

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law-

1. Afghanistan's ruling Taliban issued new travel restrictions for the country's women on Sunday, which the US condemned as further mistreatment of Afghan women by the terror group. The decree also requires male drivers in Afghanistan's male-only transportation sector to grow beards, take prayer breaks, and refrain from playing music in their vehicles. The Taliban has urged Washington to unfreeze roughly \$9.4 billion in Afghanistan's central bank assets and lift financial restrictions, claiming that their new government is representative of all Afghans and working to respect all citizens' human rights in accordance with Islamic laws.

SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-further-restrict-afghan-women-with-new-travel-rules/6370936.html>

2. The Taliban Emirate is unlikely to change its revivalist extremism and commitment to Jihad as a tool for political advancement. India would have to be wary of the added threat of Islamic terrorism from the Pakistan-Afghan border region. In the new emerging geopolitics, India and the United States – the world's two largest democracies – will have to work together to defend the democratic order against the global threat posed by Marxist dictatorships and radical Islam.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehansindia.com/hans/opinion/news-analysis/its-emirate-vs-islamic-republic-in-kabul-721748>

3. Meanwhile, Kabul residents have urged security officials to identify those who are committing crimes in the name of the Islamic Emirate. "People working with security forces should try to arrest such people and turn them over to the law," a TOLONews resident said. This follows the announcement last week by the head of the commission auditing security forces that the commission had expelled 1,895 force members, including those involved in harassment cases.

SOURCE: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176058>

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

4. The return of the Islamic Emirate in Kabul on August 15, this year, and what has happened in Afghanistan since then, must draw attention to December 1996, when the Taliban first captured Kabul, established the Afghan Emirate under Mullah Omar, and issued a five-point directive ordering strict enforcement of Islamic laws, the creation of 'religious police,' women to stay at home, the closure of all video and private media, and even led people to commit suicide.

SOURCE: <https://www.sentinelassam.com/editorial/it-is-emirate-vs-the-islamic-republic-in-afghanistan-569941>

5. In response to the Taliban government's recent measures against women in Afghanistan, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Monday that retrogressive thinking was a

"danger for Pakistan." "You can see that two extremist regimes have emerged on Pakistan's right and left. Afghanistan, on the other hand, has seen the arrival of the Taliban. We want to do everything we can to assist the Afghan people.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1666099>

6. At the recent Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan took on his preferred role as Muslim cultural ambassador at large, urging the international community to be "sensitive to the tribal customs" of Pashtuns. Conflating these with the Taliban's, the Prime Minister acknowledged cultural differences in human rights and women's rights and argued that incentivizing basic rights is futile unless local patriarchal norms are accommodated. According to legal scholar Naz Modirzadeh, "Islamic law, as it is currently applied in many countries, violates international human rights law," and despite these widely acknowledged inconsistencies, "hand-wringing by Muslim scholars about whether a conflict exists is largely for the benefit of a Western audience."

SOURCE: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/imran-khan-was-not-so-wrong-about-difference-between-human-rights-and-muslim-rights/>

7. Why does Britain frequently join forces with anti-India Khalistani radicalism that thrives on its soil? Diasporic Sikh groups in the UK and Canada are mostly controlled by Khalistani sympathisers who work in tandem with Islamist groups of Pakistani origin. In the United Kingdom, Canada, and elsewhere, diasporic Sikh groups are largely openly controlled by Khalistani sympathisers who collaborate with Islamist groups of Pakistani origin under the watchful eye of the local Pakistani diplomatic mission. Funding is readily available for inciting anti-Indian activity, including Khalistani participation in two consecutive attacks on the Indian High Commission in London, with a third only diverted due to stern injunctions from New Delhi to London authorities.

SOURCE: <https://www.firstpost.com/india/why-britain-often-joins-hands-with-anti-india-khalistani-radicalism-thriving-on-its-soil-10239921.html>

8. For some, social media "echo chambers" can be ideologically reinforcing because their morals align with everyone else's in the group. However, according to a new study, these online locations can also lead to radicalization. "People who find themselves in a 'bubble,' so to speak, where their ideas, beliefs, and values are strongly reinforced, may form a visceral bond with their ingroup," Dr. Atari explains. "In these situations, people may engage in radical acts to defend their ingroup, ranging in severity from an outrage-filled tweet to a federal building attack."

SOURCE: <https://fox4kc.com/news/social-media-echo-chambers-radicalize-people-make-them-more-likely-to-turn-violent/>

9. Thousands of people have signed a petition calling for an end to the forced conversion and marriage of Christian girls. All of the parliamentarians have actively advocated for the protection of Christian and other minority women and girls in persecution situations. They also support ACN's campaign urging Home Secretary Priti Patel to grant asylum to Maira Shahbaz, a Pakistani Christian teenager who escaped from a man who kidnapped her, forced her to convert to Islam, and forced her to marry him. She is currently in hiding with her family due to death threats.

