamic law as the priority and the establishment of an Islamic state as the goal.”

(Age at conversion: 37-38)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [New York Daily News](#), [NBC News](#), [ABC News](#))

26. Douglas McCain

- a. Foreign fighter, Minnesota: Left the United States to join ISIS in Syria around April 2014 and reportedly killed there four months later. McCain is believed to be the first American citizen to die fighting for ISIS.

- b. Converted to Islam from Christianity in 2004. McCain previously “loved” his Christian faith, according to his uncle. McCain was convicted of disorderly conduct in 2000 and arrested for misdemeanor theft in 2001. McCain wrote in a 2014 Twitter post that he “reverted to Islam 10 years ago” and “will never look back.” McCain

reportedly replaced his Facebook profile picture in January 2013 with a picture of U.S. foreign fighter and Islamic convert Troy Kastigar, who died in Somalia in 2009. (Estimated age at conversion: 22-23)

(Sources: [NBC News](#), [CNN](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Daily News](#), [Star Tribune](#))

27. Earnest James Ujaama

- a. Foreign fighter, Washington: Facilitated the travel of co-conspirators to Taliban training camps in Afghanistan in 2000. Ujaama pled guilty in April 2003 to conspiracy to provide material support to the Taliban. He was sentenced to two years in prison followed by three years of supervised release.
- b. Converted to Islam in or around 1997 after the conversion of his younger brother. Ujaama reportedly would mark down what he considered errors in Bibles and pressure his family to convert to Islam. He created the StopAmerica.org website between 2001 and 2002 in an effort to protest American foreign policy.

(Estimated age at conversion: 31)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Seattle Times](#))

28. [Elton Simpson](#)

- a. Domestic terrorist, Arizona: Killed by police alongside Nadir Soofi during a 2015 gun attack on a Draw Muhammad cartoon contest in Garland, Texas. Simpson was convicted in March 2011 of making a false statement to the FBI about his involvement in terrorism, misleading FBI agents about plans to wage jihad in Somalia. He was sentenced to three years' probation. Following the attack, ISIS called Simpson and Soofi their "soldiers" through posts disseminated on social media.
- b. Reportedly converted to Islam in high school and changed his name to Ibrahim, according to Usama Shami, president of the Islamic Community Center in Phoenix. Simpson allegedly began planning to travel to Somalia in 2009. Following his March 2011 conviction, Simpson's former public defender, Kristina Sitton, told CNN that she did not observe any signs of radicalization while meeting with Simpson in the Somalia case. Simpson allegedly changed his behavior following the federal case and stopped attending mosque regularly, according to Shami. Following the Garland attack, Shami told the *New York Times*, "There were no flashes of anger or radicalization, just an absence of happiness." Simpson reportedly used a portrait of AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki as his profile picture on Twitter.

(Estimated age at conversion: 13-19)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [International Business Times](#), [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#), [New York Times](#))

29. [Emanuel L. Lutchman](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, New York: Conspired with deceased Syrian-based ISIS operative Abu Issa Al-Amriki to attack a restaurant in Rochester, New York, on New Year's Eve 2016. Lutchman pled guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison and 50 years of supervised release in January 2017.
- b. Converted to Islam from Christianity at the state-run Wyoming Correctional Facility in Attica, New York. Lutchman. Believed to be suffering from mental illness, was in

and out of prison from the age of 16 and had also reportedly belonged to rival gangs the Bloods and the Crypts. In 2006, Lutchman was sentenced to five years in prison with 2.5 years of supervised release on charges of second-degree robbery. Released in September 2010, Lutchman returned to prison in June 2011 after violating his probation. Lutchman was in and out of prison from April 2012 to June 2013. According to authorities, Lutchman repeatedly tried to commit suicide in prison and after his release. According to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, Lutchman was radicalized online, having reportedly viewed Awlaki videos on his YouTube channel and linked to Awlaki videos on his Google Plus account.

(Estimated age at conversion: 25)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Buffalo News](#), [NBC News](#), [Syracuse.com](#), [YouTube](#), [Google Plus](#), [New York Times](#))

30. Emerson Winfield Begolly

a. Domestic terrorist, Pennsylvania. Administrator of the Islamist Internet forum Ansar al Mujahideen English Forum. Begolly posted music and writings praising Osama bin Laden and encouraged jihadists “to use firearms, explosives, and propane tanks against targets such as police stations, post offices, Jewish schools and daycare centers, military facilities,” and other infrastructure, according to the U.S. Justice Department. Begolly pled guilty in August 2011 to soliciting others to engage in acts of terrorism and assaulting FBI agents with a firearm, and was sentenced in July 2013 to 102 months in prison.

b. Reportedly converted to Islam but details could not be determined. Begolly’s father reportedly dressed him in Nazi uniforms as a child and impressed Nazi ideology on him, and Begolly reportedly engaged with the American neo-Nazi movement as young as age 14. Begolly had reportedly registered for classes through Penn State University’s World Campus before his arrest, but the university subsequently banned him from campus.

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [FBI](#), [ABC News](#), [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), [Daily Collegian](#))

31. Enrique Marquez

a. Domestic terrorist, California: Allegedly supplied two military-style rifles that Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik used in their December 2015 attack in San Bernardino. On February 14, 2016, Marquez pled guilty to conspiring with Farook and providing material support to terrorists.

b. Converted to Islam “around the time” that Farook began to consider an attack, according to an unidentified law enforcement source. Marquez listened to lectures by AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki from 2010 to 2011, and reportedly discussed Awlaki’s ideology with his co-conspirator, San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook.

(Estimated age at conversion: 23-24)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [U.S. Justice Department](#), [New York Times](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [CBS News](#))

32. Eric Harroun

- a. Foreign fighter, Arizona: Told his mother in December 2012 that he was going to fight in Syria, and was later found to have fought alongside the Free Syrian Army and the Nusra Front. Harroun returned to the United States in March 2013 and voluntarily spoke with the FBI. He was charged with conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and conspiracy to use destructive forces overseas. Harroun pled guilty to lesser charge and was sentenced to time served. He was found dead of an alleged drug overdose in April 2014.
- b. Converted to Islam in Tucson, Arizona, in May 2009. Harroun was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 2003. He visited Kuwait in 2005 and moved to Beirut, Lebanon, in 2008 but returned to the United States later that year. Harroun also traveled to Egypt in December 2010 to participate in protests against the government. He was a self-described heroin addict.
(Age at conversion: 26)
(Sources: [New Yorker](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [CNN](#), [Daily Beast](#), [New York Times](#))

33. [Harlem Suarez](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Florida: Accused of planning to build a bomb and bury it at a beach in Key West, Florida, in 2015. Suarez allegedly posted pro-ISIS messages on Facebook. He was convicted on January 31, 2017, of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and providing material support to terrorists.
- b. A “recent” convert to Islam at time of arrest in 2015, according to ABC.
(Estimated age at conversion: 22-24)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Reuters](#), [Miami Herald](#), [ABC 6 Action News WPVI-TV](#))

34. [Hasan Edmonds](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Illinois: Former National Guardsman arrested in March 2015 after plotting with his cousin Jonas Edmonds to attack the Joliet Armory, a military installation in Illinois. Edmonds pled guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, ISIS.
- b. Converted to Islam with other members of his family in or around 2005, according to his aunt, Tiffany Edmonds. Edmonds admitted that he had been radicalized online. He formally renounced ISIS in an April 2016 letter to a federal judge, claiming that he had been “led astray by the hateful rhetoric of a group who [in] reality [I] could care less about.” As part of the letter, Edmonds disavowed “the religion they claim to represent or the people they swear they wish to protect.”
(Estimated age at conversion: 12-13)
(Sources: [Chicago Tribune](#), [Daily Herald](#), [USA Today](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#))

35. Gregory Patterson

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, California: Joined a terror cell with Levar Haney Washington and others planning to target government, military, Jewish, and Israeli facilities around Los Angeles. Patterson conspired with others “to levy war against the government of the United States through terrorism, and to oppose by force the

authority of the United States government,” according to his 2008 plea agreement. He was sentenced in 2008 to 151 months in prison.

- b. Reportedly converted to Islam from Christianity while taking classes at El Camino College and California State University, Northridge. Patterson attended a lecture by Levar Haley Washington at a local Islamic center. He and Washington later joined extremist organization Jam’iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh.

(Estimated age at conversion: 18-23)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Orange County Register](#))

36. [Jaelyn Young](#)

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, Mississippi: Arrested in at a Mississippi airport in August 2015 while allegedly attempting to travel to ISIS-controlled territory with her fiancé, Muhammad Dakhllalla. Young pled guilty to conspiring to provide support to a foreign terrorist organization by attempting to travel to Syria in 2015. She was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

- b. Converted to Islam from Christianity in March 2015. Young reportedly experienced an emotional crisis while a student at Mississippi State University. Her boyfriend, Dakhllalla, introduced her to Islam, but Young told a federal judge that she convinced him to join ISIS with her. Young watched ISIS videos online with Dakhllalla, who claimed they were misled into believing ISIS was helping people in Iraq and Syria.

(Estimated age at conversion: 19-20)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#), [Associated Press](#))

37. James Cromitie

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, New York: Part of the so-called “Newburgh Four.” Cromitie was convicted with others in October 2010 of plotting to attack U.S. military planes with Stinger missiles and bomb Jewish targets in Bronx, New York. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

- b. Converted in prison from Baptist Christianity. Cromitie listed “Muslim” as his religious affiliation on formal prison documents by his third incarceration. The *New York Times* described Cromitie as a career criminal because of his 27 arrests, mostly for drug-related offenses. Cromitie had reportedly spent a total of 12 years in prison prior to his arrest in 2010.

(Estimated age at conversion: 20-29)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [New York Times](#))

38. James Elshafay

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, New York: Arrested in August 2004 for conspiring to detonate a bomb in the Herald Square Subway station in Manhattan. Elshafay pled guilty in October 2004 to conspiracy to damage or destroy a subway station by means of an explosive.

