

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law-

1. After declaring Afghanistan an Islamic Emirate governed by Sharia law, would they agree to parliamentary democracy if the Loya Jirga prescribed it, especially given their previous rejection of it? Finally, even if the Taliban accepts Karzai's position that Afghan boys and girls have a universal right to education, they are bound to reject his position that women must find their place in Afghanistan's polity, administration, and economic activity — in fact, in all walks of life. To bring them around, the world must do more than simply interact with them. It must apply enough pressure to cause them to bend.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/columnists/karzai-speaks-his-mind-on-af-future.html>

2. Islamic religious authority is traditionally thought to be solely male in nature. However, when it is dissected into its various manifestations – leading prayer, preaching, issuing fatwas, transmitting hadith, judging in court, teaching law, theology, and other Islamic sciences, and generally shaping the Islamic scholarly tradition – nuances emerge that hint at the presence of women in some of these functions.

SOURCE: https://en.abna24.com/news/book-on-female-religious-authority-in-shi%E2%80%99i-islam_1212077.html

3. When they arrived, the Islamic Center of Greater Miami had prepared a warm Halal meal — food permitted under Islamic law — for them. Volunteers held a sign as a family of seven from war-torn Afghanistan arrived at Miami International Airport last week. They had come to assist the family in establishing a new life in South Florida. They relied on Jewish Community Services volunteers to help them get their luggage and to a hotel for the night because they spoke little English and had only clothes and a few personal items.

SOURCE: <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/middle-east/2021-12-24/afghan-families-left-everything-finding-new-home-miami-4076221.html>

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

4. A UK parliamentary panel report has exposed the plight of Pakistani women from minority communities, causing major embarrassment for Imran Khan's government. According to a report by a UK parliamentary panel, Pakistani Muslim men target girls from minority communities for forced marriage. Surprisingly, these powerful men are unlikely to be concerned about paying the consequences of their crimes. Furthermore, the report stated that the Pakistani government had rarely taken any punitive measures to assist bereaved families who had lost loved ones to Muslim men.

SOURCE: <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/pakistan-news/pakistani-men-force-minority-girls-into-marriage-and-push-them-into-prostitution-report.html>

5. According to the Punjab DGP, the suspects in the Ludhiana blast had Khalistani ties, and the role of Pakistan-based entities is suspected. Singh was facing a narcotics charge, and his ties to the mafia were also revealed. According to the DGP, the explosive used in the blast was only available to terrorists and could have come from across the border.

SOURCE: <https://theprint.in/india/punjab-dgp-says-ludhiana-blast-accused-had-khalistani-links-role-of-pak-based-entities-suspected/788007/>

6. The Punjab assembly banned Tablighi Jamaat from universities in January 2016. It had also been banned from mosques surrounding all universities because lawmakers believed the Tablighi Jamaat was sympathetic to terrorist organisations and would try to mislead young students. Five years later, the Punjab assembly is praising the Tablighi Jamaat for bringing goodwill to Pakistan. Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan, has recently reached peace treaties with nearly every extremist organisation in the country. PM Imran Khan recently attempted but failed to reach a cease-fire agreement with the Tehreek-e-Taliban. The former Pakistan cricketer also bowed to the Tehreek-e-demands. Labbaik's.

SOURCE: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/pakistan-backs-tablighi-jamaat-after-saudi-ban-439723>

7. The SGPC has condemned restrictions on Sikhs wearing 'Siri Sahib' (kirpan, a religious symbol) in government institutions, court complexes, and public places in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The decision of the Peshawar High Court has left the Sikhs disappointed." The kirpan is the fifth of Sikhism's five pillars (kakaar). The Sikhs who lived there, as well as the authorities, were well-

versed in Sikhism's history and traditions. President Harjinder Singh Dhani urged the governments of Pakistan and India to resolve the issue while keeping the community's sentiments in mind.

SOURCE: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/sgpc-flays-curb-on-kirpan-in-pakistan-354112>

8. Before the Ludhiana blast, Khalistani groups conducted a Twitter campaign with the assistance of the ISI. The campaign was handed over to a group called Mohabbat Mafia. Using the handle Shafqat Ch, he tweeted with the hashtag #DhakatoKhalistan. "Time is turning around," it said. Dhaka 1971 will be repeated on the other side. To Khalistan and a slew of other independent states."

