

**Department of Justice**  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, March 19, 2020

## **Pakistani Doctor Charged With Attempting To Provide Material Support To ISIS**

WASHINGTON – Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers and U.S. Attorney Erica H. MacDonald for the District of Minnesota today announced a federal criminal complaint against MUHAMMAD MASOOD, 28, charging him with attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. MASOOD, who was arrested earlier today at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, made his initial appearance before Magistrate Judge David T. Schultz in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis, Minnesota. MASOOD was ordered to remain in custody pending a formal detention hearing, which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

According to the allegations in the complaint, MASOOD, a licensed medical doctor in Pakistan, was formerly employed as a Research Coordinator at a medical clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, under an H-1B Visa. Between January 2020 and March 2020, MASOOD made several statements to others, including pledging his allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) and its leader, and expressing his desire to travel to Syria to fight for ISIS. MASOOD also expressed his desire to conduct “lone wolf” terrorist attacks in the United States. On Feb. 21, 2020, MASOOD purchased a plane ticket from Chicago, Illinois to Amman, Jordan, and from there planned to travel to Syria. On March 16, 2020, MASOOD’s travel plans changed because Jordan closed its borders to incoming travel due to the Coronavirus pandemic. MASOOD made a new plan to fly from Minneapolis to Los Angeles to meet up with an individual who he believed would assist him with travel via cargo ship to deliver him to ISIS territory.

On March 19, 2020, MASOOD traveled from Rochester to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) to board a flight bound for Los Angeles, California. Upon arrival at MSP, MASOOD checked in for his flight and was subsequently arrested by the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force.

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew R. Winter and Timothy C. Rank, with assistance from Trial Attorney Katie Sweeten of the National Security Division’s Counterterrorism Section.

### Defendant Information:

MUHAMMAD MASOOD, 28

Rochester, Minn.

### Charges:

- Attempt to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization (ISIS), 1 count