

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **TALIBAN'S EXTREMIST IMPLEMENTATION OF SHARIA LAW-**

1. The Taliban have outlawed singing, dancing, and educating girls beyond primary school under their strict interpretation of Sharia law. Hundreds of Afghan musicians have arrived in Portugal after fleeing the Taliban's repressive regime, which has banned music in some parts of the country. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/2021/12/14/all-female-afghan-orchestra-among-hundreds-of-musicians-given-asylum-in-portugal/>
2. Arrests, fines, and physical punishments for LGBTQ people continue to occur around the world in 2021, according to a new report. The death penalty is also likely to be enforced, though the report notes that documentation of such instances remains difficult. After the Taliban took over the Afghan government, a judge in central Afghanistan told the German newspaper Bild that gay men should be crushed to death by toppling walls on them. <https://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/ny-anti-lgbtq-laws-arrest-fines-punishment-death-penalty-ilga-world-report-20211215-t2npdwztcvenpn7blgthlzlja4-story.html>

### **HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER TALIBAN**

1. The humanitarian crisis jeopardises fundamental human rights. In a briefing to the UN Human Rights Council, Nada Al-Nashif described how Afghanistan's deep humanitarian crisis is jeopardising basic rights, disproportionately affecting women, girls, and civil society. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107902>
2. Afghanistan's deposed envoy laments a "complete reversal" of rights gains. "With the Taliban's military takeover of Kabul, we not only see a total reversal of two decades of progress...but the group is also committing a litany of abuses with complete impunity, which in many cases goes unreported and undocumented," Nasir Ahmad Andisha told the Human Rights Council. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/afghanistans-deposed-envoy-decries-total-reversal-rights-gains-2021-12-14/>
3. US advocates decry 'impunity and secrecy' in the Kabul drone attack. Activists demand increased oversight after the Pentagon decides not to punish army officials for the bombing that killed ten people. Human Rights Watch (HRW) expressed concern about the Pentagon's decision, urging Congress to "urgently exercise its oversight" over the Department of Defense by conducting an investigation into "20 years of practises that have resulted in civilian deaths or injury." <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/14/kabul-drone-attack-us-advocates-decry-impunity-secrecy>

4. According to the UN, Afghanistan is experiencing a severe human rights crisis. Prior to the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August, the UN recorded the highest number of civilian casualties on record, with women and children bearing the brunt of the toll. While the number of casualties has decreased, the report claims that civilians are still being killed in attacks by various armed groups.  
<https://www.voanews.com/a/un-says-afghanistan-facing-profound-human-rights-crisis/6354192.html>
5. According to Rainbow Railroad, nearly 1,000 LGBTQ Afghans are desperate to leave Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. The organisation that assists LGBTQ refugees fleeing persecution around the world has heard from nearly 1,000 Afghans desperate to flee and is perplexed by the Liberal government's refusal to accept its help as a direct referral partner.  
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-rainbow-railroad-says-nearly-1000-lgbtq-afghans-are-desperate-to-get/>
6. Fulbright scholars in Afghanistan are hoping for an update from the State Department. Maryam Jami, a 23-year-old attorney in Herat, Afghanistan, who describes herself as a "mini-human rights activist," still hopes to pursue her Masters of Law as a Fulbright scholar in the United States next year, seeing the programme as both a venue for her own dreams and a tool for a better future for Afghanistan.  
<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/afghan-fulbright-semi-finalists-in-limbo-after-US-withdrawal/story?id=81649720>
7. 500 more Afghans will be allowed to settle in Ireland as part of a new programme. A programme that will allow up to 500 more Afghans to settle in Ireland is set to begin. The Afghan Admission Programme will open for applications on Thursday, according to Justice Minister Helen McEntee. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40765596.html>
8. A desperate mother in Afghanistan is forced to sell one of her twin babies for \$104 in order to save the other. In a tragic turn of events, Bibi and her husband were forced to give up one of the twins in order to feed the rest of their family. Bibi told the international charity Save the Children, "We have nothing, so how could I care for them [both]?" <https://nypost.com/2021/12/13/desperate-mom-in-afghanistan-forced-to-sell-her-twin-baby-for-104-so-she-can-save-the-other/>
9. British charities have launched an appeal to help starving children in Afghanistan. According to agencies, a million children under the age of five are at risk of dying in the next three months. This week, the United Kingdom announced an additional £75 million (\$99 million) in aid to Afghanistan to help address the country's deteriorating humanitarian situation.  
<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2021/12/15/british-charities-launch-appeal-for-starving-children-in-afghanistan/>
10. The United States will not release Afghanistan's assets for three reasons: The White House, On Monday (local time), the United States denied releasing more than USD 9.5 billion from Afghanistan's frozen fund. She also stated that the US has yet to receive a clear answer regarding the money that will not be used by the Taliban and how the money will be distributed to Afghans. [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-will-not-release-afghanistan-s-assets-for-three-reasons-white-house-121121500079\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-will-not-release-afghanistan-s-assets-for-three-reasons-white-house-121121500079_1.html)