SOURCE:

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/thousands.sign.petition.calling.for.end.to.forced.conversion.and.marriage.of.christian.girls/137963.htm>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

10. "To ensure this citizen-centric approach to security, the NSP prioritised economic security." A stronger economy would generate more resources, which could then be wisely distributed to strengthen military and human security. The NSA emphasised the creation of a detailed implementation framework through which the National Security Division would review progress in collaboration with relevant ministries and departments.

SOURCE: <https://www.geo.tv/latest/389973-pakistans-first-national-security-policy-being-presented-in-nsc-meeting-today>

11. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously adopted a resolution sponsored by Pakistan on Saturday, calling for a multifaceted response to all forms of disinformation that undermine human rights. The Third Committee of the 193-member assembly, which deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, recommended the resolution titled "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms."

SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335791/pakistan-resolution-to-counter-disinformation-adopted>

12. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to collaborate on women's empowerment and education participation in the KPK province. The agreement, according to details, was intended to promote women's empowerment and to encourage them to take active roles after completing their education in underrepresented sectors of industry, technical field jobs, and business management. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by University Engineering of Technology (UET) Peshawar and Khwendo Kor (KK), a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-partisan organisation.

SOURCE: <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40142699>

13. According to PA, the 29-year-old has violated a 10-year court order by failing to inform police about two email addresses and two cryptocurrency accounts. The dark web is a section of the internet that can only be accessed with special software, allowing users to remain anonymous. Payments made online without the use of a centralised authority are referred to as cryptocurrency. Iqbal pleaded guilty to four violations between July and August of this year. Mr Justice Nigel Sweeney sentenced him last Tuesday at London's Old Bailey.

SOURCE: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/self-styled-father-terrorism-cardiff-22580131>

14. The State Audit Institution (SAI) signed a cooperation agreement with the National Centre for Financial Information on Monday to exchange information in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing. Ahmed Salim Al Rujeibi, SAI Deputy Chairman of Audit in the State Administrative Apparatus, and Lt. Col. Abdulrahman Amer Al Kiyumi,

CEO of the National Center for Financial Information, signed the protocol at SAI headquarters.

SOURCE: <https://timesofoman.com/article/111093-pact-signed-to-combat-money-laundering-terror-funding>

15. On the anniversary of the attack on the United States Capitol, a local non-profit called We Are Many United Against Hate will hold a forum with area students and experts to find solutions to avoid further violence—an attack described by the non-profit and FBI Director Christopher Wray as "domestic terrorism." The non-profit was founded by Masood Akhtar of Middleton. He is a Muslim-American businessman who believes that speaking out against hate is critical to the survival of our democracy.

SOURCE: <https://www.nbc15.com/2021/12/27/united-against-hate-holds-domestic-terrorism-forum-january-6th-2/>

16. Military Leaders Direct Troops to End Terrorism in the Northeast by 2022. Lt Gen Faruk Yahaya, Chief of Army Staff, and Air Marshal Isiaka Amao, Chief of Air Staff, charged troops over the weekend to end terrorism in the North-east by next year. The charge was given at the Maimalari Cantonment in Maidugur during a joint Christmas luncheon for the 91 wounded troops. He stated that the troops should continue to work and carry out the mandate of Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK), which has the potential to restore peace in the North-east by 2022. He stated that the Christmas celebration provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to recognise the sacrifices, loyalty, and gallantry of troops in OPHK and other operations across the country.

SOURCE: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/12/27/military-chiefs-order-troops-to-end-terrorism-in-neast-in-2022/>

17. On November 2-4, 2021, three major Bosnia and Herzegovina counter-terrorism units participated in a joint training exercise to promote interoperability across various geographic locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Investigators and operators from the Bosnia and Herzegovina State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), the Republika Srpska's Special Anti-Terrorist Unit (RS CAJ), and the Federal Ministry of Interior Special Service Unit (FMUP SSU) were trained alongside US Army Special Forces. The three counter-terrorism units worked together to stop a bogus terrorist cell and maintain national security.

SOURCE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/411915/bosnia-and-herzegovina-counter-terrorism-groups-train-together-promote-interoperability>

18. After a five-year hiatus, the US government and the Palestinian Authority have resumed economic talks. The discussions will focus on infrastructure development, access to US markets, US regulations, free trade, financial issues, renewable energy, and environmental initiatives, according to the State Department. Some in Israel are concerned that the funds will be used to fund terrorist activities rather than their stated goals, while others hope that a higher standard of living for Palestinians will reduce their proclivity for terrorism. Terrorism, in my opinion, stems from hatred and the political goals of those who promote it. As a result, adding or subtracting resources has no effect on its intensity or frequency.