- b. Converted at age 12 at the insistence of his Egyptian father. Elshafay reportedly had a troubled childhood, failing the ninth grade three times before dropping out, drinking, and doing drugs. In 2002, Elshafay visited relatives in Egypt, a trip that authorities believe ignited his interest in Islam. A friend who worked in an Islamic bookshop

reportedly facilitated Elshafay's radicalization by providing him with extremist propaganda materials.

(Age at conversion: 12)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [NYPD](#), [New York Times](#))

39. Jamie Paulin-Ramirez

- a. Foreign fighter, Colorado: Arrested in 2010 and nicknamed "Jihad Jamie" in the media because of her association with Colleen LaRose, nicknamed "Jihad Jane." Both belonged to a cell in Ireland led by Irish jihadist Ali Charaf Damache. LaRose introduced Paulin-Ramirez to Damache online in July 2009 and Paulin-Ramirez flew to Ireland to marry him two months later. Paulin-Ramirez was arrested in Ireland with LaRose and others in a plot to kill a Swedish cartoonist. She pled guilty in March 2011 to providing material support to terrorists, and was sentenced in January 2014 to eight years in prison followed by three years of supervised release.
- b. Reportedly converted after marrying a Muslim man and changed her 6-year-old son's name from Christian to Walid. Paulin-Ramirez's parents told media that their daughter had been "brainwashed" by her husband. According to reports, Walid at one point told his grandmother to convert to Islam because Christians would burn in hell. (Estimated age at conversion: 30)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Reuters](#), [New York Daily News](#), [New York Daily News](#))

40. Jesse Curtis Morton

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, New York: Urged followers to kill the creators of Comedy Central show *South Park*. Convicted of conspiracy to solicit murder, Morton was hired in 2016 to work as a fellow at George Washington University's Program on Extremism. He was arrested in late December 2016 on drug and prostitution charges after allegedly answering an online ad for a prostitute and carrying cocaine.
- b. Converted to Islam in 1999. Morton praised AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki's ideology on his "Revolution Muslim" website, and posted multiple Awlaki speeches calling for the deaths of those who insult the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Morton was briefly incarcerated on drug charges as a teenager but had often managed to avoid arrest, according to his own account.

(Estimated age at conversion: 19-20)

(Sources: [FBI](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#), [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#))

41. John Allen Muhammad

- a. Domestic terrorist, Washington: Went on a shooting spree with Lee Boyd Malvo around Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia in October 2002, killing 10 people. Muhammad was sentenced to death and died of lethal injection on November 10, 2009.
- b. Converted in approximately 1987 after his first divorce. Born John Allen Williams, Muhammad was twice court-martialed while serving in the U.S. National Guard. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1985 and served in the Gulf War. Muhammad was rated an expert marksman in the military and was honorably discharged in 1994. He

reportedly belonged to the Nation of Islam with his second wife, and worked security at the group's 1995 Million Man March in Washington, D.C. Muhammad's second wife filed for divorce in 1999 and began a contentious custody battle.

(Estimated age at conversion: 27)

(Sources: [NBC News](#), [CNN](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#))

42. John Georgelas

a. Foreign fighter, Texas: Leading writer and producer of English-language propaganda for ISIS's magazines and radio programs. Georgelas reportedly encouraged ISIS leadership to declare a caliphate in early 2014. Journalist Graeme Wood dubbed Georgelas the "most important and prominent" American in ISIS.

b. Converted to Islam in November 2001 after taking a world religions class at Blinn College in Texas. After his conversion, Georgelas began using the name Yahya Abu Hassan. Georgelas came from a family with a history of U.S. military service. Growing up with medical issues, Georgelas became a frequent drug user in high school, and reportedly found solace in the anti-Islam messages of a Christian preacher.

(Age at conversion: 17)

(Sources: [Financial Times](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Atlantic](#), [Atlantic](#))

43. [John T. Booker](#)

c. Attempted domestic terrorist, Kansas: Pled guilty to conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction and other charges in relation to a 2014 Plot to attack the Fort Riley military base in Kansas. The FBI began tracking Booker in March 2014 after he posted to Facebook about "Getting ready to be killed in jihad..." Booker began planning an ISIS-inspired suicide bombing the following March, and recorded a martyrdom video to be released following his death. He pled guilty to conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction and other charges.

d. Converted to Islam before joining the military in February 2014. Booker later told investigators that he joined the military in order to wage holy war against the United States from within.

(Estimated age at conversion: 18-20)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Daily Beast](#))

44. [John Walker Lindh](#)

a. Foreign fighter, California: Departed for Afghanistan to join the Taliban after the September 11 attacks. Lindh was extradited to the United States in January 2002 following his capture by U.S. forces. He pled guilty later that year to providing material support to the Taliban and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

b. Converted to Islam in 1997.

(Age at conversion: 16)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [CNN](#))

45. [Jonas Edmonds](#)

a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Illinois: Arrested in March 2015 after plotting with his cousin Hasan Edmonds to attack the Joliet Armory, a military installation in Illinois.

Edmonds also conspired to facilitate Hasan Edmonds's travel to ISIS-held territory, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Edmonds pled guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and one count of making a false statement to a law enforcement official.

- b. Converted to Islam with other members of his family in or around 2005, according to Tiffany Edmonds, Jonas Edmonds's aunt. He admitted he had been radicalized online.

(Estimated age at conversion: 19-20)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [USA Today](#), [Daily Herald](#), [Chicago Sun Times](#), [Chicago Tribune](#))

46. Jose Padilla

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Illinois: Arrested at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in 2002 while returning from Pakistan. Padilla allegedly planned to detonate a dirty bomb in New York City on behalf of al-Qaeda. He was declared an enemy combatant and held in a South Carolina naval prison. Padilla was convicted in 2007 of lesser charges of conspiracy to murder, kidnap, and maim individuals in a foreign country, conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, and providing material support to terrorists. He was initially sentenced to 17 ½ years in prison, and resentenced in 2014 to 21 years.

- b. Converted to Islam in 1994. Padilla spent time in a Latin gang and juvenile detention as a teenager. At age 14, he and other friends assaulted and robbed three men. Padilla was reportedly later charged as an adult with assault, unlawful carrying of weapons, attempted theft, and firing a pistol at another driver during a road rage incident. Padilla reportedly learned about Islam in prison and sought out a mosque upon his release. He converted at the al-Iman mosque in Sunrise, Florida, with Imam Raed Awad, a fundraiser for the Hamas-linked Holy Land Foundation. Padilla moved to Cairo to study Islam, relocating to Pakistan soon after, where he married the widow of a jihadist militant.

(Estimated age at conversion: 23-24)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Washington Post](#), [Christian Science Monitor](#), [New York Times](#), [Time](#))

47. [Jose Pimentel](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, New York: Convicted of plotting multiple bomb attacks in New York and New Jersey in 2005 allegedly in retaliation for the death of AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki. Pimentel pled guilty to reduced charge of attempted criminal possession of a weapon in the first degree as a crime of terrorism. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison in 2014.

- b. Converted to Islam in 2004. Pimentel began reading the Quran, learning Arabic, and started the trueislam1.com website after separating from his wife, Pimentel's mother told media. Pimentel was also inspired by Osama bin Laden and Awlaki, according to U.S. authorities. The True Islam website also hosted al-Qaeda materials.

(Estimated age at conversion: 19-20)

(Sources: [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#), [CBS 2 New York](#))

48. Joseph Cohen

- a. Propagandist, Virginia: Helped found extremist website Revolution Muslim with Jesse Curtis Morton in December 2007. Cohen had sought to use the website to build support for al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, Anwar al-Awlaki, and violent jihad generally, according to U.S. authorities. Cohen pled guilty in October 2013 to using the Internet to place others in fear of serious bodily injury. He was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison in April 2014.
- b. Converted to Islam from Judaism in his late 20s after living in Israel and attending an Orthodox rabbinical school. Cohen took the name Yousef Mohamid Al-Khattab. He told CNN in a 2009 interview that he “love[s] [Osama bin Laden] more than I love myself.”

(Estimated age at conversion: 25-29)

(Sources: [NPR](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Post](#), [Fox News](#), [CNN](#))

49. Joshua Ray Van Haften

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, Wisconsin: Left the United States in August 2014 for Turkey with the intention of crossing into Iraq or Syria to join ISIS. Van Haften was arrested at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport upon his arrival there in April 2015. He pled guilty in October 2016 to attempting to provide material support to ISIS.
- b. Converted while in prison for nearly seven years for sexually assaulting a child. Haften was convicted in May 1999 on these charge at age 18. According to Van Haften’s mother, Van Haften took Islam very seriously as it had helped him deal with the frustration of registering as a sex offender. Van Haften was briefly married to a Muslim woman upon his release. He was reportedly “upset with the world” since suffering a head injury after being struck by a car while riding his bicycle at age 13, according to acquaintances. Van Haften posted videos of AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki to Facebook.

(Estimated age at conversion: 18-26)

(Sources: [Wisconsin State Journal](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Florida Department of Law Enforcement](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Wisconsin State Journal](#))

50. Justin Nojan Sullivan

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, North Carolina: Arrested in June 2015 after attempting to purchase a semi-automatic rifle and kill U.S. citizens on behalf of ISIS. Sullivan was also suspected of involvement in the December 2014 murder of his neighbor John Bailey Clark. He pled guilty in November 2016 to attempting to commit an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries.
- b. Converted to Islam “no later than” September 2014, according to the FBI. Sullivan began watching ISIS propaganda online in September 2014. He was reportedly in contact online with now-deceased ISIS computer hacker and British foreign fighter [Junaid Hussain](#). In early 2015, Sullivan began destroying his family’s Buddhist figurines, including by pouring gasoline and setting them on fire. Sullivan’s family notified law enforcement about his behavior in April 2015.

