

30 Terrorist Plots Against the U.S. Foiled Since 9/11

Sheer luck and civilian bravery played roles in thwarting some of these attacks. Additionally, U.S. efforts in the war on terrorism, including operations in Afghanistan, have helped to weed out terrorist sanctuaries before they can organize attacks. Finally, domestic counterterrorism tools put in place since 9/11 have helped stop terrorists from operating on U.S. soil.

 Individuals directly involved in plot

#6. Nuradin M. Abdi is arrested and charged for plotting to bomb a shopping mall in Columbus, Ohio (November 2003).

#8. James Elshafay and Shahawar Martin Siraj are arrested for plotting to bomb a subway station near Madison Square Garden before the Republican National Convention (August 2004).

#10. Umer Hayat and Hamid Hayat are arrested in California for allegedly lying to the FBI about Hamid's attendance at an Islamic terrorist training center in Pakistan (June 2005).

#12. Michael C. Reynolds is arrested for a plot to blow up an oil refinery, a gas refinery, and pipelines in Wyoming and New Jersey (December 2005).

#14. Syed Haris Ahmed and Ehsanul Islam Sadequee are accused of conspiring to target the Capitol and the World Bank in Washington, D.C. (April 2006).

#16. Eight men including Assem Hammoud are arrested for plotting to attack train tunnels between New York and New Jersey (July 2006).

#18. Derrick Shareef is arrested for planning to set off hand grenades inside a Chicago shopping mall (December 2006).

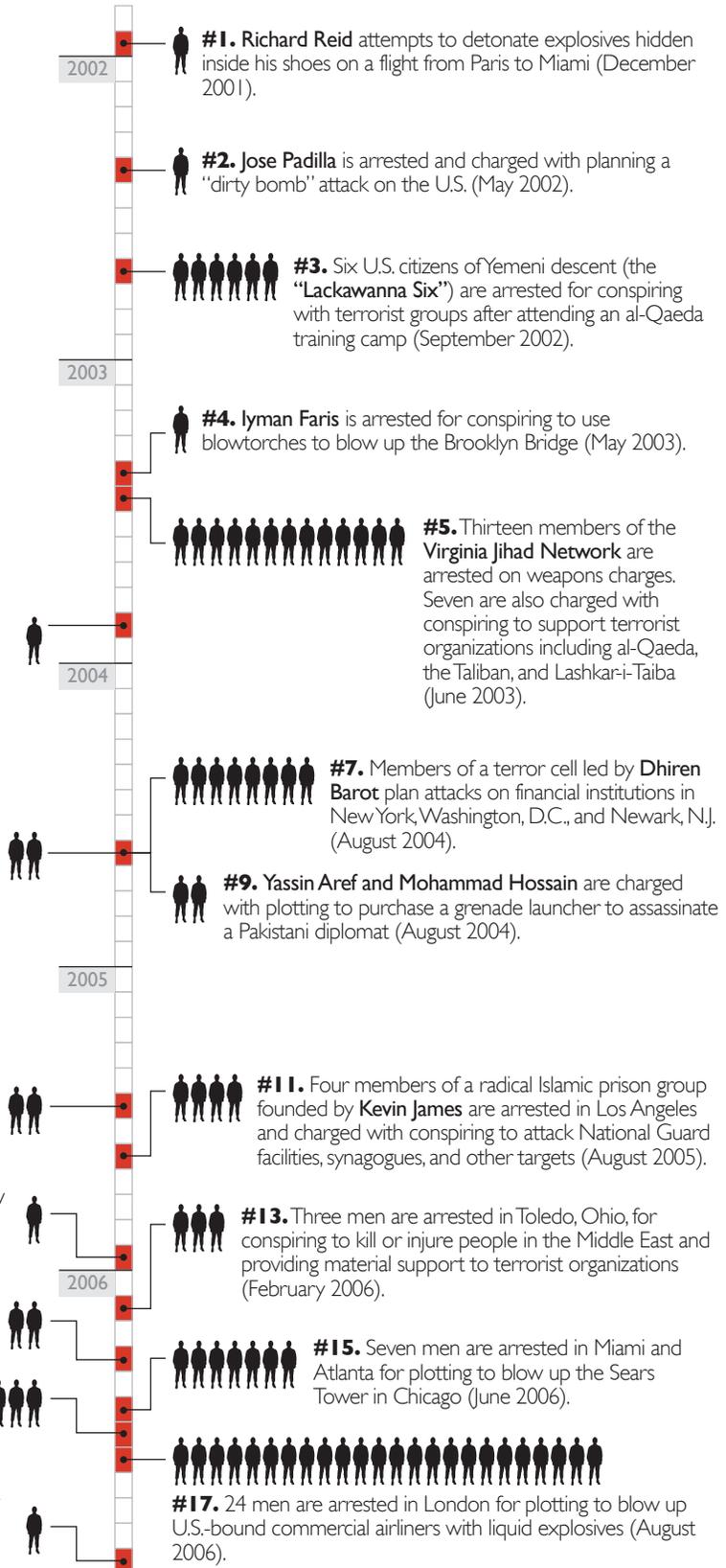


Figure 1 • B 2405  heritage.org

#19. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and 4 co-defendants admit responsibility for their role in the 9/11 attacks, the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, and numerous other plots (March 2007).



#21. Four men led by Russell Defreitas plot to blow up fuel tanks and pipelines at JFK International Airport in New York (June 2007).



#20. Six men are arrested in a plot to attack Fort Dix, N.J., with assault rifles and grenades (May 2007).

#22. Hassan Abujihad, a former U.S. Navy sailor; is convicted of supporting terrorism by giving classified information on Navy ships to a London organization that supports terrorists (March 2008).



#23. Christopher Paul, a U.S. citizen with ties to terrorist groups in Germany and al-Qaeda, is arrested for plotting to use a weapon of mass destruction on European and U.S. targets (June 2008).

#24. Four men are arrested in New York City for plotting to blow up Jewish centers and shoot down airplanes at a nearby Air National Guard base (May 2009).



#25. Najibullah Zazi and at least four others are arrested for purchasing chemical explosive materials allegedly to bomb the New York subway system (September 2009).

#28. Two men are charged with conspiracy to kill two U.S. politicians, U.S. troops in Iraq, and civilians in local shopping malls (October 2009).



#26. Hosam Maher Husein Smadi is arrested for attempting to place a bomb in a Dallas skyscraper (September 2009).

#30. Raja Lahrasib Khan, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Pakistan, is arrested for providing material support for a foreign terrorist organization (March 2010).



#27. Michael Finton is arrested after attempting to detonate a car bomb outside a federal building in Springfield, Ill. (September 2009)



#29. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a Nigerian student, allegedly attempts to detonate explosives on a Detroit-bound international flight on Christmas Day (December 2009).

Sources: Heritage Foundation research by Jena Baker McNeill, James Jay Carafano, and Jessica Zuckerman.