



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JAMES R. O'NEILL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PRESS RELEASE
08/31/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA vs SARAH SANTIAGO

North Carolina Woman Indicted in Connection to Islamic Center of San Diego Shooting

Winston-Salem, North Carolina– Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O'Neill announced a North Carolina Grand Jury indicted 17-year-old Sarah Lindsey Santiago as an adult for the following state charges:

Three Counts of First-Degree Murder
One Count of Conspiracy to Commit First-Degree Murder

According to the indictment returned on August 31, 2026, Santiago with malice and aforethought did aid and abet Caleb Vazquez and Cain Clark in the killing and murder of three people at the Islamic Center of San Diego on May 18, 2026, by agreeing and planning prior to the attack to: live stream the attacks, disseminate the recording publicly and then release the manifesto authored by attackers to justify the attack.

The FBI Charlotte Joint Terrorism Task Force Greensboro Resident Agency, the Winston-Salem Police Department, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force in San Diego and San Diego Police Department, with assistance from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, are investigating the case.

A copy of the indictment can be found online <https://www.nccourts.gov/ecourts>

Shelley Lynch
U.S. Department of Justice | FBI Charlotte
Public Affairs Officer

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

FORSYTH

County

File No.

26CR021882-330

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division

STATE VERSUS

Name And Address Of Defendant

Sarah Lindsey Santiago
202 Autumn View Drive

Winston-Salem

NC

27103

Race

W

Sex

F

Date Of Birth

04/08/2009

INDICTMENT

☐ This is a superseding indictment.

Offense(s)

Date Of Offense
OR
Date Range Of Offense

G.S. No.

CL.

I. First-Degree Murder

05/18/2026

14-17

A

II.

I. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

with malice aforethought aid and abet Caleb Vazquez and Cain Clark in the killing and murder of Mansour Kaziha by agreeing and planning prior to the attack at the Islamic Center of San Diego, California, to: live stream the attacks planned that day, disseminate the recording publicly and then release the manifesto authored by the attackers purporting to justify the attack. Defendant did in fact carry out these acts. In advance of the attacks planned that day, the defendant did also purchase and send to Caleb Vasquez a Sonnenrad patch for Vasquez to wear during the attacks, which Vasquez did in fact wear.

II. And the jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

Signature Of Prosecutor

WITNESSES

☒ M. WOOTEN, WSPD

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The Witnesses marked "X" were sworn by the undersigned Foreperson of the Grand Jury and, after hearing testimony, this Bill was found to be:

☒ A TRUE BILL by twelve or more grand jurors, and I the undersigned Foreperson of the Grand Jury, attest the concurrence of twelve or more grand jurors in this Bill of Indictment.

☐ NOT A TRUE BILL.

Date

8/31/2026

Signature Of Grand Jury Foreperson

Melissa M. Neal

2

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

File No.

26CR021883-330

FORSYTH

County

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division

STATE VERSUS

Name And Address Of Defendant

Sarah Lindsey Santiago
202 Autumn View Drive

Winston-Salem

NC

27103

Race

W

Sex

F

Date Of Birth

04/08/2009

INDICTMENT

☐ This is a superseding indictment.

Offense(s)

Date Of Offense
OR
Date Range Of Offense

G.S. No.

CL.

I. First-Degree Murder

05/18/2026

14-17

A

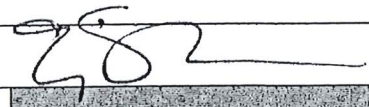
II.

I. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

with malice aforethought aid and abet Caleb Vazquez and Cain Clark in the killing and murder of Nadir Awad by agreeing and planning prior to the attack at the Islamic Center of San Diego, California, to: live stream the attacks planned that day, disseminate the recording publicly and then release the manifesto authored by the attackers purporting to justify the attack. Defendant did in fact carry out these acts. In advance of the attacks planned that day, the defendant did also purchase and send to Caleb Vasquez a Sonnenrad patch for Vasquez to wear during the attacks, which Vasquez did in fact wear.

II. And the jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

Signature Of Prosecutor



WITNESSES

☒ M. WOOTEN, WSPD

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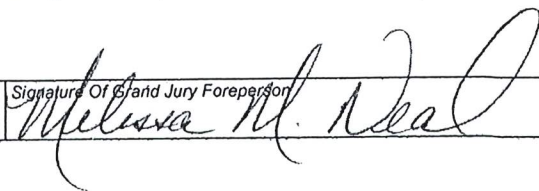
☒ A TRUE BILL by twelve or more grand jurors, and I the undersigned Foreperson of the Grand Jury, attest the concurrence of twelve or more grand jurors in this Bill of Indictment.

☐ NOT A TRUE BILL.

Date

8/31/2024

Signature Of Grand Jury Foreperson



(3)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

File No.

26CR021884-330

FORSYTH

County

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division

STATE VERSUS

Name And Address Of Defendant

Sarah Lindsey Santiago
202 Autumn View Drive

Winston-Salem

NC

27103

Race

W

Sex

F

Date Of Birth

04/08/2009

INDICTMENT

☐ This is a superseding indictment.

Offense(s)

Date Of Offense
OR
Date Range Of Offense

G.S. No.

CL.

I. First-Degree Murder

05/18/2026

14-17

A

II.

I. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

with malice aforethought aid and abet Caleb Vazquez and Cain Clark in the killing and murder of Amin Abdullah (AKA Brian Matthew Climax) by agreeing and planning prior to the attack at the Islamic Center of San Diego, California, to: live stream the attacks planned that day, disseminate the recording publicly and then release the manifesto authored by the attackers purporting to justify the attack. Defendant did in fact, complete all these tasks. In advance of the attacks planned that day, the defendant did also purchase and send to Caleb Vasquez a Sonnenrad patch for Vasquez to wear during the attacks, which Vasquez did in fact wear.

II. And the jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

Signature Of Prosecutor

[Handwritten Signature]

WITNESSES

☒ M. WOOTEN, WSPD

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☐ NOT A TRUE BILL.

Date

8/31/2026

Signature Of Grand Jury Foreperson

[Handwritten Signature]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

FORSYTH

County

File No.

26CR392829-330

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division

STATE VERSUS

Name And Address Of Defendant

Sarah Lindsey Santiago
202 Autumn View Drive

Winston-Salem

NC

27103

Race

W

Sex

F

Date Of Birth

04/28/2009

INDICTMENT

☐ This is a superseding indictment.

Offense(s)

Date Of Offense
OR
Date Range Of Offense

G.S. No.

CL.

I. Conspiracy to Commit First-Degree Murder

05/18/2026

14-2.4(a)

B2

II.

I. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

conspire with Cain Clark and Caleb Vazquez to commit the felony of First-Degree Murder, G.S. 14-17, against worshipers at a California Mosque (later identified as the Islamic Center of San Diego), worshipers at a Jewish Temple (later identified as the Kehilat Ariel Messianic Synagogue), and African-American students at a public high school.

II. And the jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date(s) of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did

Signature Of Prosecutor

WITNESSES

☒ M. WOOTEN, WSPD

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☐ NOT A TRUE BILL.

Date

8/31/2026

Signature Of Grand Jury Foreperson

Melissa M. Neal