(Estimated age at conversion: 17-18)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [BBC News](#), [NBC News](#), [Daily Beast](#))

51. Kevin Lamar James

- a. Domestic terrorist, California: Former inmate in a California prison who formed the domestic terrorist group Jam'iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS) in 1997. JIS plotted to attack U.S. military facilities, Israeli government buildings, and Jewish synagogues in the Los Angeles area and recruited members to join JIS while in California's New Folsom Prison. JIS members conducted more than a dozen armed robberies to fund the group's planned attacks in Los Angeles. James admitted to conspiring "to levy war against the government of the United States through terrorism." He was sentenced to 16 years in federal prison in March 2009.
- b. Converted while in prison and began recruiting members for JIS. James was originally a member of the 76th Street Crips street gang and incarcerated in 1997 for armed robbery.

(Estimated age at conversion: 21)

(Sources: [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), [National Institute of Justice](#))

52. Kobie Diallo Williams

- a. Domestic terrorist, Texas: Attempted to donate to the Taliban and partake in paramilitary training abroad. Williams was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison in August 2009 after pleading guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to the Taliban, a foreign terrorist organization.
- b. Converted to Islam and took on the name Abdul Kabir. Williams was reportedly angered by the civilian casualties occurring in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to his lawyer. He began practicing paramilitary drills with three other Houston men in preparation for joining the Taliban in 2006.

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [NBC News](#), [RAND Corporation](#), [New York Times](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), [CBS News](#))

53. Kristen Douglas Welter

- a. Domestic terrorist, North Carolina: Attempted to kill a state trooper with a pipe bomb in Beaufort, North Carolina, in 1986. Welter was sentenced to 25 years in prison. While out on parole, Welter converted to Islam and visited Lebanon, where he may have had contact with Hezbollah members, according to U.S Customs and Border officials. The FBI had been watching Welter due to his interest in explosives and remote control airplanes. Welter was arrested in March 2012 for illegal possession of a firearm.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2006 and expressed extreme Islamist views on chat website PalTalk. Welter previously served in the U.S. Marine Corps and specialized in avionics.

(Estimated age at conversion: 48)

(Source: [Fox8](#))

54. Lee Boyd Malvo

- a. Domestic terrorist, Washington: Went on a shooting spree with John Allen Muhammad around Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia in October 2002, killing 10 people. He was sentenced to life in prison.
- b. Converted in Antigua after meeting John Allen Muhammad. Malvo's mother had left for the United States and Malvo moved in with Muhammad in January 2001. Malvo reportedly would argue with other students about Islam and dropped out of school. Muhammad gave Malvo Nation of Islam tapes to listen to at night.
(Estimated age at conversion: 15)
(Sources: [NBC News](#), [ABC News](#), [New York Times](#))

55. Levar Haney Washington

- a. Domestic terrorist, California: Member of domestic terror group Jam'iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS) in Los Angeles. JIS leader Kevin Lamar James recruited Washington in 2004 while in California's New Folsom Prison. Washington admitted in court in 2008 to plotting to "levy war against the government of the United States through terrorism," and conducted over a dozen armed robberies to help fund JIS terrorist plots. He was sentenced to 22 years in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam and recruited to JIS in 2004 while in prison. It was there that Washington reportedly swore an oath of allegiance and obedience to JIS.
(Estimated age at conversion: 24)
(Sources: [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), [Anti-Defamation League](#))

56. Mark Fidel Kools

- a. Domestic terrorist, Kentucky: A sergeant in the U.S. Army who threw grenades into the tents of his comrades at a military command center in Kuwait, killing two soldiers and wounding 14 others. Kools conducted the March 2003 attack out of resentment, according to a U.S. Army spokesperson. Supervisors previously described Kools as having "an attitude problem" and had reprimanded him for insubordination. Kools revealed at trial that he wanted to stop U.S. troops from killing fellow Muslims. He was sentenced to death in 2005. An appeals court upheld the sentence in August 2015.
- b. Converted sometime during his time at the University of California, Davis, between 1988 and 1997, earning dual degrees in aeronautical and mechanical engineering. His mother reportedly changed his name to Hasan Akbar after she remarried when Kools was a child. Kools was "indoctrinated in the Nation of Islam's militant teachings" at a young age, his defense attorneys wrote in a legal brief. Kools enlisted in the Army in 1998.
(Estimated age at conversion: 17-26)
(Sources: [Washington Post](#), [McClatchy](#), [Fox News](#), [Fox News](#))

57. Michael Finton

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Illinois: Arrested in September 2009, during a sting operation in which FBI agents posed as al-Qaeda members. Finton attempted to blow

up the federal courthouse in Springfield, Illinois, according to the FBI. He pled guilty in 2011 to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction against property owned by the United States, and was sentenced to 28 years in prison.

- b. Converted and reportedly radicalized while serving a 2001-2006 prison sentence for aggravated robbery and aggravated battery. Later known as Talib Islam, Finton wrote on his MySpace page that he “hated” himself before his conversion. He reportedly posted quotes by AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki on his MySpace page and spoke to co-workers about his desire to move to Saudi Arabia because America isn’t “strict enough.”

(Estimated age of conversion: 20-26)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Reuters](#), [CNN](#), [NBC News](#), [New York Times](#))

58. Michael Dale McCright

- a. Domestic terrorist, Washington: Attempted to force two U.S. Marines off of a highway in July 2011. McCright was arrested in September 2011 and later pled guilty to felony harassment and attempted malicious mischief. He had been in contact with Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif, who had been arrested in June 2011 for plotting to kill federal employees and U.S. military personnel.
- b. Conversion details could not be determined. McCright called himself “Mikhail Jihad” in his social media profiles. He had previously been convicted for robbery charges in 2006 and assault charges in 2005.

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [Seattle Times](#), [Seattle Times](#), [Anti-Defamation League](#))

59. Michael Julius Ford

- a. Domestic terrorist, Colorado: Opened fire at his place of work, a Safeway distribution center, in July 2006, killing a co-worker and injuring five others. Ford was reportedly upset because people were making fun of his religion at work. He was shot and killed by responding police.
- b. Converted at 18 and claimed the attack was “Allah’s choice.”

(Estimated age at conversion: 18)

(Sources: [Denver Post](#), [ABC 7](#))

60. [Michael Todd Wolfe](#)

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, Texas: Attempted to travel to Canada on his way to Syria to join ISIS or the Nusra Front. Wolfe was arrested at the George H.W. Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, on June 17, 2014. He pled guilty to attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization and was sentenced in June 2015 to 82 months in prison.
- b. Convert to Islam, according to a report by the *New York Times*. After his plea agreement, Wolfe’s wife told media that undercover FBI agents pressured him to travel to Syria. Wolfe was previously convicted of theft and assault, which he claimed made it difficult to find employment.

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [New York Times](#), [American-Statesman](#), [New York Times](#))

61. Miguel Alejandro Santana

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, California: Plotted to travel to join the al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan and fight against U.S. troops. Santana participated in paramilitary training in southern California to prepare for jihadist activity in Afghanistan. The FBI arrested Santana in November 2012 while he was attempting to drive to Mexico and later fly to Afghanistan. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in March 2015.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2010 after being introduced to Anwar al-Awlaki's lectures by co-conspirator Sohail Omar Kabir. Santana was reportedly heavily influenced by Awlaki.

(Estimated age at conversion: 19)

(Sources: [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), [Reuters](#), [CBS News](#))

62. Naser Jason Abdo

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Texas: Soldier who planned an attack in July 2011 modeled after the 2009 Fort Hood shooting. Abdo was sentenced in August 2012 to two consecutive life prison sentences for the attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, the possession of a weapon in furtherance of a federal crime of violence, and the attempted murder of officers or employees of the United States. Abdo was absent without leave from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, at the time of his arrest.
- b. Converted at age 17. Abdo refused to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan prior to going AWOL on July 4, 2011. He claimed that he planned the attack "because I don't appreciate what my unit did in Afghanistan."

(Age at conversion: 17)

(Sources: [FBI](#), [ABC News](#), [BBC News](#))

63. [Nicholas Rovinski](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Rhode Island: Accused of plotting to behead controversial blogger Pamela Geller in New York alongside suspected co-conspirators David Daoud Wright and Usaamah Abdullah Rahim. Rovinski was arrested in June 2015. He confessed to FBI agents that he was "at war" with non-ISIS supporters. Rovinski pledged support to ISIS and attempted to recruit others to jihad while in prison. Rovinski pled guilty in September 2016 to conspiracy to support ISIS and to committing acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2013. Rovinski told CNN he had been an agnostic but his search for "truth and guidance" had led him to Islam. Rovinski also told CNN that he kept his radical interpretation of Islam a secret when he attended a local mosque. Rovinski said in an affidavit he was "drawn to the teachings of [ISIS] because they represent the most pure and honest form of the religion."

