



2010 TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN FEDERAL COURTS

- On Jan. 6, 2010, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian national, was charged in a six-count criminal indictment for his alleged role in the attempted Christmas day bombing of Northwest Airlines flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit.¹
- On Jan. 14, a federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment adding three defendants, including Tahawwur Rana, to charges filed a month earlier against David Coleman Headley, alleging that they and others participated in conspiracies involving a planned terrorist attack against a Danish newspaper and the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, that killed approximately 164 people, including six Americans.²
- On Feb. 22, Najibullah Zazi pleaded guilty to a three-count superseding information charging him with conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction (explosive bombs) against persons or property in the United States, conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country and providing material support to al-Qaida.³
- On Feb. 25, Zarein Ahmedzay and Adis Medunjanin were indicted on terrorism violations stemming from, among other activities, their alleged roles in the plot involving Najibullah Zazi to attack the New York subway system in mid-September 2009.⁴
- On March 4, federal grand jury indicted Abdow Munye Abdow on two counts of making false statements to FBI agents in a matter involving international terrorism. Abdow pleaded guilty to count one, involving a statement about who was in the car with him on a drive from Minnesota to Las Vegas. Abdow received an eight-month sentence for obstructing an FBI and grand jury investigation into the recruitment of young men in the U.S. to train and fight extremist groups in Somalia.⁵
- On March 9, Colleen R. LaRose, aka "Fatima LaRose," aka "Jihad Jane," was indicted on charges of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, conspiracy to kill in a foreign country, making false statements to a government official and attempted identity theft.⁶ LaRose pled guilty Feb. 1.⁷
- On March 18, David Coleman Headley, a U.S. citizen of partial Pakistani descent, pleaded guilty to a dozen federal terrorism charges, admitting that he participated in planning the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, as well as later planning to attack a Danish newspaper.⁸

¹ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/January/10-nsd-004.html>

² <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/January/10-nsd-038.html>

³ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/February/10-ag-174.html>

⁴ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/February/10-ag-200.html>

⁵ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/352>

⁶ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/March/10-ag-238.html>

⁷ http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1473.pdf

⁸ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/March/10-ag-277.html>



- On March 26, a Chicago man, Raja Lahrasib Khan, who claims to be acquainted with an alleged terrorist leader in Pakistan was arrested on federal charges of providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization for allegedly attempting to provide funds overseas to al Qaeda.⁹
- On April 2, a superseding indictment charged Jamie Paulin Ramirez, a U.S. citizen and former resident of Colorado, and Colleen R. LaRose, aka "Fatima LaRose," aka "JihadJane," a resident of Pennsylvania, with conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists. The superseding indictment adds Ramirez as a defendant to what was previously an indictment charging only LaRose. Ramirez pleaded guilty March 8.¹⁰
- On April 23, Zarein Ahmedzay, a U.S. citizen and resident of Queens, N.Y., pleaded guilty to terrorism violations stemming from, among other activities, his role in an al-Qaida plot to conduct coordinated suicide bombings on New York's subway system in September 2009.
- On April 27, Syed Hashmi, pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court to conspiracy to provide material support to al-Qaida.¹¹
- On May 26, Hosam Maher Husein Smadi pleaded guilty to a felony offense related to his attempted bombing of a downtown Dallas skyscraper in September 2009.¹²
- On June 6, Mohamed Alessa and Carlos Almonte were accused in a criminal complaint of seeking to wage jihad on American troops overseas. The two men planned to travel to Somalia in hopes of joining al-Shabaab, a terrorist group affiliated to al Qaeda. Prosecutors alleged the two men listened to tapes from the radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki who has inspired several American jihadists.¹³ The two pleaded guilty March 3.¹⁴
- On June 17, Bajram Asllani, 29, a resident of Mitrovica, Kosovo, has been charged in a criminal complaint with providing material support to terrorists and conspiring to murder, kidnap, maim and injure persons abroad.¹⁵
- On June 17, Omid Khalili, an Iranian national, pleaded guilty today to attempting to illegally export fighter jet or military aircraft parts from the United States to Iran.¹⁶
- On June 17, Faisal Shahzad was indicted on 10 counts for allegedly driving a car bomb into Times Square on the evening of May 1, 2010.¹⁷ He pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court on June 21 to all counts of the 10-count indictment¹⁸ against him and sentenced to life in prison.¹⁹

⁹ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/March/10-nsd-326.html>

¹⁰ http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/09/us/09brfs-GUILTYPLEAIN_BRF.html

¹¹ <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys/pressreleases/April10/hashmisyedpleapr.pdf>

¹² <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/May/10-nsd-622.html>

¹³ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/471>

¹⁴ http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1496.pdf

¹⁵ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/June/10-nsd-706.html>

¹⁶ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/June/10-nsd-711.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/June/10-ag-713.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys/pressreleases/October10/shahzadfaisalsentencingpr.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/June/10-ag-721.html>