SOURCE: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/israels-hopeless-fight-against-terrorism/>

19. Authorities urged churches, restaurants, and hotels to beef up security after at least five people were killed in a suicide bombing in eastern Congo – the region's first such attack. Beni Mayor Narcisse Muteba, a police colonel, warned owners of popular venues in Beni to hire security guards equipped with metal detectors because "terrorists" could strike again.
SOURCE: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/africa/eastern-congo-fears-more-terrorist-attacks-after-suicide-bombing>
20. According to security sources, Pakistan's notorious intelligence wing, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), has been providing them with winter gear and a navigation app in order to smuggle more terrorists into J&K from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. According to the sources, these terrorists have been trained to use GPS-based navigation systems as well as camouflage and other tactics to survive in the J&K forest areas and evade Indian security forces. The officials in the union territory's security network stated that the ISI had directed them to find new ways to infiltrate, which was corroborated by the interrogations of the arrested Over Ground Workers (OGW). The Indian Army has installed anti-drone systems at vulnerable points along the LoC and along international borders.
SOURCE: <https://theshillongtimes.com/2021/12/27/isi-provides-winter-clothes-navigation-app-to-terrorists-to-infiltrate-jk/>
21. A year ago, federal prosecutors charged a Tampa man with plotting a mass shooting in support of the terrorist organisation ISIS. In a criminal complaint, FBI agents described Muhammed Momtaz Al-collection, Azhari's which included a bulletproof vest, an Uzi submachine gun, a silencer, and firearm parts, among other things. They claimed he scoured Islamic State chat rooms, researched the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, and visited Honeymoon Island and other popular Tampa Bay destinations as he planned a similar massacre. The Tampa terrorism case raises concerns about surveillance, searches, and mental illness. Muhammed Al-Azhari is accused of attempting to carry out a mass shooting in the name of ISIS. His attorneys have questioned the FBI's investigative methods.
SOURCE: <https://www.tampabay.com/news/hillsborough/2021/12/30/tampa-terrorism-case-raises-questions-of-surveillance-searches-mental-illness/>
22. The South Asia Peace Action Network (SAPAN) held a virtual meeting on 'Human rights and equality in South Asia: growing up, growing together' as part of its activism of organising monthly meetings on various subjects while aspiring for peace in the subcontinent. Peace activists under the age of 35 shared their perspectives while advocating for the restoration of peace and the protection of human rights. The demand for visa-free travel in South Asian countries has been re-iterated.
SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/peace-activists-from-south-asia-discuss-violation-of-human-rights/articleshow/88518167.cms>
23. Co-education is against Islamic values," said Afghan Higher Education Minister Abdul Baqi Haqqani on Sunday. During a press conference in Kabul, he stated that his government opposes the concept of men and women studying together rather than women's education. Human Rights Watch's associate director of women's rights, Heather Barr, slammed the decision, saying, "This new order essentially moves... further in the direction of making women prisoners." It "closes off opportunities for them to move freely, travel to another city, do business, (or) flee if they are facing violence in the home," Barr added.

SOURCE: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/afghan-education-minister-says-co-education-is-against-islamic-values-440211>

24. The United Nations and the Philippines have agreed on a road map to accelerate the implementation of their joint human rights programme. The joint human rights programme recently received a financial boost of approximately P29 million from the governments of Norway and Australia. The UN in the Philippines will engage in capacity-building and technical cooperation in six areas, including strengthening domestic investigation and accountability mechanisms, data collection on alleged police violations, civic space and engagement with civil society and the CHR, a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, counter-terrorism legislation, and human rights-based approaches to drug control, through the joint programme.

SOURCE: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/12/27/expats-diplomats/un-ph-endorse-roadmap-to-accelerate-implementation-of-human-rights-joint-program/1827262>

25. According to reports, the Union Home Ministry has proposed a 'One Area, One Force' concept in Jammu and Kashmir along the lines of the North East, Naxal-affected states, Punjab, and others in order to improve coordination among security agencies engaged in anti-militancy operations, particularly in the Valley. The Army will continue to be at the forefront of anti-militancy operations in the hinterland, in addition to the Line of Control (LoC), where it has been engaged in thwarting infiltration attempts by militants from Pakistan. According to sources, the move is intended to improve coordination among security agencies involved in anti-militancy operations, as well as to maintain law and order.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/home-ministry-moots-one-area-one-force-concept-in-jk-for-better-coordination/>