(Estimated age at conversion: 22)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Boston Globe](#), [CNN](#), [NBC News](#))

64. [Nicholas Teasant](#)

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, California: Attempted to travel to Canada in March 2014 in order to continue on to Syria to join ISIS. The FBI and border officials arrested Teasant while he was trying to cross into Canada. Teasant had also allegedly planned to target the Los Angeles subway system, but abandoned his plans. He pled guilty in December 2015 to attempting to provide material support or resources to a terrorist organization, and was sentenced in June 2016 to 12 years in prison followed by 25 years of supervised release.
- b. Converted to Islam around 2013 as a student at Delta College in Michigan, reportedly to attract the attention of a girl there. Teasant wrote in a blog that he converted after feeling uninspired at church. Teasant enlisted in the U.S. National Guard in April 2012, but did not meet academic requirements for basic training, and was pending discharge at the time of his arrest. He allegedly posted on Instagram in May 2013 that he “would love to join Allah’s army but I don’t even know how to start.” Teasant reportedly downloaded AQAP’s English-language magazine, *Inspire*, to his laptop computer and watched online videos of AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki.
(Estimated age at conversion: 20)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [MSNBC](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [CBS News](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [New York Daily News](#), [Sacramento Bee](#))

65. [Nicole Mansfield](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, Michigan: Died while fighting in Syria’s civil war in May 2013. Mansfield was the first American to be killed in the conflict. Sunni Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham claimed that she was fighting with them, though the Syrian government asserted she was a member of an affiliated group, al-Qaeda’s Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front. Mansfield posted pictures on Facebook of the uprisings during the Arab Spring as well as the Syrian civil war.
- b. Converted in 2007. Mansfield reportedly became pregnant at age 15 and dropped out of high school. She had been raised as a Baptist and began studying Islam at a mosque in Flint, Michigan, in 2007. Mansfield met a man from Dubai online and married him several years later, though the marriage reportedly did not last.
(Estimated age at conversion: 27)
(Sources: [New York Times](#), [USA Today](#), [BBC News](#))

66. [Noelle Velentzas](#)

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, New York: Conspired with former roommate Asia Siddiqui to build bombs for ISIS-inspired attacks within the United States. Velentzas was charged with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction in the United States in April 2015. She pled not guilty in May 2015. Velentzas and Siddiqui claimed to be citizens of ISIS’s caliphate.
- b. Converted to Islam between 2004 and 2005 as a teenager after years of observing the “peace” enjoyed by Muslim students at her high school, according to ABC News. Velentzas reportedly began attending the Masjid Al-Hamdulillah mosque in Queens, New York, with her accused co-conspirator, Asia Siddiqui, in or around 2010. She reportedly kept a picture of Osama bin Laden on her phone and became obsessed with pressure cookers after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

(Age at conversion: 17)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [CBS 2 New York](#), [ABC News](#), [CNN](#), [New York Daily News](#))

67. Norman Leboon

a. Domestic terrorist, Pennsylvania: Threatened to kill U.S. Representative Eric Cantor and his family in March 2010. Leboon had previously been arrested on charges of terrorist threats, assault, and recklessly endangering another person. In November 2010, Leboon pled guilty to threatening to kill Cantor and was sentenced the following April to 24 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release.

b. Reportedly converted to Islam but conversion details could not be determined.

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [USA Today](#), [FBI](#), [Newsmax](#), [Washington Post](#))

68. October Martinique Lewis

a. Domestic terrorist, Oregon: Member of a domestic terror cell known as the “Portland Seven.” Lewis wired money at least six times in 2001 to ex-husband Jeffery Leon Battle, who was fighting with al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Lewis pled guilty in September 2003 to six counts of money laundering. The so-called Portland Seven have been charged with conspiracy to wage war against the United States and provide material support and resources to al-Qaeda, among other charges.

b. Converted with her then-boyfriend Jeffrey Leon Battle after the couple reportedly watched the movie “Malcolm X.” The pair subsequently became “very obsessed” with Islam, according to Battle’s mother. They moved to Oregon and reportedly began wearing traditional Islamic clothing. Lewis divorced after just five months of marriage but continued to live with her ex-husband, who later became a foreign fighter for al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [CBS News](#), [New York Daily News](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#))

69. [Samuel Rahamin Topaz](#)

a. Attempted foreign fighter, New Jersey: Arrested in June 2015 at his home in Fort Lee, New Jersey, for conspiring with fellow ISIS supporters Munther Omar, Alaa Saadeh, and Nader Saadeh to join the group abroad. Topaz pled guilty in September 2015 to conspiracy to provide services and personnel to the foreign terrorist organization.

b. Converted to Islam in high school in or around 2014 after co-conspirator and former Fort Lee High School classmate Nader Saadeh introduced him to the religion. Topaz was raised by a Jewish father and a Christian mother. Former high school classmates remember Topaz for his involvement in theater, football, and track. Accepted to Boston’s Berklee College of Music, Topaz did not attend for financial reasons. He later posted on Facebook that he was undertaking a fast between December 31, 2014, and January 30, 2015, to “cleanse” himself and “remove all the loneliness by bringing me to my closest friend, Allah(SWT).” On March 7, 2015, he changed his profile picture to a collage of himself wearing various colored keffiyehs (checkered scarves) covering his face with the caption, “which assassin am i, or am i all of them?!?!?”

(Estimated age at conversion: 15-18)

(Sources: [FBI](#), [The Record](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice, NJ.com](#))

70. [Shannon Maureen Conley](#)

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, Colorado: Arrested in April 2014 aboard a plane at Denver International Airport. According to court documents, Conley had intended to fly to Germany and then Turkey in order to join ISIS in Syria. There, Conley planned to marry a Tunisian jihadist whom she had met online. Conley pled guilty in January 2015 to material support charges related to her attempt to join ISIS. She was sentenced to four years in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam during her junior year in high school. Conley began to wear traditional Islamic dress and pray three times a day in school, changing her name on Facebook to Halima. Conley also reportedly owned DVDs and CDs of lectures by AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki. She began attending the reportedly pro-Israel Faith Bible Church while in full Islamic garb in the fall of 2013, claiming to be doing research. Conley became the subject of an FBI investigation after she was reportedly asked not to return to the church. Conley said in a later affidavit that “If they think I’m a terrorist, I’ll give them something to think I am.” She signed up for a weekend-long program with the U.S. Army Explorers to receive military training so she could “go overseas to wage jihad,” she later told the FBI. Conley’s father later told the FBI that he hadn’t realize the extent of his daughter’s radicalization.

(Estimated age of conversion: 15-17)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [CNN](#), [Denver Channel](#), [Los Angeles Times](#))

71. Shelton Thomas Bell

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, Florida: Traveled with a juvenile from Florida in 2012 through Israel, Poland, and eventually to Jordan in order to reach Yemen and join Ansar al-Sharia. Deported to the United States from Jordan in November 2012, and arrested and imprisoned in January 2013 on charges related to grand theft auto. Charged in prison that July with attempting to provide material support to Ansar al-Sharia in Yemen. He pled guilty in March 2014 to the terrorism charge and was later sentenced to 20 years in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2011. Reportedly became obsessed with AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki and mirrored Awlaki’s rhetoric in his own extremist statements online and in homemade videos. Federal authorities began investigating Bell after he tried to engage juveniles at the Jacksonville Islamic Center in talks of jihad and the Syrian civil war.

(Age at conversion: 17)

(Source: [U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida Jacksonville Division](#), [Florida Times-Union](#), [FBI](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Florida Times-Union](#), [Florida Times-Union](#))

72. [Sinh Vinh Ngo Nguyen](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, California: Traveled to Syria in December 2012 and fought with the Nusra Front for five months. Nguyen had posted on Facebook that he had a confirmed kill in Syria and was there to fight against the Assad regime. He returned to California in May 2013 and began speaking with undercover FBI agents posing as al-Qaeda recruiters while seeking to return to Syria. He was arrested October 11, 2013, while trying to board a bus to Mexico. Nguyen pled guilty to attempting to assist a known terrorist organization. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison in June 2014.
- b. Converted from Catholicism in 2011 and changed his name to Hasan Abu Omar Ghannoum. Though details of his conversion could not be determined, Nguyen reportedly self-radicalized.
(Estimated age at conversion: 22)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Daily Mail](#), [RAND Corporation](#), [New York Daily News](#), [CTC Sentinel](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Washington Times](#))

73. [Sixto Ramiro Garcia](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, Texas: Mexican-born U.S. resident who traveled to Syria to join ISIS in February 2014. Garcia was reportedly killed in Syria in September 2015.
- b. Convert to Islam, according to the *Daily Caller*. Garcia used the name Abdullah Ali after his conversion. Other conversion details could not be determined.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Washington Post](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Daily Caller](#))

74. [Tairod Nathan Webster Pugh](#)

- a. Attempted foreign fighter, New Jersey: U.S. Air Force veteran who attempted to travel to Syria to join ISIS. Pugh was the first American to be convicted in a jury trial of providing material support to ISIS.
- b. Converted to Islam after moving to Texas in 1998, according to federal authorities. Pugh posted quotes by AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki on social media. He reportedly expressed support for Osama bin Laden while working as a mechanic for American Airlines in 2001. A coworker reported the incident the FBI. Pugh had 130 jihadist propaganda videos on his laptop, according to prosecutors.
(Estimated age at conversion: 28-30)
(Sources: [CNN](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [ABC News](#))

75. Terry Lee Loewen

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Kansas: Arrested in December 2013 while attempting to plant a bomb at the Wichita Mid-Continent Airport, where he worked as an avionics technician. Loewen had expressed a desire to engage in violent jihad on a civilian target during discussions with an undercover FBI agent. He pled guilty in June 2015 to attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.
- b. Converted in 2008. Claimed in an e-mail to an undercover FBI agent that he radicalized after visiting Jesse Curtis Morton's website, Revolution Muslim. Loewen claimed that he had been inspired from the teachings of Osama bin Laden and Anwar

al-Awlaki and had downloaded thousands of pages of text related to violent jihad. Local mosques disavowed any familiarity with Loewen after his arrest.

(Estimated age at conversion: 53)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Wichita Eagle](#), [Daily Beast](#))

76. Walli Mujahidh

a. Attempted domestic terrorist, California: Purchased machine guns with Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif for an attack on the Military Entrance Processing Station in Seattle, Washington. Mujahidh was arrested in June 2011. He pled guilty in December 2012 and was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

b. Reportedly converted to Islam but details of his conversion could not be determined. Mujahidh was born Frederick Domingue, Jr. and reportedly suffers from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. He allegedly threatened to kill his wife before they separated in 2007.

