

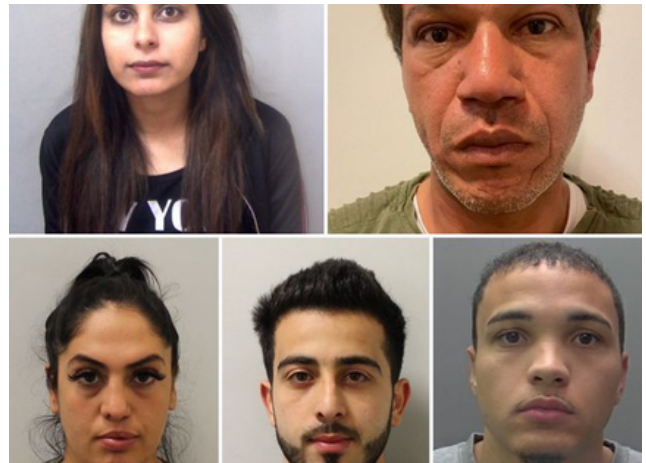
FAKE IDS AND TERRORISM

2022-2023 STORIES IN THE NEWS



UK SMUGGLING GANG USING FAKE IDS TO BRING IN MIDDLE EASTERN MIGRANTS

A smuggling ring based in the United Kingdom used fraudulent documents to illegally bring people from Syria, the Palestinian territories, and other places into Europe. So far, seven members of this British-Palestinian network have been jailed, including a mom and



daughter team. They succeeded in smuggling at least 14 migrants into the UK "had access to around 240 European ID cards and passports." Most of the documents were reportedly French, but some were British, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. They were also reportedly moving migrants across Europe, including through France and the Netherlands. They were caught after one of the gang members, Firdos Ahmed, was stopped





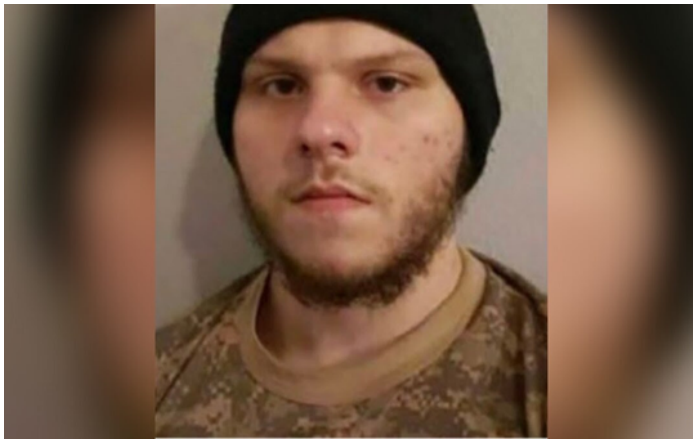
at a port in Essex while carrying a French identification document with someone else's name on it. The ensuing search by authorities revealed a collection of fraudulent documents as well as communications with other gang members. UK Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick said, "today's sentences show that we will stop at nothing to tackle the despicable smuggling gangs and ensure they are brought to justice. Thanks to our specialist teams who work tirelessly to dismantle these international criminal networks, the smugglers are now behind bars." We hope they mean it. Syria in particular is a hotbed for ISIS and other terrorist groups. We don't know why these individuals were hiding their identities and moving across borders, but we do know that a terrorist armed with fake identity documents is a dangerous threat to Europe and the U.S., as the 9/11 hijackers proved.

ISIS OPERATIVES GETTING AFGHAN PASSPORTS IN TALIBAN RULED COUNTRY

As the terrorist group ISIS becomes more active in Afghanistan following the U.S. withdrawal, experts are warning that dangerous ISIS fighters are obtaining official Afghan passports under new identities. The Counter Extremism Project (CEP) is citing reports from officials from countries neighboring Afghanistan that the Taliban has been issuing these passports to known terrorists since its takeover last year. This will make it far more difficult for American and other Western counter terrorism authorities to identify and track operatives leaving the Taliban-ruled nation. "This will, of course, complicate the identification of potential foreign terrorists leaving Afghanistan as these will likely travel with original Afghan passports and potentially changed identities," the CEP said.

The British envoy to the United Nations also warned that they are seeing a sharp rise in the number of ISIS attacks and tracking a greatly expanding national footprint. "Once limited to a few provinces and Kabul, [ISIS-K] now seems to be present in nearly all provinces and is increasingly active."





FBI CATCHES MAN IN WASHINGTON ATTEMPTING TO JOIN ISIS

A Seattle man was sentenced to four years for attempting to join an Islamic State affiliated group following what the U.S. Department of Justice called a “lengthy investigation.” Elvin Hunter Bgorn Williams reportedly told his family members he was joining ISIS in 2020 and then proceeded to act on it.