SOURCE: <https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2021/12/25/khalistani-groups-carried-out-twitter-campaign-with-isi-help-before-ludhiana-blast.html>

9. The Ministry of Human Rights told the National Assembly on Friday that over 14,000 rape cases had been reported in Pakistan over the last four years. Based on information obtained from the National Police Bureau, the document only accounts for the first six months of the current year (from January to June). According to the ministry's breakdown, 5,048 cases of sexual violence and workplace harassment were reported in 2018, 4,751 cases in 2019, 4,276 cases in 2020, and 2,078 cases in 2021.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1665575/more-than-14000-rape-cases-reported-over-last-four-years-na-told>

10. Last week, the Minorities Alliance Pakistan (MAP) condemned the criminalization of forced conversions of underage minority girls and urged Pakistan's government to develop a uniform policy to protect religious minorities. The challenges faced by Christians in Pakistan have remained unchanged for generations, which is an eye-watering experience by any standard. What do you want for Christmas this year? Particularly since religious oppression in Pakistan has emerged as one of the most serious human rights issues of our time. It's difficult not to look back on last year's Christmas as a missed opportunity. Allow Us to Have a Painless Christmas.

SOURCE: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/859125/allow-us-the-option-of-painless-christmas/>

11. Ahmadi immigrants share their healing journeys following traumas in Pakistan. Two Ahmadi say they fled to Canada from Pakistan after facing life-threatening situations. The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is one of Pakistan's Muslim minority groups that has faced challenges and persecution for decades. Religious minorities make up an estimated 4% of Pakistan's population, including a number of

26th December 2021

Ahmadis who "continue to be relegated to the status of second-class citizens, vulnerable to inherent discriminatory practises, forced conversions, and faith-based violence."

SOURCE: <https://torontoobserver.ca/2021/12/24/ahmadi-muslims-pakistan-canada/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

12. According to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, the Muttahida Ulema Board unanimously decided to purge the curriculum of extremist content. Speaking at a press conference here on Friday following a board meeting, he stated that the single national curriculum does not contain any elements of extremism or radicalism. He added that 307 books had been cleared of potential extremist content so far.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1665609>

13. Pakistan reiterated its commitment to countering disinformation on Friday, saying that as a "victim of falsehood and propaganda," it will do so through international cooperation. The Pakistan-sponsored resolution titled "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Friday, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335610/pakistan-reiterates-commitment-to-counter-disinformation>

14. According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, disrespecting the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) does not qualify as a "expression of artistic freedom." Blasphemy against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a "violation of religious freedom and a violation of the sacred feelings of Muslims," he said at his annual news conference on Thursday. Putin stated that such acts provoke extremist retaliation, citing the attack on the editorial office of Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris after it published blasphemous sketches of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), according to Russia's TASS news agency.

SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335477/disrespecting-prophet-muhammad-pbuh-is-not-freedom-of-expression-putin>

26th December 2021

15. After years of battling social stigma, discrimination, and a lack of access, Sindh's transgender community has been reasserted with promises of inclusion through affirmative action. This time, a new law has touted increased job market access with a 0.5 percent reserved quota for Sindh's transgender community, the bill for which has been approved by the cabinet and is ready to be presented in the Sindh Assembly.
SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335584/sindh-touts-quota-for-transgender-population>

16. The United Nations General Assembly in New York unanimously adopted a resolution sponsored by Pakistan titled "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms." Pakistan took the initiative against the backdrop of the world's exponential spread of disinformation. According to the foreign ministry, the phenomenon is exacerbating social discord and fueling discrimination, hate speech, stigmatisation, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and other intolerances.
SOURCES: <https://nation.com.pk/25-Dec-2021/unga-adopts-pak-resolution-to-protect-hr-fundamental-freedoms>

17. According to government and church leaders, the formation of the Christian Journalists Association of Pakistan (CJAP) is a step in the right direction because there is a dire need for spreading awareness and highlighting the issues confronting the country's marginalised and vulnerable communities. They expressed hope that Christian media will play an effective role in the capacity building and training of minority journalists, as well as in projecting the challenges that all vulnerable communities face.
SOURCE: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2021/12/24/govt-church-laud-launch-of-christian-journalist-body/>