(No estimated age at conversion)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Seattle Times](#))

77. Yong Ki Kwon

a. Domestic terrorist, Virginia: Part of U.S. case involving Virginia-based cell of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Kwon was sentenced to 11 ½ years in prison for traveling to Pakistan and seeking military training at a terrorist camp, but his sentence was reduced to three years once he agreed to assist the FBI.

b. Converted to Islam in 1997 as a student at Virginia Tech. After college, he met LeT-trained operative Randall Royer, who reportedly helped Kwon join an LeT training camp in Pakistan.

(Estimated age at conversion: 18-21)

(Sources: [CNN](#), [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [New York Times](#))

78. Zachary Adam Chesser

a. Attempted domestic terrorist and foreign fighter, Virginia: Known for urging attacks against the writers of the television show *South Park* alongside U.S. citizen Jesse Morton. Chesser attempted to travel to Somalia in July 2010 to join al-Shabab, but was arrested at the airport. In October 2010, he pled guilty to “communicating threats against the writers of the *South Park* television show, soliciting violent jihadists to desensitize law enforcement, and attempting to provide material support” to al-Shabab. In February 2011, Chesser received a 25-year sentence.

b. Converted to Islam in summer of 2008 while playing on a soccer team organized by a member of extremist organization Hizb ut-Tahrir. Chesser’s writing was published on a blog belonging to Anwar al-Awlaki, with whom Chesser was in contact via e-mail.

(Estimated age at conversion: 18)

(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#))

79. Zale Thompson

- a. Domestic terrorist, New York: Used a hatchet to attack a group of four police officers in Queens, New York, on October 23, 2014, critically injuring one. Police shot and killed Thompson. The New York Police Department labeled the attack a terrorist act.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2012 and reportedly self-radicalized. Thompson's parents described him to CNN as a "depressed recluse." Police reported that Thompson's Internet search history within the nine months preceding the attack included 277 websites related to beheadings, al-Qaeda, ISIS, and al-Shabab. Thompson also reportedly posted anti-white, anti-Christian, and pro-jihad comments on social media. Thompson was angered by a recent series of deaths at the hands of police, according to Frank Sha Francois, president of the Queens chapter of the New Black Panther Party. ISIS praised Thompson in its English-language magazine *Dabiq* as a paradigm of a lone-wolf attacker.

(Estimated Age at Conversion: 30)

(Sources: [Reuters](#), [NYPD](#), [CNN](#), [New York Times](#), [ABC News](#))

CANADA

1. Aaron Yoon

- a. Foreign fighter, Ontario: Arrested in Mauritania in 2011 on terrorism-related charges. Yoon returned to Canada after serving 18 months in prison, during which time Yoon alleged authorities had tortured him into confessing he intended to join al-Qaeda in Mali. Two Canadian friends, with whom Yoon was traveling, went on to join al-Qaeda-linked group al-Mourabitoun. Yoon maintains he traveled abroad to study the Quran and Arabic.
- b. Converted to Islam in or around 2009. Yoon was reportedly recruited in Mauritania by a radical al-Qaeda-linked cleric named Mohamed Hafez Ould Cheikh, according to Mauritanian officials.

(Estimated age at conversion: 20)

(Sources: [CTV News](#), [Globe and Mail](#), [Toronto Star](#), [National Post](#), [National Post](#))

2. Amanda Korody

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, British Columbia: Plotted with her common-law husband, John Stewart Nuttall, to set off bombs filled with rusty nails during Canada Day celebrations at the Victoria legislature in 2013. Korody and Nuttall were arrested during a sting operation in which Canadian police provided fake explosives. She was convicted in June 2015, but the conviction was overturned in July 2016 after a judge ruled that Canadian authorities had entrapped Nuttall and Korody.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2011. Reportedly a mentally ill, recovering drug addict on methadone living off of social welfare. Korody began to wear a burka and attend a local mosque with Nuttall. Began listening to recordings of radical Islamic lectures and music in 2013, according to neighbors.

(Estimated age at conversion: 27)

(Sources: [Vancouver Sun](#), [Vancouver Sun](#), [National Post](#), [Vice News](#), [Vancouver Sun](#))

3. Andre Poulin
 - a. Foreign fighter, Ontario: Joined ISIS in 2012 and appeared in recruitment videos. Died in battle against Syrian forces in 2013.
 - b. Converted to Islam in 2008 after two arrests. Reportedly learned how to build explosives as a teenager while considering becoming an anarchist or a communist. Moved in with a Muslim family in 2009, and—after having an affair with the wife—made violent threats against the husband for not being religious enough. Arrested at least twice in 2009 for the threats.
(Estimated age at conversion: 17-18)
(Sources: [CBC](#), [New York Times](#))

4. Damian Clairmont
 - a. Foreign fighter, Alberta: Flew to Istanbul and crossed the border into Syria. Clairmont died in January 2014 fighting on behalf of ISIS against Syrian rebels of the Free Syrian Army near Aleppo, Syria.
 - b. A “recent” convert to Islam who began worshipping at a downtown Calgary mosque in 2012, according to a report by CNN. Reportedly converted to Islam after attempting suicide.
(Estimated age at conversion: 13-19)
(Sources: [National Post](#), [CNN](#))

5. Jahmaal James
 - a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Ontario: One of the so-called “Toronto 18,” James was arrested in 2006 for traveling to Pakistan in 2005 to receive paramilitary training and of knowingly participating in a terrorist group there. He was sentenced to time served.
 - b. Converted in his 20s from Christianity. James pled guilty to terrorism-related crimes in 2010 and claimed to have de-radicalized himself as he dove deeper into the religion.
(Age at conversion: 20-29)
(Source: [Toronto Star](#))

6. John Maguire
 - a. Foreign fighter, Ontario: Left Ottawa for Syria in January 2013 and was reportedly killed fighting alongside ISIS in Kobani, Syria, in January 2015.
 - b. Reportedly became interested in Islam while attending Los Angeles Community College in 2009. Maguire converted to Islam around the time when he returned to Canada to begin classes at Ottawa University in September 2010. He began posting about the brutality of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad during his fall 2012 term at Ottawa University. He reportedly used the online alias “Yahya Maguire,” claiming that Canada was “evil” and that joining ISIS offered “the reward of jihad” and “the opportunity for martyrdom.”
(Estimated age at conversion: 18-23)
(Sources: [Ottawa Citizen](#), [CBC](#), [National Post](#), [International Business Times](#))

7. John Stewart Nuttall

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, British Columbia: Plotted with his common-law wife, Amanda Korody, to set off bombs filled with rusty nails during Canada Day celebrations at the Victoria legislature in 2013. Nuttall was arrested during a sting operation in which Canadian police supplied him fake explosives. Convicted in June 2015, but his conviction was overturned in July 2016 after a judge ruled that Canadian authorities had entrapped Nuttall and Korody.
 - b. Converted in 2011. Nuttall was reportedly mentally ill and a recovering drug addict on social welfare. He began listening to recordings of radical Islamic lectures and music in 2013, according to neighbors. Nuttall was previously convicted and imprisoned on drug charges, as well as robbery, kidnapping, and aggravated assault. (Estimate age at conversion: 36)
(Sources: [Vancouver Sun](#), [Vancouver Sun](#), [Vancouver Sun](#), [National Post](#), [Global News](#), [Times Colonist](#), [Times Colonist](#), [Vice News](#), [Georgia Straight](#))
- 8. Martin Couture-Rouleau**
- a. Domestic terrorist, Quebec: First Canadian to successfully carry out a domestic terror attack in the name of Islam on October 20, 2014. Used his car to carry out a hit-and-run attack against two Canadian soldiers in a commercial plaza parking lot in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Called 911 as he drove away to report that he carried out the attack “in the name of Allah.” Crashed his car into a ditch after a short police chase. Police fatally shot Couture-Rouleau after he reportedly charged at them with a knife. One of the soldiers later died of his injuries.
 - b. Converted to Islam in April 2013 and promptly changed his name on Facebook to “Ahmad the Converted.” Couture-Rouleau soon began to grow his beard and wear Islamic robes. He reportedly told his friends he was sending money to Syria. His ex-wife began restricting his visits with their 3-year-old child in May 2014. Couture-Rouleau reportedly followed several jihad- and ISIS-related Twitter accounts. On October 17, 2014, he changed his Facebook picture to a hallway with two doors, one leading to heaven and the other to hell. Experts reportedly labeled Couture-Rouleau’s radicalization as a “quest for personal significance” after significant failure. Couture-Rouleau reportedly became an “angry shut-in” after the 2012 failure of a pressure-washing business he started that March, according to a report by the *Calgary Herald*. Rouleau had attended classes for troubled children as a child and his parents separated when he was young. In his teenage years, Rouleau played poker and smoked marijuana. He divorced his wife in April 2011 soon after she gave birth. (Estimated age at Conversion: 23-24)
(Sources: [CBC](#), [Calgary Herald](#), [International Business Times](#), [National Journal](#))
- 9. Michael Zehaf-Bibeau**
- a. Domestic terrorist, Ontario: Attacked Parliament Hill and killed Corporal Nathan Cirillo as he guarded the National War Memorial in Ottawa, Ontario, on October 22, 2014. Zehaf-Bibeau died in an ensuing shootout with police.
 - b. Converted to Islam in or around 2004. Reportedly sought prison time as penance for past drug crimes. Though precise details of Zehaf-Bibeau’s radicalization are not known, investigators say that he self-radicalized and exchanged e-mail with extremist figures.

(Estimated age at conversion: 22)

(Sources: [CNN](#), [CBC](#), [Toronto Star](#), [CNN](#), [CBC](#))

10. Steven Vikash Chand

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Ontario: Charged in 2006 with training for the purpose of terrorist activity and recruiting or training others for the purpose of terrorist activity as part of the so-called Toronto 18 terrorist cell. The cell sought to attack government sites and behead hostages if Canada did not withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and release Muslim political prisoners. Chand was convicted in June 2010 and sentenced to 10 years in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam from Hinduism in 2002. Chand began using the name Abdul Shakur and attending the Salaheddin Islamic Centre. He was a member of the Royal Regiment Canada, a reservist unit, from June 2000 to April 2004, where he reportedly spent most of his time on leave of absence.