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

1. The return of the Taliban to power coincides with a structural and geopolitical shift. Over the last two decades, the international structure has shifted toward a multipolar world, with the US-China rivalry maintaining a dominant position. Afghanistan's geopolitical and economic positioning is critical for all regional and major powers. As a result, the stage is set for the next great game.  
<https://www.orfonline.org/research/afghanistan-and-the-new-global-disorder/>
2. Since the Taliban took over in August, the country's economy is estimated to have shrunk by 40%. In the midst of the Afghan financial crisis, the United States must reconsider its punitive sanctions policy. Aid organisations are now unable to make wire transfers to accounts in Afghanistan. <https://thewire.in/world/taliban-afghanistan-us-sanctions-crisis>
3. Britain and Pakistan call for a coordinated response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. "Our shared goal is a stable, inclusive Afghanistan," Christian Turner, the British High Commissioner in Islamabad, told an international seminar in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. <https://www.voanews.com/a/britain-pakistan-urge-collective-response-to-afghan-humanitarian-crisis/6354460.html>
4. A generation of Afghans born and raised in an environment of partial democracy, human rights, women's participation, and freedom of expression are collectively imprisoned by a fundamentalist oppressive regime. While the international community wavers between indifference and abandonment of Afghanistan, Afghans continue to face violence and subjugation. This will have long-term ramifications. <https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/12/14/the-betrayal-of-afghanistan.html>
5. Thousands of Afghan allies and families are still being held hostage by the Taliban. Jesse Jensen, co-founder of Task Force Argo, told The Washington Post that his organisation is dealing with a backlog of over 4,000 people, including family members, who want to leave Afghanistan — including one American citizen who is still in the country with their family. <https://nypost.com/2021/12/14/thousands-of-us-afghan-allies-still-trapped-under-taliban-control/>
6. UK charities launch winter crisis appeal, Fifteen UK aid agencies, including Oxfam, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief, and the British Red Cross, will join forces to solicit donations from the public. Afghanistan has reached a "tipping point" due to the pandemic, conflict, and drought, according to the DEC. It is estimated that a million children under the age of five will die this winter. The UK government will match public donations up to £10 million. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59651924>
7. Pakistan is being held accountable for the United States' shortcomings in Afghanistan. to which Khan responded, Pakistan suffered the most collateral damage in the Afghan war because it was the only US ally to suffer more than 80,000 casualties, the displacement of millions of people, and economic losses totaling more than \$100 billion. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/pakistan-held-responsible-for-us-shortcomings-in-afghanistan-imran-khan/articleshow/88263683.cms>

8. Afghanistan's currency has reached a new low against the US dollar. Afghans must now pay 130 afghanis for a dollar. This is a 30% increase from just a week ago. The depreciation of the national currency is only one indicator of Afghanistan's economic decline under Taliban rule. <https://www.dw.com/en/afghanistans-currency-falls-to-record-low-against-us-dollar/av-60121375>
9. You are a great and big nation, and you must have enough patience and a big heart to dare to make policies on Afghanistan based on international rules and relegation, and to end the differences and make the distance between us shorter and choose good relations with Afghanistan," says the Taliban. Muttuqi Amir Khan. <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/asia-pacific/taliban-calls-us-a-great-nation-urges-co-op-with-afghanistan>
10. Afghanistan's former government's envoy on Tuesday accused the Taliban of committing a slew of human rights violations, including targeted killings and enforced disappearances, since seizing control in August. "With the Taliban's military takeover of Kabul, not only do we see a total reversal of two decades of progress...but the group is also committing a litany of abuses with full impunity, which in many cases goes unreported and undocumented," Nasi He is Kabul's United Nations ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, and he is still recognised by the world body. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/afghanistans-deposed-envoy-decries-total-reversal-rights-gains-2021-12-14/>
11. Seven truckloads of relief supplies were delivered to Afghanistan. Mufti Tariq Masood, the head of Khadija Welfare Trust, stated that we have offered seven truckloads of relief goods to Afghanistan in order to alleviate the sufferings of our Afghan brothers and sisters. He also urged the international community to assist the Afghan people in any way possible at this critical juncture. <https://www.app.com.pk/domestic/seven-truckloads-of-relief-goods-handed-over-to-afghanistan/>
12. Afghanistan's largest humanitarian crisis necessitates a coordinated global response.' According to Pakistan's ambassador to Turkey, the international community must work together to assist Afghans in need. He stated that the defence sector has emerged as yet another critical pillar in Turkey-Pakistan relations. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2333860/worlds-largest-humanitarian-crisis-in-afghanistan-needs-coordinated-global-response>
13. China has been assisting Afghanistan with reconstruction and economic development to the best of its ability. Wang described China as a friendly neighbour and sincere friend of Afghanistan during his regular briefing here, in response to a question about China's assistance to Afghanistan. The most recent shipment includes over 70,000 blankets and over 40,000 down coats. According to the Chinese ambassador, the aid brings warmth from the Chinese people to the Afghan people at a critical time. <https://www.app.com.pk/global/china-to-continue-providing-humanitarian-assistance-to-afghanistan-wang-wenbin/>