

Feds add more charges against Massachusetts and Rhode Island men accused in Islamic State plot to behead Pamela Geller

Conor Berry writes for the [BOSTON](#) – Two New England men accused of aiding the [Carmen Ortiz](#).

David D. Wright, 26, of Everett, and Nicholas A. Rovinski, 25, of Warwick, Rhode Island, were charged Thursday in a superseding indictment with conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism “transcending national boundaries” and other charges, federal prosecutors said. Arraignment dates have not been set, said Christina Sterling, a spokeswoman for Ortiz.

Wright and Rovinski, both of whom used various aliases, were previously indicted by a grand jury in June 2015 for allegedly conspiring to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL. The indictment also charged Wright with obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Wright and Rovinski conspired with Usaamah Abdullah Rahim, Wright’s uncle, who was shot and killed after attacking law enforcement officers in the Roslindale section of Boston on June 2, 2015, prosecutors said. On the morning of his death, Rahim told Wright that he could not wait to go after Geller – identified in the indictment as “Intended Victim-1” – and the “boys in blue” in Massachusetts, a slang reference to law enforcement officials, according to authorities.

Beginning around February 2015, Wright began holding discussions with Rahim and Rovinski about ISIL's call to kill "non-believers" in the U.S., prosecutors said. The trio then began plotting and recruiting members for their "martyrdom" operation, authorities allege.

In March 2015, Wright drafted organizational documents for a "martyrdom operations cell" and conducted Internet searches about weapons, the effectiveness of tranquilizers on people, and the establishment of secret militias in the U.S., the indictment alleges. His Internet searches included "which tranquilizer puts humans to sleep instantly," "what is the most flammable chemical," and "how to start a secret militia in (the) US," according to the indictment, which was unsealed Thursday.

Simultaneously, Rahim communicated with ISIL members overseas, including Junaid Hussain, who was killed in an airstrike in Raqqa, Syria, on Aug. 24, 2015. Beginning around May 2015, the indictment alleges, Hussain communicated directly with Rahim, who in turn communicated Hussain's instructions to Wright about killing an individual living in New York, later identified as Geller.