(Estimated age at conversion: 21)

(Sources: [CBS News](#), [Globe and Mail](#), [ABC News](#))

11. Xristos Katsiroubas

- a. Foreign fighter, Ontario: Participated in al-Mourabitoun's January 2013 attack on Algerian gas plant alongside friend and Canadian national Ali Medlej. Katsiroubas died when he blew himself up in the apparent suicide attack. He reportedly assisted in building bombs and handled explosives and weaponry.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2004. Raised Greek Orthodox but shunned his name and called himself Mustafa. Katsiroubas met Medlej in high school at London South Collegiate Institute in Ontario.

(Estimated age at conversion: 14-19)

(Sources: [National Post](#), [CBC News](#), [London Free Press](#))

PART II: EUROPEAN & AUSTRALIAN EXTREMIST CONVERTS

In May 2015, the *Washington Post* reported that as many as one in six Europeans joining ISIS are converts to Islam. In France, the ratio of converts among those joining ISIS is even higher: about one in four, according to European intelligence officials and terrorism experts. Of these foreign fighters, a considerable number were teenagers. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

Prominent examples of European and Australian extremist converts include British-born Sally Jones and Australian-born Musa Cerantonio, both of whom have become high-level advocates for ISIS. On May 22, 2017, British-born convert Khalid Masood carried out a vehicular and stabbing attack in London, resulting in the deaths of at least four people.

CEP has documented 41 cases in which recent converts have either attempted or succeeded in becoming foreign fighters (16), domestic terrorists (21), or propagandists and recruiters (10) for extremist and terrorist groups. Of these cases, 25 (61 percent) converted at or before the age of 25.

1. [Abu Izzadeen](#)

- a. Propagandist, United Kingdom: Islamist propagandist and radical cleric who has been imprisoned in the United Kingdom for inciting and fundraising for terrorism and for association with radical Islamist groups. Brooks was found guilty of inciting terrorism in 2008 but was released early in 2009. He was again arrested in November 2015 at a Hungarian border crossing aboard a train bound for Romania, in violation of parole, and was subsequently deported back to the United Kingdom.
- b. Converted at age 17. Born Trevor Brooks, Izzadeen reportedly radicalized in the 1990s after meeting [Omar Bakri Muhammad](#) at London's Finsbury Park Mosque. He became a bodyguard for Bakri Mohammad and a primary spokesman for Al Ghurabaa, an extremist group founded by some of Bakri Muhammad's followers. (Age at conversion: 17)
(Sources: [BBC News](#), [Telegraph](#), [Telegraph](#), [BBC News](#), [BBC News](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Associated Press](#))

2. Alexandre Dhaussy

- a. Domestic terrorist, France: Charged with attempted murder linked to a terrorist enterprise for stabbing a French soldier in a business neighborhood of Paris.
- b. Converted to Islam just before his 18th birthday. Dhaussy reportedly self-radicalized and had a history of petty crimes that included illegal arms possession and mugging. He was reportedly never convicted, though. (Age at conversion: 17)
(Sources: [Telegraph](#), [Al-Arabiya](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

3. Andrew Ibrahim

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Arrested April 2008 after he made extremist comments in several Bristol mosques. Fellow Muslims grew concerned and

- reported him to the police, who found explosives, two vests, and shrapnel in his Bristol apartment.
- b. Converted to Islam around 2005 or 2006 after his parents' divorce. Ibrahim dropped out of school at the same time and moved into a hostel for the homeless.
(Estimated age at conversion: 15-17)
(Source: [Jamestown Foundation](#))
4. Andrew Rowe
- a. Attempted foreign fighter, United Kingdom: British national who was arrested in 2003 on the French side of the Channel Tunnel after being found with traces of high explosives on his clothes. Subsequent raids of his west London home turned up recordings of Osama bin Laden and instructions on firing battlefield weaponry. Rowe was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2005.
 - b. Converted to Islam in the 1990s in order to extract himself from a lifestyle of selling and using drugs, according to personal testimony during his trial. He changed his name to Yusef Abdullah.
(Age at conversion: 19)
(Sources: [BBC News](#), [Guardian](#))
5. Antonio Sáez Martínez
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Spain: Arrested in Barcelona in 2015 as the leader of a terrorist cell named the "Islamic Fraternity for the Preaching of Jihad." Also known as "Ali the Barber," he reportedly discussed raids against Spanish security forces.
 - b. Converted to Islam on July 13, 2012, reportedly after marrying a Muslim woman. Martínez reportedly began writing about jihad and martyrdom in his journal on September 14, 2012.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Henry Jackson Society](#), [Gatestone Institute](#))
6. Bertrand Nzohabonayo
- a. Domestic terrorist, France: A Burundi-born French national killed after attacking three police officers with a knife outside a police station in Joue-les-Tours, France, on December 20, 2014. Nzohabonayo posted an ISIS flag on Facebook shortly before the attack.
 - b. Convert to Islam "several years" before the attack, according to the *Telegraph* and subsequently changed his first name to Bilal. Authorities believe that Nzohabonayo radicalized online. He reportedly "flaunted his radicalization on Facebook," according to a report by Vice News.
(Estimated age at conversion: 15-19)
(Sources: [Wall Street Journal](#), [Telegraph](#), [Henry Jackson Society](#), [Vice News](#))
7. Brian Young
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Arrested in August 2006 for his involvement in a plot to bomb aircraft. Released a 19-minute video saying that he was personally inspired to become a suicide bomber by Osama bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Omar.

- b. Converted to Islam in 2003 or 2004 and changed his name to Umar Islam.
(Estimated age at conversion: 23-25)
(Sources: [USA Today](#), [BBC News](#))
- 8. Brusthom Ziamani**
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Arrested in August 2014 for plotting to decapitate a British soldier. Authorities arrested him as he was on his way to commit the attack, carrying an Islamic flag, a 12-inch knife, and a hammer.
 - b. Converted to Islam in April 2014. Ziamani was believed to be radicalized at some point in the four months between his conversion and his planned attack.
(Estimated age at conversion: 17-18)
(Source: [BBC News](#), [BBC News](#))
- 9. Cabezas Núñez**
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Spain: Arrested in Barcelona in 2015 as part of a terrorist cell named the “Islamic Fraternity for the Preaching of Jihad.”
 - b. Reportedly converted to Islam, though specific conversion details could not be determined.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Source: [Henry Jackson Society](#))
- 10. Christian Emde**
- a. Foreign fighter, Germany: First arrested by German officials in 2012 after he entered Britain with radical material on his laptop and British officials deported him back to Germany. Migrated to Iraq to join ISIS after his release and reportedly became a senior ISIS commander in Mosul.
 - b. Converted to Islam in 2003 and began calling himself Abu Malik al-Almani.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Daily Mail](#), [Sun](#))
- 11. Christian Ganczarski**
- a. Domestic terrorist, foreign fighter, and recruiter, Germany: Arrested in France in June 2003 for “association with terrorism” due to his involvement in the April 2002 bombing of a synagogue in Tunisia and for his ties to September 11 architect Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Other terrorists allege that Mohammed used Ganczarski to pass messages to Osama bin Laden. Ganczarski was an early member of al-Qaeda, recruiting foreign fighters in 1991 and studying Islam in Medina, Saudi Arabia in 1992. In the late 1990s he traveled to Afghanistan for training alongside jihadist militant groups.
 - b. Converted to Islam in the late 1980s after connecting with a Muslim co-worker from North Africa. Ganczarski subsequently left the country to study Islamic theology in Saudi Arabia.
(Estimated age at conversion: early 30s)
(Source: [Jamestown Foundation](#))
- 12. Daniel Schneider**

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Germany: Arrested on September 4, 2007, for activities as part of the German terrorist group Islamic Jihad Union (IJU): Schneider and two accomplices had reportedly been plotting terrorist attacks on German public sites and U.S. military bases in Ramstein. Schneider, who had trained in IJU camps along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, was sentenced to 12 years in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam at 19. Schneider later traveled to Egypt to learn Arabic and study the Quran.
(Age at conversion: 19)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of the Treasury](#), [Time](#), [Der Spiegel](#))

13. David Courtailler

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist and foreign fighter, France: Traveled to Afghanistan and trained in al-Qaeda's Khalden camp. From Afghanistan, Courtailler traveled back to Europe, where authorities believe he aided a cell planning a bombing attack. Courtailler had direct contact with Moroccan and Spanish extremists who would conduct the Madrid bombings. French courts convicted him in May 2004 for conspiring with terrorists. His brother Jérôme Courtailler is also suspected of supporting terrorism.
- b. Converted to Islam in 1997 while attempting to quit drugs and finding a support system in Muslims. Courtailler had reportedly grown up Catholic and spent a year in an elite army unit before he converted to Islam.
(Estimated age at conversion: 20-21)
(Sources: [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#), [BBC News](#))

14. Denis Cuspert

- a. Foreign fighter, Germany: A former German rapper who became known as a popular singer of nasheeds (Islamic devotional music) that praised Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda, and the Taliban. Cuspert left Germany for Syria in 2012 and joined ISIS in 2013. He reportedly died fighting for ISIS in April 2014.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2007. Also known as Deso Dogg and Abu Talha al-Almani. By 2010, Cuspert had joined Berlin's Al-Nur Mosque, which hosted proponents of violent extremism during the 1990s. Notable attendees of the mosque at the time include September 11 hijacker Mohammed Atta and other members of a Hamburg-based al-Qaeda cell. By 2011, Cuspert had gained a reputation in Germany for encouraging anti-Western messages and praising terrorism in his own *nasheeds*, including one from June 2011 that praised then recently deceased al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Cuspert swore allegiance to Taliban leader Mullah Omar later that summer and moved to Egypt in 2012.
(Estimated age at conversion: 32-33)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Slate](#), [Deutsche Welle](#), [New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

15. Fritz Gelowitz

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Germany: Arrested for a plot to bomb Americans in Germany on the sixth anniversary of September 11, 2001. Gelowitz traveled to Syria in 2005 to study Arabic and trained in an Uzbek camp in March 2006.