- On July 7, the Justice Department announced charges against five members of an al-Qaida plot to attack targets in the United States and United Kingdom. The charges reveal that the plot against New York's subway system uncovered in September 2009 involving Colorado resident Najibullah Zazi was directed by senior al-Qaida leadership in Pakistan, and was also directly related to a scheme by al-Qaida plotters in Pakistan to use Western operatives to attack a target in the United Kingdom.²⁰
- On July 12, Chicago residents Zubair Ahmed and Khaleel Ahmed pleaded guilty to charges that they provided material support to terrorists and aimed to travel abroad in their quest to murder or maim U.S. military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. In July 2010, Zubair Ahmed was sentenced to 10 years and Khaleel Ahmed was sentenced to eight years and four months in prison for conspiring to provide material support to terrorists.²¹
- On July 28, Madhatta Haipe, a citizen of the Philippines and founding member of Al-Harakat Al-Islamiyyah, also known as the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), pleaded guilty to four counts of hostage taking in connection with the 1995 abduction of 16 people, including four U.S. citizens, in the Philippines.²²
- On July 21, Paul Rockwood Jr. and his wife, Nadia Rockwood, of King Salmon, Alaska, pleaded guilty to federal charges of lying about creating a hit list of individuals and entities for violent Jihad-inspired attacks. The couple was charged with lying about the list and making false statements about domestic terrorism during interviews with FBI agents. Prosecutors allege Paul Rockwood, also known as "Bilal," converted to Islam in late 2001 or 2002, and was influenced by the teachings of American-born Yemen-based radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki.²³
- On Aug. 2, Russell Defreitas and Abdul Kadir were convicted in the Eastern District of New York of conspiring to attack John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, N.Y., by exploding fuel tanks and the fuel pipeline under the airport.²⁴
- On Aug. 5, four separate indictments were unsealed in Minnesota, Alabama and California charging 14 individuals with terrorism violations for providing money, personnel and services to the foreign terrorist organization al-Shabaab.²⁵
- On Sept. 1, Hakimullah Mehsud, the self-proclaimed emir of the Pakistani Taliban, was charged in a criminal complaint for his alleged involvement in the murder of seven American citizens on Dec. 30, 2009, at a U.S. military base in Afghanistan.²⁶
- On Sept. 23, Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani woman who previously lived in the United States, was found guilty on all charges related to her attempted murder and assault on United States officers and employees in Afghanistan.²⁷

²⁰ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/July/10-nsd-781.html>

²¹ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/284>

²² <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/July/10-nsd-864.html>

²³ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/477>

²⁴ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/477>

²⁵ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/August/10-ag-898.html>

²⁶ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/September/10-nsd-987.html>

²⁷ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/267>



- On Oct. 18, a federal court in Manhattan found James Cromitie and four other defendants guilty of attempting to detonate explosives near a synagogue in the Bronx and to shoot military planes located at Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, N.Y.²⁸
- On October 19, Hosam Maher Husein Smadi was sentenced to 24 years in prison for his attempted bombing of a downtown Dallas skyscraper in September 2009.²⁹
- On Oct. 20, Zachary Adam Chesser, 20, of Fairfax County, Va., pleaded guilty to a three-count criminal information that included charges of 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-Shabaab, a designated foreign terrorist organization.³⁰
- On Oct. 27, Farooque Ahmed, 34, of Ashburn, Va., was arrested for attempting to assist others whom he believed to be members of al-Qaida in planning multiple bombings at Metrorail stations in the Washington, D.C., area.³¹
- On Nov. 17, Ahmed Fhalfan Ghailani was found guilty in a Manhattan federal court of conspiring in the 1998 destruction of US embassies in East Africa.³²
- On Nov. 27, Mohamed Osman Mohamud, 19, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Somalia and resident of Corvallis, Ore., was arrested and charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction (explosives) in connection with a plot to blow up a car bomb at an annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Portland, Ore.³³
- On Dec. 17, Madhatta Asagal Haipe, a citizen of the Philippines and founding member of Al-Harakat Al-Islamiyyah, also known as the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), was sentenced to 23 years in prison after earlier pleading guilty to four counts of hostage taking in the 1995 abduction of 16 people, including four U.S. citizens, in the Philippines.³⁴

²⁸ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/324>

²⁹ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/October/10-nsd-1170.html>

³⁰ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/October/10-nsd-1174.html>

³¹ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/October/10-nsd-1213.html>

³² <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys/pressreleases/November10/ghailaniahmedkhalfanverdictpr.pdf>

³³ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/November/10-nsd-1353.html>

³⁴ <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/December/10-nsd-1458.html>