

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law-

1. Despite rumours that she had been stoned to death by the Taliban, a pioneering female pilot in the Afghan military is now living on the West Coast after fleeing Kabul on an American military flight. 'I'm sure it would have happened to me if I was in Afghanistan,' Ferozi said. Will Sharia law allow for female military empowerment?
Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10332425/Female-ex-pilot-Afghan-military-living-West-Coast-escaping-Kabul.html>
2. When the fundamentalist group ruled the country from 1996 to 2001, it brutally enforced a conservative version of Islamic Sharia law, which was characterised by violations of women's rights and suppression of freedom of expression. Some are afraid of being persecuted because they are involved in international collaborations, or because of their fields of study or ethnicity.
Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02353-5>
3. Taliban officials have been educated at Darul Uloom Haqqania madrasa, one of Pakistan's largest and oldest seminaries. Its graduates now hold important positions in Afghanistan. Critics have dubbed the school a "university of jihad," accusing it of helping to foment unrest across the region for decades. They also fear that the Taliban's win will encourage extremist madrasas and Islamist groups associated to them, perhaps sparking more radicalism in Pakistan, despite the country's efforts to bring more than 30,000 seminaries under government supervision.
Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/25/world/asia/pakistan-taliban-afghanistan-madrasa.html>

Promotion of radicalism in Pakistan; HR violations of minorities in Pakistan; Steps taken in the world against Pakistan's radicalism.

1. Soon after the Taliban seized power in Kabul, the Taliban-aligned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) insurgent group increased its cross-border attacks on the Pakistani state. TTP is fighting for an Islamic state governed by Sharia law in Pakistan, similar to the "Islamic Emirate" established by the Afghan Taliban in Kabul.
Source: <https://asiatimes.com/2021/12/talibans-mirror-image-ttp-raising-hell-in-pakistan/>
2. In Pakistan's Sindh province, a Hindu woman was abducted in broad daylight. A Hindu woman was kidnapped and dragged by her hair in Pakistan's Sindh province. Previously, Hindu temples in Karachi were attacked and deities were destroyed.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/hindu-woman-abducted-in-daylight-in-sindh-province-of-pakistan/videoshow/88430912.cms>

3. Following an uproar on social media, the management of a popular bakery chain in town is investigating one of its employees' refusal to write "Merry Christmas" on a cake purchased by a customer, clarifying that it does not discriminate on the basis of religion. The worker allegedly told the woman that he was not permitted to write it because he had received a "order" from the kitchen. This is the second time an incident of this nature has occurred at one of the bakery's locations in the area.

Source: <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/technology/1857744-popular-bakery-chain-in-pak-probes-employees-refusal-to-write-merry-christmas-on-cake>

4. The person accused of ransacking and desecrating a Hindu temple in Karachi was quickly apprehended by police, who filed a criminal case against him under the Anti-Terrorism Act-1997 (ATA). A Karachi anti-terrorism court has remanded the accused in police custody until December 28, 2021.

Source: <https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/pakistan-karachi-police-nab-man-accused-of-attacking-hindu-temple-1.84563134>

5. The government's main Islamic legal agency for issuing fatwas (non-binding religious edicts), Egypt's Dar al-Iftaa, has replied to the debate over celebrating Christmas in Egypt, a predominantly Muslim country, on the same day as Coptic Christmas and New Year's Eve. The verdict on celebrating Christmas and the New Year is "permissible," according to Dar al-Iftaa, because it is the day of the birth of Prophet Jesus Christ, son of Mary.

Source: <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/1855589-lankan-nationals-lynching-paks-top-religious-body-says-taking-law-into-hands-is-against-quran-sharia-and-constitution>

6. Pervaiz Khattak, defends the assassination of Srilankan Manager Priyantha Kumara, who was brutally murdered by a mob. According to Khattak, children do such things out of passion, which does not imply that they are wicked.

Source: <https://twitter.com/HamzaAzhrSalam/status/1467535784957726720>

7. Pakistan is stepping up its digital crackdown on minorities such as Ahmadiyyas. In the midst of the already deteriorating situation of Pakistan's minority communities, the country's telecommunications regulator has begun an intuitive crackdown on minorities such as Ahmadiyyas. The Imran Khan government is limiting information sharing by and among Ahmadiyyas by using the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-intensifies-digital-crackdown-on-minorities-like-ahmadiyyas-121121100175_1.html

8. Taliban recruits are pouring into Afghanistan from neighbouring Pakistan as the group works to consolidate control. The source of the additional forces is also inflaming long-standing tensions with Pakistan at a critical time for Taliban leadership as it focuses on maintaining unity in the face of multiple crises that have the potential to destabilise the group.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/12/18/taliban-recruits-pakistan-afghanistan/>