- b. Converted to Islam as a teenager and took the name Abdullah. A friend of his introduced him to radical Islam and Gelowitz became involved with the Multi-Kultur-Haus, a Bavarian-based center that preaches Wahhabism.
(Estimated age at conversion: 17)
(Sources: [Expatica](#), [Age](#))

16. Germaine Lindsay

- a. Domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Jamaican-born suicide bomber of the London Underground in July 2005.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2000 and subsequently changed his name to Abdullah Shaheed Jamal. Lindsay's mother, Mariam, converted when Lindsay was 15 or 16 years old, and reportedly encouraged her son to do the same. Lindsay began to wear traditional Islamic dress toward the end of his secondary schooling. He was disciplined at school for distributing al-Qaeda leaflets. Lindsay reportedly showed no signs of radicalization but was a "very, very strict Muslim," neighbors told the *Telegraph*. His father reported that their regular phone conversations with Lindsay abruptly ended two months before the 2005 bombings. He had reportedly attended south London's Brixton mosque with shoe bomber Richard Reid.
(Estimated age at conversion: 15-16)
(Sources: [Telegraph](#), [Guardian](#), [BBC News](#))

17. Jack Letts

- a. Foreign fighter, United Kingdom: Traveled to Syria and joined ISIS in 2014. Letts reportedly told his parents in September 2014 that he had joined ISIS. He has since appeared in ISIS propaganda videos, but has denied that he fights with ISIS. Letts has referred to the U.S.-led bombing of Syria as a plot "concocted in the diseased hearts and minds of some of Allah's enemies" in order to kill Muslims "one by one," according to an interview with the *Independent*. Letts has also called on fellow Britons to convert to Islam.
- b. Converted to Islam as a teenager.
(Estimated age at conversion: 13-19)
(Sources: [Guardian](#), [Independent](#))

18. Jacob Orellana Casado

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, Spain: Arrested in Barcelona as part of a terrorist cell named the "Islamic Fraternity for the Preaching of Jihad."
- b. Converted to Islam from Buddhism.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Source: [Henry Jackson Society](#))

19. Jason Walters

- c. Attempted domestic terrorist, Netherlands: Arrested in November 2004 after making plans to assassinate Dutch politicians, including two members of Parliament. Walters was a part of the Hofstad Network, a group of Dutch Muslims reportedly influenced by al-Qaeda. When police arrested Walters, he resisted, throwing a hand grenade at the law enforcement officers and wounding three.

- d. Converted in 2001, taking the first name Jamal. Walters was reportedly banned from local mosques due to his extremist beliefs. Walters allegedly traveled to Pakistan after his conversion, though his activity there could not be determined.
(Age at conversion: 16)
(Source: [Washington Post](#))

20. Jejoen Bontinck

- a. Foreign fighter, Belgium: Belgian national who migrated to Syria to join the Nusra Front in 2013. Bontnick's father, Dimitri, rescued him nine months later and returned him to Belgium, where he was arrested. Bontnick received a 40-month suspended sentence in 2015.
- b. Converted to Islam in August 2011 after meeting a Moroccan girl the year before. Three months later, a friend invited Bontinck to the headquarters of the Islamist proselytization group Sharia4Belgium. Bontnick subsequently adopted the Muslim name Sayfullah Ahlu Sunna and the nickname Abu Assya.
(Estimated age at conversion: 16-17)
(Sources: [New Yorker](#), [NPR](#), [Atlantic](#), [CNN](#))

21. Jérémie Louis-Sidney

- a. Domestic terrorist, France: In September 2012, Louis-Sidney's DNA was found at the scene of a grenade explosion that targeted a kosher market near Paris. A shootout broke out when French authorities attempted to arrest him and Louis-Sidney was fatally shot in the process.
- b. Converted to Islam as a teenager. Louis-Sidney reportedly had disciplinary issues as a child that resulted in his mother giving him up to state care. He later spent time in prison for drug trafficking, where he was reportedly radicalized.
(Estimated age of conversion: 17)
(Sources: [Nouvel Obs](#), [New York Times](#))

22. Jérôme Courtailler

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, France: Arrested in September 2001 for a plot to blow up the American embassy in Paris. Courtailler was acquitted of involvement in the bombing plot the next year. Courtailler was subsequently convicted by a Dutch court in 2004 for supporting a terrorist group through credit card fraud. Authorities believe that he also produced the fake passports used by suicide bombers who assassinated Ahmed Shah Massoud in the days before the September 11, 2001, attacks. His brother David Courtailler was a foreign fighter in Afghanistan.
- b. Converted to Islam from Catholicism in 1997 while seeking support for drug and alcohol use.
(Estimated age at conversion: 31-32)
(Sources: [New York Times](#), [BBC News](#), [Chicago Tribune](#))

23. Kathie Smith

- a. Propagandist, Germany: U.S.-born Smith married a suspected German jihadist with ties to the Islamic Jihad Union in 2009. In 2010, a pro-jihadist video featured Smith and her husband holding weapons alongside members of the Islamic Jihad Union in

- Germany. Smith posted pictures online of the German Taliban Muhahideen, a cell of German nationals connected to the Taliban. Smith publicly supports ISIS and the al-Qaeda networks, consistently posting and following terrorist organizations and Islamist extremists on social media, including Anwar al-Awlaki content. Smith was placed on probation by a German court in June 2012 for posting two videos online inciting violence. She flew an ISIS flag outside of her home in Saarbrücken, Germany, reportedly to protest the German acceptance of refugees.
- b. Reportedly converted to Islam and changed name to Zubaida, although specific conversion details could not be determined. Smith has labeled U.S. soldiers as “terrorists” and has praised their deaths in terrorist attacks.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Fox News](#), [PJ Media](#))

24. [Khalid Masood](#)

- a. Domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Murdered at least four people in a car-ramming and stabbing attack on March 22, 2017. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, calling Masood as a “soldier of the Islamic State.” British Prime Minister Theresa May revealed that Masood was long known to British intelligence service MI5, but that he was a “peripheral figure” who was not part of the “current intelligence picture.”
- b. Converted to Islam, though specific conversion details could not be determined. Masood was born Adrian Elms. He reportedly adopted his stepfather’s surname of Ajao after his mother remarried. Masood reportedly married a Muslim woman in 2004, though it is unclear whether or not he converted around the same time. Masood had a history of violent crime, including convictions for assaults, grievous bodily harm, and possession of a knife. Masood was first convicted in 1983 for criminal damage and last convicted in December 2003 for possession of a knife. He had no convictions for terror-related offenses. Masood spent time in three different prisons, leading to speculation among media and security sources that he radicalized in one of them. From 2005 to 2009, Masood lived in Saudi Arabia teaching English to workers at the General Authority of Civil Aviation. After his return to England, Masood lived for more than two years in the English city of Luton. Convicted English cleric and ISIS supporter [Anjem Choudary](#) reportedly regularly visited the city.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Guardian](#), [Argus](#), [Telegraph](#), [Independent](#), [Independent](#), [London Metropolitan Police](#), [Sun](#))

25. [Michael Adebolajo](#)

- a. Domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Murdered British soldier Lee Rigby in 2013. Sentenced to life in prison.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2003 under the direction of [Omar Bakri Mohammed](#), the so-called “Tottenham Ayatollah” of now-banned extremist group al-Muhajiroun.
(Estimated age at conversion: 18-19)
(Sources: [Independent](#), [Telegraph](#), [BBC News](#))

26. [Michael Adebowale](#)

- a. Domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Murdered British soldier Lee Rigby in 2013. Sentenced to a minimum of 45 years in prison.
- b. A convert to Islam who, according to the *Telegraph*, became “outwardly religious” in dress and started to disseminate Islamist literature after 2009.
(Estimated age: 17-18)
(Sources: [Independent](#), [Telegraph](#), [BBC News](#))

27. [Minh Quang Pham](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, United Kingdom: Pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, leaving to join the group in Yemen in December 2010. Trained with AQAP until April 2011, including with AQAP propagandist Anwar al-Awlaki. AQAP sent Pham to the United Kingdom with money to buy materials for and build bombs to set off at Heathrow Airport. Pham was arrested in June 2012 and extradited to the United States in February 2015. He pled guilty to terrorism-related charges in January 2016 and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.
- b. Converted in 2004 after meeting a Muslim classmate. Pham reportedly denounced his previous life of “night clubs, drugs and alcohol.” He traveled to India and Bangladesh in 2006 with Islamic outreach group Tablighi Jamaat, and credited the trip with inspiring him to help “heal the world.” During his trial, Pham admitted to being misled by AQAP propaganda.
(Age at conversion: 21)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [New York Daily News](#), [New York Times](#), [Telegraph](#), [BBC News](#))

28. [Musa Cerantonio](#)

- a. Propagandist and attempted foreign fighter, Australia: Islamist preacher who has inspired numerous foreign fighters to join jihadist groups in Syria. Cerantonio maintains that ISIS’s caliphate is a sign of the apocalypse and that the group will defeat Turkey in an apocalyptic battle. Named by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation as “an outspoken cheerleader for ISIS,” Cerantonio was arrested with four others in May 2016 for allegedly preparing to sail from Australia to Indonesia with the intent of joining ISIS in Syria. Cerantonio was subsequently charged with “making preparations for incursions into foreign countries for the purpose of engaging in hostile activities.”
- b. Converted from Christianity in 2000 after visiting the Vatican. Cerantonio changed his name from Robert to Musa. He began preaching online and hosted an Egyptian television show on Islam.
(Age at conversion: 17)
(Sources: [Guardian](#), [Daily Mail](#), [YouTube](#), [Guardian](#), [Herald Sun](#), [International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation](#))