18. Following the court ruling, Russia has blocked the website of the OVD-Info protest-monitoring group, a day after imposing massive fines on Meta and Google for failing to delete illegal content. For years, the group has documented anti-Kremlin protests. According to OVD-Info, Russia's communication watchdog blocked its website earlier this week. The monitoring group is also known for providing legal assistance to political persecutors. OVD-Info is a Russian independent human rights media project dedicated to combating political persecution. Russia, on the other hand, is on a crackdown on dissent.
SOURCE: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-blocks-website-of-protest-monitoring-group-for-allegedly-promoting-terrorism-and-extremism-439910>

19. GOVERNOR Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta State has called for an end to all forms of violent crime, including banditry, kidnapping, terrorism, and insurgency, which have become commonplace in the country, posing a significant security challenge to governments at all levels and the entire citizenry as Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
SOURCE: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/12/christmas-okowa-calls-for-an-end-to-banditry-kidnapping-terrorism-insurrection/>

20. Former Idaho government, business, and agricultural leaders have formed a new political action committee to remove extremists from the Idaho Legislature. Take Back Idaho PAC supports candidates who support schools and public education as one of its strategies. Starting in 2022, the committee intends to support and attempt to elect candidates in legislative races, with a focus on candidates who support education. The committee also intends to oppose incumbent legislators who attack education and are viewed as extremist in their views and policy positions by Take Back Idaho PAC members.

SOURCE: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/dec/24/new-committee-of-veteran-idaho-officials-seeks-to/>

21. The upper house of parliament unanimously passed a resolution on Friday condemning the recent lynching of Priyantha Kumara, a Sri Lankan national factory manager, in Sialkot by a mob accusing him of blasphemy. Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani stated that he would send a delegation of senators to Sri Lanka to personally deliver a copy of this resolution to Kumara's family and express condolences.

SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335452/senators-unanimously-slam-sialkot-lynching>

22. According to the ambassador, Pakistan and Afghanistan's governments must institutionally coordinate to combat terrorism. The ambassador stated that the new government had publicly stated that it would not allow the TTP or other groups to operate against Pakistan, and that Islamabad had begun a process of negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the problem. "The Pakistani government is steadfast in its determination to achieve the goal."

SOURCE: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2021/12/24/pakistan-afghan-govts-must-institutionally-coordinate-to-counter-terrorism-says-ambassador/>

23. The police department finalised a three-tiered security plan for churches and Christian residential areas here during the Christmas season on Friday. According to the plan, approximately 1,500 police officers will be stationed inside and outside churches throughout the district, aided by Ababeel Squad patrols. CCTV cameras will be used to monitor security measures, while the anti-terrorism squad, bomb disposal unit, and women police officers will assist police with sniffer dogs and other equipment to ensure the safety of churches and worshippers.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1665686>

24. Turkish prosecutors have ordered the detention of 81 people on terrorism charges in the last week due to their alleged ties to the faith-based Gülen movement. Following the December 17-25, 2013 corruption investigations that implicated then-prime minister and current President

26th December 2021

Recep Tayyip Erdoan's family members and inner circle, Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) government launched a war against the Gülen movement, a worldwide civic initiative inspired by the ideas of Muslim cleric Fethullah Gülen.

SOURCE: <https://stockholmcf.org/turkish-prosecutors-ordered-detention-of-81-people-over-alleged-gulen-links-in-a-week/>

25. Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Punjab Agriculture Minister, congratulated Muslims on Quaid's birthday and the Christian community on Christmas. According to the minister, Hazrat Essa's (AS) birthday is a sacred occasion for both the Christian and Muslim communities. "We equally share the joys of Christmas with our Christian brethren," he said. The Pakistani people are ecstatic. He went on to say that the Christian community has played an important role in the country's progress and development. He stated that the essence of Hazrat Essa's teachings is the promotion of brotherhood, tolerance, and harmony (AS).

SOURCE: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/919569-steps-taken-for-protecting-minorities-rights-gardezi>