

BREAKING

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Iraqi refugee living in Texas sentenced to 16 years in prison for plotting to make explosives for ISIS

An Iraqi refugee has been sentenced to prison for his affiliation with ISIS.

By Courtney Han

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2 Terror Arrests Made In Texas and California Overnight

Both men were refugees, authorities said.

— -- An [Iraqi refugee](#) living in Texas has been sentenced to prison for attempting to provide support to foreign terrorist groups, according to the [U.S. Department of Justice](#).

Omar Faraj Sae Al Hardan, 25, has been ordered to serve 16 years in federal prison for attempting to create explosives and travel abroad to fight for the terrorist organization [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant \(ISIL\)](#), also known as [ISIS](#).

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“Al Hardan’s actions were treacherous and completely antithetical to the freedoms we as U.S. citizens value,” said acting U.S. Attorney Abe Martinez. “The sentence imposed [Monday] reflects the [Department of Justice’s](#) resolve to seek out and punish all violators who would give aid and comfort to international terrorists.”

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Al Hardan entered the United States as a refugee in November 2009, after living in refugee camps in [Jordan](#) and Iraq. He was granted legal permanent residence status in 2011, and settled in Houston.

Federal agents began investigating Al Hardan in 2013 because of his correspondence with a California man who was associated with the Al-Nusra Front. The two discussed going to Syria to fight for [Al-Nusra, an endorsed Syrian affiliate of al Qaeda](#).

Al Hardan later developed a relationship in 2014 with an [FBI](#) informant. In addition to discussing plans for traveling overseas to assist ISIS, Al Hardan said he wanted to be trained in building remote transmitter detonators for explosive devices, such as using a cellphone to detonate a bomb from a remote location.

He indicated that he taught himself how to make remote detonators through online videos, even showing the informant a circuit board he’d built to be used to detonate an explosive.





Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, 25, is seen entering court on Dec. 18, 2017 before being sentenced...[Read More](#)

Al Hardan took an oath of loyalty to ISIS in November 2014. Throughout the investigation, Al Hardan had posted many statements on social media in support of ISIS. One included a photo of a Humvee with an ISIS flag, with the caption, "ISIS yesterday in Iraq, today in Syria and Allah willing, tomorrow in Jerusalem."

He also made several statements about his plans to become a martyr fighting for ISIS. One post read, "I want to blow myself up. I want to travel with the Mujahidin. I want to travel to be with those who are against America. I am against America."

When Al Hardan was arrested in 2016, investigators found training CDs on how to build remote detonators, a prayer list for becoming a martyr and an ISIS flag.

Al Hardan was [charged in January 2016](#) and pleaded guilty in October 2016 to attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist group. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Houston Police Department.

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