9. Hamid Karzai Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai stated on Sunday that the landlocked country has been under attack by ISIS from Pakistan. In response to Khan's remarks about "pakistan being threatened by Afghanistan ISIS," the former Afghan president stated that these allegations are false, according to TOLONews. ISIS has always threatened Afghanistan from Pakistan, not the other way around, according to Karzai.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/afghanistan-has-been-facing-isis-threat-from-pakistan-hamid-karzai-121122000153_1.html

10. 200 Hindus from Pakistan have entered India, and the Akali leader has stated that they will seek citizenship. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the president of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee and an Akali leader, was at the border to receive four families who he claimed had "fled" Pakistan due to religious persecution.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/200-hindus-from-pakistan-enter-india-akali-leader-manjinder-singh-sirsa-says-will-seek-citizenship-f-2174252>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. The Karnataka Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021, was introduced to the Legislative Assembly yesterday, paving the way for the passage of an anti-conversion law based on false anti-Christian narratives. Individuals who want to change their religion must seek government permission 60 days in advance, according to the bill's provisions. District magistrates or other authorised state government officials will then conduct an investigation into the proposed conversion to ensure that no force, coercion, undue influence, or allurements are used.

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2021/12/22/bjp-led-government-indias-karnataka-state-proposes-enactment-anti-conversion-law/>

2. Russia is ready to join forces with China to combat terrorism, according to the Foreign Ministry. According to Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov, Moscow values genuine cooperation with China on anti-terrorism issues through the United Nations, BRICS, the Shanghai International Organization, and other international platforms.

Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1379095>

3. Since August 2019, the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has significantly improved, with a significant decrease in terrorist incidents and infiltration of terrorists from across the border. According to him, there were 417 terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, 255 in 2019, 244 in 2020, and 203 through November 30 in 2021. SOURCE: <https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2021/12/22/significant-decline-in-terrorist-incidents-infiltration-in-jandk-after-august-2019-govt.html>
4. In Saudi Arabia, a large international conference on philosophy was convened to encourage critical thinking in a country where citizens have been imprisoned in recent years for expressing what are perceived to be opposing ideas. Leading American philosopher Michael Sandel was one of a handful of well-known academics who attended the three-day conference in Riyadh. The Harvard professor, who has been compared to a rock star, told the organisers that he didn't want to give a lecture and instead wanted to engage directly with young Saudis, especially women, in a virtual appearance.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-59609233>
5. The UAE announced a substantial change of its Islamic personal regulations allowing unmarried couples to live under the same roof, reducing alcohol prohibitions, and criminalising honour killings. The expansion of personal freedoms reflects the country's expanding status as a westernised tourist, fortune-seeker, and commercial destination, despite its Islamic legal code, which has historically resulted in court cases against foreigners and uproar in their home countries.
Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1589223>
6. People took to Twitter to protest the temporary blocking of Kashmiri journalist Aarti Tikoo's account for a tweet in which she is looking for her brother Sahil Tikoo, whose life is allegedly threatened by terrorists. Claiming that jihadi terrorists were openly threatening Sahil Tikoo, "It is clear that Twitter is allowing Pakistan-sponsored terrorists to use Twitter Spaces for terror-related activities, such as threatening Indians and hatching plots to kill Kashmiri Hindus like Sahil Tikoo." The collective voice of opposition to such actions by social media and their policies is being challenged.
Source: <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/twitter-hammered-for-blocking-journalist-who-sought-protection-for-brother-in-kashmir.html>
7. The passage of a 'Islamophobia' bill in the United States has sparked heated debate. On Tuesday, Representatives voted to approve a Democratic proposal for a US State Department office to combat 'anti-Muslim bias' around the world. The bill proposes to appoint a special envoy to monitor and combat alleged state-sponsored anti-Muslim violence in the department's annual human rights reports.
Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/viral-news/faceoff-islamophobia-bill-passed-in-us-evokes-clashing-opinions/articleshow/88304153.cms>

20th December 2021

8. According to Datuk Chong Sin Woon, the rise of "extreme forces" in the country and globally is concerning, and all political parties in the country should rise and unite against extremism and racism. According to the MCA secretary-general, some people were becoming less accommodating and tolerant, or worse, had less respect for others. "Someone is out there trying to encroach on other people's lifestyles, forbidding us from eating or drinking or doing certain things." Everyone is pretending not to notice the elephant in the room. This is concerning.

Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/12/19/unite-against-extremism>

9. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa discussed plans for bilateral cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Amirabdollahian and General Bajwa then discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. According to Iran's foreign minister, only the formation of an inclusive government representing all ethnic groups can bring peace and security back to Afghanistan.

Source: <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2021/12/20/2629185/iran-pakistan-discuss-joint-action-against-terrorism>