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  in Somali-American Communities**

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## FACT SHEET: Alleged Convergent Transnational Crimes in Somali-American Communities

### OVERVIEW

This study aimed to build scientific knowledge on the emergence and trajectories of alleged violent extremism and trafficking in persons in Somali-American communities in the U.S. It aimed to generate better understanding of possible convergence issues involved so as to inform policy and practice. Part of the study gathered facts regarding alleged violent extremism and trafficking in persons in Somali-American communities in the United States.

### VIOLENT EXTREMISM CASES

Presenting nationalistic and ideological reasons to travel to Somalia to fight, or capitalizing on the youths' experiences of alienation and discrimination, recruiters convinced several youth living in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to join, and organized and paid for their travel without their parents' knowledge.

#### Al Shabaab

- Between late 2007 and autumn 2008, at least 18 Somali-American adolescent boys and young men secretly left their homes and flew to Somalia to join training camps run by the Al Shabaab organization.
- Between 2009-2012, 5 more Somali young men left to join Al Shabaab.

#### ISIS

- Between 2013-2015, 16 known cases of Somalis attempted or succeeded in joining ISIS. This included 9 Somali-American men from Minneapolis who were arrested by the FBI for attempting to join ISIS between May 2014 and December 2015.

n=23 who fled to Somali a to join Al Shabaab	
Four	persons pleaded guilty or were found guilty on terrorist-related charges and serving time in prison
Nine	persons have been indicted on terrorism charges and are believed to be at large or arrested by Somali police
Ten	persons are reported dead
n= 16 who attempted/traveled to Syria to join ISIS	
Nine	persons pleaded guilty or were found guilty on terrorist-related charges and serving time in prison
Three	persons are believed to be at large
Four	persons are believed dead

### RECENT ISIS TRIAL

- In late 2014, the FBI convinced a friend of the group of young men who later went to trial on terror-related charges to work as a paid informant.
- For four months at the beginning of 2015, the informant recorded his friends discussing propaganda videos depicting torture and murder, and discussions of their plot to buy fake passports to exit the U.S. via the southern border with Mexico and then travel to Syria to join ISIS; however the plot was part of a sting operation with an undercover FBI operative in San-Diego.
- These recordings were used as evidence against the defendants, and what ultimately led to their convictions. Bashir was paid over one hundred thousand dollars for his work as an informant.
- In November 2016, these young men were sentenced.

ISIS Case Sentencing (n=9)	
Pleaded guilty and cooperated	Abdullahi Yusuf- no extra prison time but 20 years supervised release Abdirizak Warsame- 30 months prison then 20 years supervised release
Pleaded guilty and did not cooperate	Zacharia Abdurahman- 10 years prison Adnan Farah- 10 years prison Hanand Musse- 10 years prison Hamza Ahmed- 15 years prison

Pleaded guilty and were convicted at trial	Abdirahman Daud- 30 years prison Mohamed Farah- 30 years prison Guled Omar- 35 years prison
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### ALLEGED TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CASE

The original trafficking in persons indictment alleged that multiple defendants were involved in or were associated with the Somali Outlaws and the Somali Mafia gangs. Members and associates of these gangs allegedly transported Somali-American females from Minneapolis to Columbus and Nashville for the purpose of having the females engage in sex acts for money and other items of value, including drugs and alcohol.

- Thirty people were indicted in November 2010 on charges of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children by force, fraud, or coercion and other charges related to the sex trafficking.
- Two of the women, known as Jane Doe 2 and Jane Doe 5, were given supportive care and testified in federal court. During the trial, which was held in Nashville beginning in April 2012, Jane Doe 2 (from Minneapolis) and Jane Doe 5 (from Nashville) were key witnesses.
- Jane Doe 2 testified that she was used as a prostitute by gang members starting at the age of 12. She described being taken to several apartments in suburban Minneapolis to have sex with other Somali men for money, marijuana, and alcohol. She also testified that they used her for sex to raise money for the trip from Minneapolis to Nashville, where she was driven around and had sex in alleyways with at least ten men. On this trip, Jane Doe 2 accompanied five men to Nashville where they were arrested in April 2009.

Trafficking Victim	City	Background
Jane Doe 2	Minneapolis, MN	Runaway; Juvenile Offender; Falsified birthdate, may not have been a minor
Jane Doe 5	Nashville, TN	History of mental illness; Was not taking medication properly during trial

### TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TRIAL

- In April 2012, nine of the defendants went to trial. The trial lasted three weeks and after five days of deliberation, six defendants were acquitted of all charges and three were convicted of some of the charges. In December 2012, the three who were initially convicted were acquitted by District Judge William Haynes because he found that the prosecution had charged a single conspiracy but had instead presented evidence of multiple conspiracies.
- On March 2, 2016, a U.S. appeals court opinion affirmed Judge William Hayne’s December 2012 ruling to overturn the convictions of the three, agreeing with Hayne’s reasoning that the government did not prove the men were part of a single, overarching conspiracy.
- On March 8, 2016, following the Sixth Circuit’s opinions, the United States moved to dismiss all outstanding charges against the remaining defendants in *United States v. Adan, et al.*
- On March 10, 2016, the order was granted to dismiss all remaining charges for the 16. The original indictment charged 30 defendants, of which 18 never went to trial, 9 went to trial of which 6 were acquitted by the jury, and 3 were found guilty by jury but later overruled and acquitted.

Trafficking in Persons Case Sentencing (n= 30)	
18 persons	Indicted, never went to trial, held in pretrial detention for 4 years, eventually acquitted
3 persons	Indicted, tried, judge dismissed trafficking charges
6 persons	Indicted, tried, acquitted by jury
3 persons	Indicted, tried, found guilty by jury, judge overruled jury conviction and later acquitted

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