He posted a video of himself on social media swearing his allegiance to the international terrorist organization and “in May 2021, Williams obtained a passport and pawned a laptop computer to raise funds for his travel,” according to DOJ. “In early May 2021, Williams booked an airline ticket from Seattle to Amsterdam and on to Egypt to join ISIS. On Friday, May 28, 2021, he went to Sea-Tac Airport to catch the first leg of his international flight. Williams was arrested at the departure gate. Mr. Williams persisted in his plans to join a terrorist organization and commit acts of violence, despite intervention from his family, his school, members of his mosque, and from the FBI,” U.S. Attorney Nick Brown said in a news release. “Indeed, he repeatedly stated his intention to commit an act of terror here at home if he could not travel overseas. Mr. Williams continues to pose a risk to the community. It will be critically important that he be closely supervised after he is released from prison.” According to the DOJ press release, Williams “sought martyrdom, had ‘no problem with killing,’ and planned to be engaged in beheading people.”

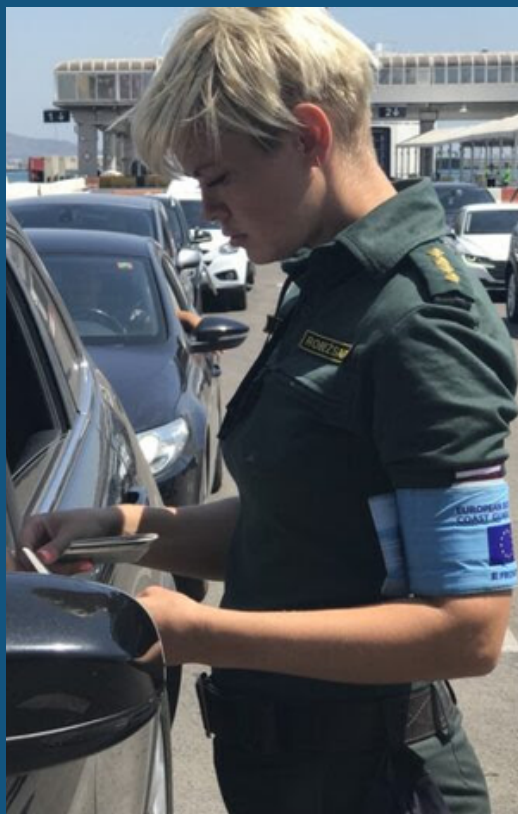
MICHIGAN MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO SUPPORT ISIS

A man in Michigan has been arrested and charged with attempting to provide material support to ISIS “in the form of personnel (including himself) and services.” Aws Mohammed Naser was indicted in the Eastern District of Michigan for his alleged attempts to support ISIS from 2011 to 2017, “knowing that ISIS was a designated terrorist organization, and that ISIS engages in terrorism.” Naser is also accused of owning a “destructive device” despite being a felon, according to the Department of Justice, although it did not specify what, exactly, that destructive device is.



FRONTEX OPERATION YIELDS 118 SUSPECTED TERRORISTS IN EUROPE

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex, and the Spanish National Police just wrapped up Operation Minerva to bolster border security and crack down on illicit drugs and stolen property. This year, officers from 23 different European countries identified 118 people suspected of being affiliated with terrorist organizations. They also seized 11 stolen cars and 160 kg of hashish. The Frontex support included officers checking vehicles, people, and passports, together with fraudulent document and stolen vehicle experts. Frontex also provided dog handler teams to help detect hidden people, drugs and other illegal goods. One Frontex officer said, "we checked two to three million people in this summer operation and had several drug seizures or detections of stolen cars."



MAN WHO STABBED SALMAN RUSHDIE USED FAKE ID IN THE NAME OF TERRORISTS

Hadi Matar, accused of stabbing author Salman Rushdie 15 times, allegedly held a fake driver's license (left, UANI) brandishing the name of "Hassan Mughniyah," a likely merge of two terrorist leaders who inspired the attacker. Hassan Nasrallah is the leader of Hezbollah, a designated terrorist

organization funded by Iran and dedicated to destroying the U.S. and Israel, and Imad Mughniyah is one of his most notorious commanders. Further, it has been learned that Matar levied praise on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. Rushdie has been an announced enemy of Iran and many terrorist groups for his outspoken criticisms of radical Islam. Rushdie's agent said he is on a ventilator and unable to speak, adding that the news was "not good" and the author will "likely lose one eye." We have been warning in each one of these newsletters that, based on continued instruction from terrorist organizations, terrorists continue to seek fake IDs to evade law enforcement detection, move money, and hide their past crimes. We hate it when we're proved right.