

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law-

1. Taliban prohibits Afghan women from travelling unless accompanied by a male relative. The Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice also advised all vehicle owners to provide rides only to women wearing Islamic hijabs. They were then forced to wear the all-encompassing burqa, were only permitted to leave the house with a male chaperone, and were barred from working or attending school.

SOURCE: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/no-trips-for-afghan-women-unless-escorted-by-male-relative-taliban-2672210>

2. The Taliban has already closed the former administration's ministry of women's affairs and replaced it with the ministry of virtue promotion and vice prevention. "These commissions do not need to exist or function," spokesman Bilal Karimi said on Saturday, referring to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission. "They oppose all democratic institutions." "They gain power through bullets, not ballots," said Fidai, who has served as governor of four provinces over the last two decades.

SOURCE: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/25/taliban-dissolves-afghanistan-election-commission>

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

3. The threat of extremism is also commonly defined as a process in which an initially moderate individual or group of individuals becomes progressively more extreme in their thinking, and possibly in their behaviour. Pakistan's demographic trajectory makes it easy for young Pakistanis to be swayed toward radicalization, especially when unemployment and income disparities are high. Because poorer households in Pakistan have a higher average number of children, especially in rural areas, this means that an unusually large number of young men and women are forced to live below or near the poverty line. Furthermore, at least one-tenth of rural communities lack access to basic services, adding additional strain to an already overburdened economy.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/919860-radicalisation-in-pakistan>

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4. Christmas may come and go, but the conditions of Christians in Pakistan remain as they have been - pitiable and discriminated against. Christians, like other religious minorities such as Hindus and Sikhs, have been demanding 'regulations' for conversion to Islam in Pakistan. However, in September of this year, Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony rejected a bill proposing age restrictions and regulations on conversions to Islam.

SOURCE: <https://www.organiser.org/world/christians-are-hugely-over-represented-as-sweepers-in-pakistan-9695.html>

5. An Islamic State terrorist who was involved in the murder of a police inspector was gunned down in J&K's Anantnag. According to Kashmir police, Faheem Bhat was involved in the December 22 killing of an on-duty assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Mohammad Ashraf Dar outside the Bijbehara police station.

SOURCE: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/islamic-state-terrorist-involved-in-killing-of-police-inspector-gunned-down-in-j-k-s-anantnag-101640486446176.html>

6. Addressing the media for the first time since taking over as Punjab's Director General of Police (DGP), Chattopadhyaya said on Saturday that the accused — Gagandeep Singh, a dismissed Punjab Police head constable killed in the blast — had contact with radical Khalistan elements while incarcerated in a drugs case.

SOURCE: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/ludhiana-court-blast-accused-an-ex-cop-had-links-to-khalistan-isi-punjab-police-chief-440039>

7. Many girls and women are victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, and the statistics and forecasts are bleak. They speak of millions of lost childhoods as a result of gender inequality, poverty, and harmful traditional practises. They are unable to represent the images we associate with adolescence.

SOURCE: <https://www.easterneye.biz/how-right-to-play-is-batting-for-the-girls-team-in-pakistan/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

