

## Case Study: Terrorist Recruiter

In 2014, a group of high school girls in Colorado did not show up to school one day. One of the girls called the office to inform them that they were running late and would not be making it to school till later in the morning. This was not before they had already called their parents to ask why their daughters were not in school that day. After making a handful of phone calls, realizing about \$2,000 in cash, some of their daughters' clothes, and passports were gone, the parents contacted the FBI right away.

The three girls, ages 15, 16, and 17 were Americans, one of Sudanese decent, and two of Somali decent, were all good friends. The three girls have felt as though they are outsiders in their community. Growing up in a Denver suburb, they connected through religion and sympathized with one another's sense of loneliness.

The girl's have become more active on social media since moving into high school, communicating with each other, other Muslims that are not in Denver, and old friends that have moved away. However, one of the girls (the 17-year-old) met someone online that they did not know but he was very kind. The person communicated with her, until the oldest of the girls introduced him to the others. They spoke about religion, what is felt like to be marginalized in the America as a Muslim, and ways of becoming more involved in what they believe in.

The man they had been talking to online then started to talk about the struggle of Muslims overseas in Iraq and Syria. He explained that Muslims are being oppressed and that the United States was doing nothing to stop it, however they could become a key member of fighting that oppression. He told them that everyone fighting against these atrocities overseas had great moral and were doing everything possible to improve life in the Iraq and Syria, because nobody else cared about them.

After having these conversations for months, the girls began to look into ways of becoming involved in Syria. The girls then communicated with others about the fastest, easiest way of entering into Syria, the man they had been talking to bought their plane tickets, and they devised a plan of missing school and entering Syria by way of Germany.

The girls were later stopped in Germany and sent back to the United States. The man they were talking to was a member of ISIS and planned to sell them off as wives to fighters of the Islamic State.