

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law-

1. The Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice also advised all vehicle drivers not to play music in their vehicles and not to pick up female passengers who do not cover their hair with an Islamic hijab. According to an official with the Directorate of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in Afghanistan's western Herat province, posing and looking at the faces of such mannequins is against Islamic Sharia law, and all such mannequins' heads should be cut off.

SOURCE: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world/taliban-bans-display-of-mannequin-heads-shops-afghanistan-women-protest-taxi-music-banned-751700>

2. A mass of women marched through Kabul, demanding that women's rights be honoured and accused Taliban authorities of executing soldiers serving the former US-backed government in secret. Former troops and employees of the toppled government are "under direct threat," according to the statement, which contradicts the Taliban's August announcement of a sweeping amnesty. On Tuesday, about 30 women gathered near a mosque in Kabul's city centre and marched a few hundred metres while screaming "justice, justice" before being halted by Taliban fighters.

SOURCE: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/28/afghan-women-call-for-rights-protest-alleged-taliban-killings>

3. Protesters said that by enforcing such limitations, the Taliban are keeping women out of society. "We met to raise our voices against restrictions put on women; our schools have been shuttered, job prospects have been taken away, and now they have ordered us not to leave our houses alone, citing Islamic rights. Does Islam command that a nation be hungry, or that girls be denied access to education?" Another demonstrator, Shayesta,

SOURCE: <https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=909245>

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

4. Transgender people, or Khwaja Sira as they are known locally, have been given some rights under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018, which allows individuals to determine their gender identification and have it recognised on official papers like the

National Identity Card and passport. Discrimination against them, however, continues to be widespread in Pakistan. We deserve to be regarded as equal citizens as human beings." This timeline intends to emphasise the injustices that the trans community will face in 2021 at the hands of our society and leaders, as well as the minor wins that they will be able to achieve.

SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2336151/a-timeline-of-the-plight-of-pakistans-trans-community-in-2021>

5. Individual social deviance is developed in society as a result of institutions' inability to deliver. If law enforcement agencies fall asleep, significant crimes will increase, and they will be more horrific in character, as we have all seen in the recent event on the Lahore-Sialkot highway, where a mother was raped in front of her two children. According to a Human Rights Watch poll, about 1000 women are slain in the name of honour in Pakistan every year, for reasons such as "inappropriate amorous relationships, defiance of physical or cyber gendered zones, brazenness in dressing and language, or perceived immorality."

SOURCE: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2021/12/29/the-heinous-crime-that-must-stop/>

6. The border province of Balochistan has seen a significant surge in terrorist assaults this year, a trend that officials and experts ascribe in part to the Taliban's capture of Kabul in August. According to a local government official, terrorism in this southwestern Pakistani province soared by 90% in 2021 compared to the previous year. According to officials, 137 terrorist attacks were carried out this year, killing over 130 individuals, including members of the law enforcement community.

SOURCE: <https://www.athina984.gr/en/2021/12/29/pakistan-kata-90-ayxithikan-oi-tromokratikes-energeies-stin-eparchia-mpaloytsistan/>

7. Extremism is a 'Home Grown' phenomenon in Pakistan. Extremism in Pakistan is just another attempt to minimise Rawalpindi's four-decade-long symbiotic relationship with this scourge. Recognizing that 'internal extremism' is Pakistan's greatest threat was a positive indication for a country that has been in a permanent state of denial, as it signalled the prospect of Islamabad's paradigm shifting and long overdue shift towards reality.

SOURCE: <http://brighterkashmir.com/reality-check-extremism-in-pakistan-is-home-grown>

8. The year 2021 has been far from easy for Pakistan, with the pandemic still raging and horrific instances of senseless violence like the Sialkot lynching, growing costs of everyday necessities, and more turmoil in the already weak PTI government. Noor's assassination, like a gang-rape of a lady on the Lahore highway in 2020, highlighted the monsters who lurk among us. For various reasons, Noor's unexpected death shook the nation. One of the suspected perpetrators is the son of a prominent businessman and was allegedly connected to Therapy Works, a counselling and psychotherapy firm. Two, the incident occurred in the nation's capital. Noor is the daughter of a former ambassador, which adds to her appeal.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1663596/audio-leaks-ttp-and-the-sialkot-tragedy-heres-what-went-down-in-pakistan-in-2021>

9. Pakistan's overarching warfighting policy includes proxy hybrid combat. Pakistan has experimented with diverse kinds of hybridity in low-intensity combat since its involvement in Afghanistan against the Soviet invasion in the 1980s, as well as in the Indian state of Punjab in the same decade. The same thing happened in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in 1989-90, when Pakistan saw an opportunity to seize. With the changing geopolitical environment involving the Sino-Indian stalemate, the developments in Afghanistan, and the United States' seeming lack of interest in South Asian politics, Pakistan has clearly seen an opening, albeit a risky one.