29. [Neil Prakash](#)

- a. Recruiter, facilitator, and propagandist, Australia: U.S. and U.N.-designated Australian recruiter and facilitator for ISIS, also known as Abu Khaled al-Camboda. Repeatedly called for Muslims to join ISIS or execute domestic attacks. Stands accused of directing alleged April 25, 2015, Anzac Day plot to launch terror attacks

- on the day commemorating fallen soldiers in World War II. In November 2016, Australian authorities revealed that Prakash was arrested and detained in Turkey after leaving ISIS-controlled territory the month prior. Australia has reportedly requested his extradition.
- b. Converted to Islam from Buddhism. Prakash maintained a presence on social media platforms Twitter and Askbook, propagandizing and recruiting for ISIS.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [News.com.au](#), [Live Leak](#))
- 30. Nick Reilly**
- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, United Kingdom: Arrested in May 2008 for attempting to detonate three bombs in a restaurant at lunchtime. Reilly succeeded in detonating one device and suffered minor wounds in the process.
 - b. Converted to Islam at the age of 18 after a breakup and subsequent suicide attempt. Reilly took the name Mohammed Rasheed and became involved in the local Kurdish population.
(Age at conversion: 18)
(Source: [Jamestown Foundation](#))
- 31. [Peter Cherif](#)**
- a. Foreign fighter, France: A foreign fighter suspected to have played a central role in the January 2015 *Charlie Hebdo* attacks in Paris. Cherif began fighting with al-Qaeda in Iraq in 2004, and was arrested in December of that year by U.S. forces stationed near Fallujah. He was transferred to Abu Ghraib in August 2005, and sentenced to 15 years in prison by an Iraqi court in July 2006. Cherif escaped from prison in March 2007 during an insurgent attack and traveled to Syria, where he surrendered to French authorities in early 2008, claiming to have given up on terrorism. French authorities extradited Cherif to France, where he spent 18 months in prison before being released on bail pending trial. Toward the end of his trial, Cherif escaped to Yemen and the French court sentenced him in absentia to five years in prison for belonging to a terrorist organization. U.S. and French officials suspect that Cherif remains active with AQAP and that he played a central role in the January 2015 attack against French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*.
 - b. Converted in 2003 and reportedly became radicalized under the influence of Farid Benyettou, a self-declared imam in Buttes Chaumont, France, who was arrested in 2005 for trying to go to Iraq. Cherif grew up in France to a Tunisian mother and Catholic Afro-Caribbean immigrant father who died when Cherif was 14 years old. Cherif ran into legal trouble for drugs and armed robbery as a teenager. He went on to join the army but was injured while parachute jumping in 2002. Cherif was responsible for introducing *Charlie Hebdo* attacker Chérif Kouachi to Benyettou, according to French judicial records.
(Estimated age at conversion: 20-22)
(Sources: [BBC News](#), [Daily Beast](#), [Daily Beast](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Radio France Internationale](#), [Newsweek](#), [International Business Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

32. Raphael Gendron

- a. Foreign fighter, France: Killed in April 2013 while fighting with the “Falcons of Sham” Islamist group in Syria. Previously arrested in Italy for connections with an extremist network in France and Belgium.
- b. Converted to Islam and took the name Abdu Raouf Abu Marwa.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Al-Arabiya](#), [Time](#), [Agenfor Media](#))

33. [Richard Reid](#)

- a. Attempted terrorist, United Kingdom: Attempted to detonate explosives in his shoes aboard an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami on December 22, 2001. Arrested at Boston’s Logan International Airport after being subdued by fellow passengers. Reid is serving a life sentence in the United States.
- b. Converted in his early 20s. Reid was temporarily jailed at age 17 for mugging a senior citizen and was repeatedly in and out of prison in the years since. Reid began attending London’s Brixton mosque after his 1994 release from prison with bomber Germaine Lindsay and September 11 accomplice Zacarias Moussaoui. Reid subsequently switched to Finsbury Park mosque, at the time led by extremist imam Abu Hamza. Reid changed his name to Abdel Rahim and reportedly embraced the idea of violent jihad by 1998, according to fellow mosque attendees.
(Estimated age at conversion: 20-25)
(Sources: [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#), [Guardian](#), [Time](#), [Independent](#), [Guardian](#))

34. Robert Richard Pierre

- a. Attempted domestic terrorist, France: Charged by Moroccan officials with planning terrorist attacks and for plotting to overthrow the Moroccan monarchy. According to authorities, Pierre led a group of terrorist who trained recruits to carry out attacks, using his car dealership as a front for his terrorist activities. Others have testified that Pierre taught recruits on the use of explosives and guerrilla tactics.
- b. Reportedly converted to Islam, though specific conversion details could not be determined. Pierre had lived in Morocco since at least 1996, where he went by the name Abu Abderrahmane.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [New York Times](#), [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), [Global Jihad](#))

35. Ronald Fiddler

- a. Foreign fighter, United Kingdom: Carried out a suicide car bomb attack at an Iraqi military base on behalf of ISIS on February 19, 2017. Fiddler had previously been detained in Guantanamo Bay for his alleged affiliation with the Taliban/al-Qaeda. Fiddler returned to the United Kingdom in 2004. After British authorities reportedly lost track of Fiddler, he crossed into Syria from Turkey in 2014 to join ISIS, taking the name Abu-Zakariya al-Britani.
- b. Converted to Islam in 1992 and changed his name to Jamal Udeen al-Harith.
(Estimated age at conversion: 25)
(Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [BBC News](#), [Sun](#), [Daily Mail](#))

36. [Sally Jones](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, propagandist, and recruiter, United Kingdom: Fled the United Kingdom to join ISIS in Syria in 2013. Designated by the United Nations as an ISIS propagandist and recruiter, Jones has since called for attacks on Twitter inside the United Kingdom. According to leaked ISIS documents, Jones began overseeing the training of all European female recruits in August 2015.
- b. Converted to Islam in May 2013 after meeting future husband [Junaid Hussain](#) online in 2013. (Estimated age at conversion: 42-44)
(Sources: [United Nations](#), [Independent](#), [Vice News](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Vanity Fair](#), [International Business Times](#), [Telegraph](#))

37. Shane Kent

- a. Propagandist, Australia: Trained in al-Qaeda's al-Farooq camp in 2001 and later returned to Australia. Kent pled guilty in September 2009 to belonging to a Melbourne terror cell. He was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison. Australian authorities seized Kent's passport in 2014 to prevent him from traveling to Syria.
- b. Converted to Islam in the mid-1990s.
(No estimated age at conversion)
(Sources: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Australian](#), [Brennan Center](#))

38. [Siddhartha Dhar](#)

- a. Foreign fighter, United Kingdom: Arrested in September 2014 for promoting terrorism. Dhar fled the United Kingdom to join ISIS in Syria after skipping bail later that month. Dhar claimed that ISIS executioner Mohammed Emwazi, a.k.a. Jihadi John, was "justified in his position" and has since appeared in ISIS propaganda videos threatening the United Kingdom.
- b. Converted from Hinduism in his late teens, according to a report by the BBC. Dhar subsequently took the name Saiful Islam and the nickname Abu Rumaysah. He became a leading member of extremist preacher Anjem Choudary's al-Muhajiroun extremist network.
(Estimated age at conversion: 16-19)
(Sources: [Time](#), [Telegraph](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [BBC News](#), [BBC News](#))

39. Simon Keeler

- a. Propagandist, United Kingdom: Arrested for a November 2004 sermon in which he called upon Muslims at Regent's Park mosque to donate to terrorist organizations and to fight British and American troops deployed in Iraq. Keeler gained notoriety for being the United Kingdom's first white convert convicted for terrorism-related charges. Keeler was jailed with radical convert Abu Izzadeen in January 2016 for violating parole and traveling to Hungary.
- b. Converted to Islam in 1996. Unemployed at the time, Keeler took the name "Suleiman" and rose within the ranks of al-Muhajiroun, an extremist organization in the United Kingdom later banned in 2010. Despite his rhetoric and fundraising, authorities found no evidence that he wanted to execute a terrorist attack.

(Estimated age at conversion: 24-25)

(Sources: [Jamestown Foundation](#), [Independent](#))

40. Thomas Evans

- a. Foreign fighter, United Kingdom: Joined al-Shabab in 2011 and became known as “the White Beast” due to his alleged brutality. Evans was killed by Kenyan troops in 2015.
- b. Converted to Islam in 2010 and subsequently changed his name to Abdul Hakim. Evans’s behavior became more extremist after he changed mosques, according to his mother.

(Estimated age at conversion: 29-30)

(Sources: [Guardian](#), [Daily Mail](#))

41. Willie Brigitte

- a. Foreign fighter, France: Became an al-Qaeda militant in Europe involved in numerous plots in 2001. Left for Pakistan in 2001 and collaborated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Brigitte was deported to France from Australia in 2003 after plotting to attack the Lucas Heights nuclear research facility in Sydney. He was arrested in 2007 and sentenced to nine years in prison by a French court for the Australia plot. Released in 2009 after time served, Brigitte was again arrested in April 2012 during an anti-terror raid in Paris and returned to prison. Brigitte was later suspected of ties to Cherif and Said Kouachi, who carried out the 2015 *Charlie Hebdo* attack in Paris.
- b. Converted to Islam in 1998. Brigitte was allegedly later radicalized in Paris, where he reportedly attended a mosque in the Paris suburb of Couronnes and began meeting members the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), an Algerian militant group that served as the precursor to al-Qaeda’s regional affiliate there, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

(Estimated age at conversion: 29-30)

(Sources: [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#), [Indian Express](#), [BBC News](#), [Associated Press](#), [Daily Mail](#), [News.com.au](#), [ProPublica](#))