

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

NEW YORK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ISIS

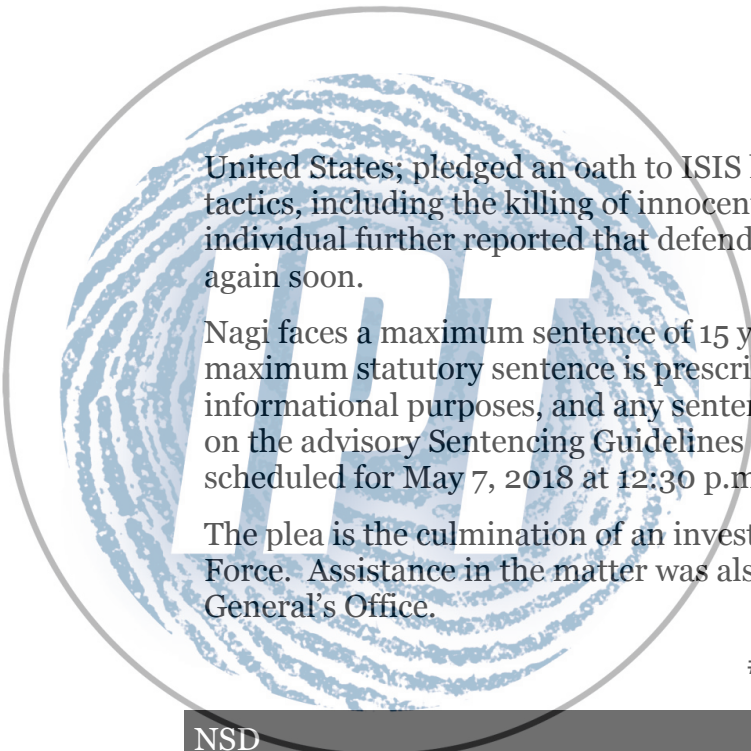
WASHINGTON – Arafat M. Nagi, 47, of Lackawanna, NY, pleaded guilty, on Jan. 22, to attempting to provide material support and resources to the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), a designated foreign terrorist organization. Specifically, Nagi admitted, in his plea, that he attempted to provide material support to a terrorist organization by personally traveling to Turkey in an effort to enter Syria and fight on behalf of ISIS.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Dana J. Boente, U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy, Jr. for the Western District of New York and Assistant Special Agent in Charge Philip E. Frigm, Jr. of the FBI's Buffalo Office made the announcement after the plea was accepted by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

On Aug. 28, 2014, a community member advised the FBI that the defendant spoke about violent jihad to various people in the Lackawanna community and it was common for Nagi to get into verbal complaints over his jihadi beliefs. Further investigation determined that the defendant pledged allegiance to ISIS and the leader of the terrorist group, Abu Bakr al Bagdadi.

Investigators learned that the defendant traveled to Turkey on two occasions, in October 2012 and July 2014, with the intention of meeting with members of ISIS. Prior to traveling to Turkey, the defendant purchased a large number of military combat items, including a tactical vest, army combat shirt, body armor, Shahada Flag, combat boots, backpack, burn kit, a hunting knife, machete and night vision goggles. Once in Turkey, Nagi purchased a SIM card and activated a Turkish cell phone number. Facebook messages showed that the defendant contacted other individuals, who were prepared to help the defendant enter Syria to join ISIS, and exchanged Turkish cell phone numbers. In addition, evidence seized from the defendant's electronic devices showed that the defendant, while in Turkey, was researching how to travel from Istanbul to cities close to the Syrian border.

During follow up interviews in December, 2014 and March 2015, the community member who alerted the FBI regarding Nagi's actions stated that the defendant still possessed radical political and religious views. According to the individual, Nagi was angry about the killing of rebels in Yemen which he blamed on the

The FBI seal is a circular emblem with a blue and white design. It features a central shield with a scale of justice, a sword, and a laurel wreath. The shield is surrounded by a circular border containing the words "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" and "FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION".

United States; pledged an oath to ISIS leaders; expressed agreement with ISIS tactics, including the killing of innocent men, women and children. The individual further reported that defendant planned to travel to Yemen and Turkey again soon.

Nagi faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The maximum statutory sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes, and any sentence will be determined by the court based on the advisory Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. Sentencing is scheduled for May 7, 2018 at 12:30 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. Assistance in the matter was also provided by the New York State Attorney General's Office.

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