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8. Turkey seizes the assets of individuals and organisations suspected of funding terrorism. According to a ruling published in Turkey's official gazette on Friday, the Turkish Ministry of Treasury and Finance froze the assets of over 770 individuals and organisations on the grounds that they were providing terrorist financing.
SOURCE: <https://www.jurist.org/news/2021/12/turkey-freezes-assets-of-individuals-and-organizations-accused-of-funding-terrorism/>
9. Russia has blocked the website Rights Monitor for promoting 'terrorism.' Russia has blocked the website of a rights monitor that tracks political persecution, claiming it promotes terrorism and extremism, as part of an unprecedented government crackdown on dissent.
SOURCE: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/12/25/russia-blocks-rights-monitor-website-for-promoting-terrorism-a75928>
10. The international community is threatened by Ilhan Omar's 'combating Islamophobia' bill. What was the purpose of introducing this bill in the first place? This bill's intent is problematic. The bill primarily seeks US sanctions against ostensibly Islamophobic foreign non-Islamic countries or entities. This, however, contradicts the Biden Administration's non-sanctions diplomacy initiative. The bill is aimed at American allies such as India, Israel, the United Kingdom, Australia, and possibly even China. This bill appears flawed to the international community because it does not define the aggressors and also directly interferes in the internal affairs of sovereign states.
SOURCE: <https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/ilhan-omars-combating-islamophobia-bill-threat-international-community>
11. According to data compiled by the US State Department, India faced more terror attacks in the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020, than the previous year, with 37 percent of these incidents reported from Jammu and Kashmir. Even though India was among the top ten countries in terms of terrorism incidents last year, it was not among the top ten in terms of fatalities. Afghanistan reported 1,722 terror attacks, followed by Syria (1,322) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) (999). According to the Centre, terror incidents in J&K have decreased since the repeal of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, and major terror networks in the Valley have been dismantled by security forces.
SOURCE: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/terror-attacks-rose-during-pandemic-year-in-india-us-report-101640542605120.html>
12. 'True betrayal' British terrorists should face new 'Treason Law' for attacks on the UK, according to a member of Parliament. Terrorists based in the United Kingdom who carry out attacks on British soil should face a new 'Treason Law,' according to a Conservative MP.

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He believes that a brand new UK Treason Law is essential for inflicting the proper punishment on those who not only commit violence against Britain through terrorist acts, but also commit a "genuine betrayal" of the country that raised them.

SOURCE: <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1541407/terrorism-treason-law-tom-tugendhat-jonny-gould-podcast-vn>

13. The Palestinian Authority is urging the international community to intervene to protect Palestinians in the face of rising settler violence in the West Bank, which has left hundreds injured in recent days. According to the Authority, the Israeli regime must be held accountable for a surge in what it calls terrorist attacks by settlers on defenceless Palestinians. Meanwhile, Palestinian factions across the West Bank are calling for the formation of local protection committees.

SOURCE: <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2021/12/26/673419/Palestinians-Israeli-settler-attacks-West-Bank-Hamas->

14. Egypt strongly condemned the despicable terrorist attack carried out by the Houthi militia in the Saudi Arabian province of Samta in the Jazan region on Saturday. A number of Saudi brothers and residents of the kingdom were killed or injured as a result of the attack. Egypt reiterated its support for the kingdom in the face of these heinous terrorist attacks, which are a violation of international law and a clear threat to regional security and stability.

SOURCE: <https://dailynewsegypt.com/2021/12/25/egypt-condemns-terrorist-attack-in-jazan-renews-solidarity-with-saudi-arabia/>

15. Pakistan Citizen Portal is at the forefront of addressing and resolving minorities' complaints from across Pakistan, particularly the Christian community. According to official data released by the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU), the Christian community filed 13,433 complaints on various subjects at the Pakistan Citizen Portal over the last three years, of which 12,839 were addressed and resolved.

SOURCE: <https://nation.com.pk/26-Dec-2021/pakistan-citizen-portal-handled-13-433-christian-community-s-complaints-in-3-years-pmdu>

16. Sikhs in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have welcomed a recent court ruling allowing them to carry a ceremonial dagger known as the kirpan in pursuit of an obligatory religious practise, but argue that the object should not be classified as a weapon requiring a licence. Carrying a kirpan is one of Sikhism's five articles of faith, and the Sikh community has fought — both winning and losing — legal battles all over the world to be allowed to do so.

SOURCE: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1992756/world>

17. Askole village in Gilgit-Baltistan celebrates a warm Christmas. This year, the Alex Găvan Foundation provided warm clothing to all 312 students at the Askole school as a Christmas gift. Alex Găvan, a Romanian climber, stepped in and paid the salaries of three teachers in Askole village, in Pakistan's Gilgit–Baltistan region. "Because of the coronavirus, no expeditions were planned for 2020, leaving those three teachers without pay because their parents were unable to work. The three volunteered because they were locals" Găvan stated.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1665946/a-warm-christmas-in-gilgit-baltistans-askole-village>

18. Microsoft, the world's leading software company, has been encouraging young girls to pursue careers in software development. According to a press release issued here, the Microsoft Power platform has made it simple for even primary school students to develop customised applications based on their needs. These exceptionally bright girls were not the first Pakistanis to achieve such high success at such a young age; in fact, Arfa Karim was only nine years old when she became the world's youngest Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP).

SOURCE: <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/microsoft-empowering-pakistani-young-girls-to-1435763.html>

19. To counter Iran's cyber attacks and combat terrorism, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has opened the door to strengthening security ties with Australia and the Five Eyes spying network. After the Morrison government declared the Lebanese group a terrorist organisation last month, Australian law enforcement agencies now have the opportunity to hunt down Hezbollah's global terror network, according to Mr Lapid.

SOURCE: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/very-interested-israel-eyes-closer-security-ties-with-australia-20211222-p59jl1.html>

20. Phishing attacks on central ministry officials are becoming more aggressive and targeted. Phishing attempts targeting employees of various central ministries have recently been launched using compromised government domain email IDs, despite MeitY and NIC taking precautions to prevent such breaches. "Control of a server and mailing capacities went beyond our control for a short time last year but was immediately restored." It's impossible to tell if it's completely fixed. To control all such compromised emails, we will need to perform a forensic audit, which will necessitate restarting the server. A clean slate would necessitate a week of no activities, which is not feasible, according to a senior ministry official.

SOURCE: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/phishing-cyber-attacks-central-ministry-7691598/>

21. Myanmar's senior general and India's foreign secretary have agreed to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation. India in necessary infrastructures for generating electricity in Myanmar, training and teaching, technological assistance from India in development of agriculture and livestock sectors, sales and contribution of vaccines by India for prevention, control, and treatment of COVID-19, discharging of State responsibilities by the Tatmadaw under the Constitution (2008) due to voting fraud in the 2020 general election, terror acts by terrorist groups in the country, efforts for counter-terrorism, response .

SOURCE: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/myanmar-senior-general-indian-foreign-secretary-decide-to-strengthen-counter-terror-ties/articleshow/88501515.cms>

22. On Saturday, Four local terrorists from the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad terror outfits were eliminated by a joint team of security forces in two separate encounters in the Shopian and Tral areas of Awantipora. This year, counter-terrorism operations have killed approximately 185 terrorists.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/india/four-let--jem-terrorists-killed-in-encounters-in-j-k.html>

23. Despite 13 rounds of military talks and political efforts to defuse the situation, the India-China standoff remains unresolved. Despite Moscow's best efforts, there is little it can do to mediate peace between India and China. Meanwhile, Russia is eager to activate its counter-terrorism mechanism, most likely in order to flex its muscles in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Moscow appears eager to collaborate with both India and China in order to reestablish its foothold in Kabul. Yury Ushakov, a presidential aide, suggested that a Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral meeting, similar to the one held in June 2019 in Osaka on the sidelines of the G20 summit, could be held soon.

SOURCE: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/china-is-rising-in-central-asia-a-friend-is-worried-and-we-need-access-1064750.html>

24. It has been an year since INDIA was elected to the UN SECURITY COUNCIL for the eighth time. Certain things, however, have not changed. The pandemic continues to rage. On issues of global importance, the world remains divided and polarised. Conflicts on the Council's agenda have persisted, and new ones have emerged. Terrorism has not only continued unabated, but has also spread to new areas, particularly in Africa. On our eastern front, India has served as a bridge builder, bringing divergent perspectives on Myanmar into the Council. We have stated our support for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' leadership. We have also called for a

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return to the democratic transition process, a cessation of violence, and the immediate release of leaders. India has consistently supported democratic transitions, whether in Myanmar or in Africa.

SOURCE: <https://www.theweek.in/theweek/more/2021/12/23/we-didnt-hesitate-to-express-views-firmly-in-unsc-india-representative-to-un.html>

25. Experts in violent domestic extremism discovered something surprising at this fall's inaugural Eradicate Hate conference, held just 10 months after the Jan. 6 insurgency demonstrated how deeply hateful ideologies pervade U.S. society. The threat of white supremacy persists, but experts see hope in combating online extremism.

SOURCE: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/12/26/propaganda-white-supremacy-deradicalization/6503198001/?gnt-cfr=1>