SOURCE: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2021/dec/29/pakistans-obsession-continues-from-jammu-kashmir-to-punjab-2400663.html>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

10. Governor Kathy Hochul said today that the Office of Counter Terrorism of the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) conducted training exercises at more than 600 locations across the state in 2021. In nearly every county in the state, counter-terrorism experts from state and municipal agencies completed exercises evaluating businesses' abilities to spot and report suspicious activity. Since 2016, more than 4,200 exercises have been held in New York.

SOURCE: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-completion-more-600-joint-counter-terrorism-exercises-across-new>

11. The Counter-Terrorism Department's deputy inspector general (DIG) Javed Iqbal Wazir announced on Wednesday that all terrorists involved in the July 14 Dasu bombing had been apprehended. Wazir said that the suicide bomber responsible for the event, which killed 12 people, including nine Chinese nationals, was identified in a CTD round-up in 2021. He emphasised that intelligence services were instrumental in dismantling the entire network of radicals responsible for the terrorist attack.

SOURCE: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/861322/terrorists-involved-in-dasu-blast-arrested-ctd/>

12. Terrorism's primary goals are to intimidate and demoralise – it essentially aims to influence an audience, and there were several audiences to be influenced during the Irish War: the Irish police forces (RIC and DMP), the Irish people, the British people, international opinion, and politicians on both sides. We should always ask, "What explains the war's excessive use of terror and counter-terror?" This isn't usually popular, but in order to comprehend conflict, one must consider what people do when they go out to murder each other. According to the

DIG, the CTD killed nine terrorists involved in terrorism in southern districts and eradicated three big organisations of the outlawed ISIS in various operations.

SOURCE: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/861322/terrorists-involved-in-dasu-blast-arrested-ctd/>

13. It's vital to remember that terrorism can be committed by and against state agents, just as it can be committed by and against non-state agents. Police personnel could be assassinated as targets of terrorism, or they could be the perpetrators of terrorism. The terror campaign reached the necessary level of intimidation and fear, which was manifested when the DMP adopted a "hands off" approach to the Volunteers. Across the country, similar movements against the RIC resulted in a large number of RIC resignations. Intimidation may affect everyone, and one of the most common aspects of terror is causing people to change their life.

SOURCE: <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/how-both-sides-used-terror-in-the-war-of-independence-1.4760185>

14. The Interior Ministry stated Wednesday that security officers have initiated a new counterterrorism operation in Turkey's southeastern Batman region. According to the government, Operation Eren Winter-14 (Gömük) Martyr Gendarmerie Chief Petty Officer Süleyman Gür will involve 620 security personnel and 44 gendarmerie teams. The current operation is part of a larger campaign to flush out PKK terrorists sheltering in the area.

SOURCES: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkey-launches-new-operation-against-pkk-terrorists-in-batman>

15. The internet is a fertile breeding ground for nameless terrorists to spread their hatred and prejudice, resulting in devastation and death. According to a study published in the International Journal on Cyber Warfare, there were 50 million tweets with the terms 'ISIS and ISIL' sent out globally by eight million people. E-terrorism has evolved into multidimensional propaganda as a new trend. ISIS leaders release movies on YouTube celebrating their cadres' actions around the world. INTERPOL supported in the creation of a block chain analytics tool called Graph Sense that facilitates the tracking of crypto currency transactions as a partner in the European Union-funded Project Titanium. Investigators can use this tool to search crypto currency addresses, tags, and transactions, as well as find clusters associated with an address and therefore 'follow the money' in support of their investigations. The 'Practitioner Manual for ASEAN Countries to Counter Terrorism Using the Darknet and Cryptocurrencies' will help law enforcement officials combat terrorism.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailynews.lk/2021/12/29/features/268708/extremism-and-terrorism-digital-domain>

16. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov and Algerian Ambassador to Moscow Smail Benamara discussed international counterterrorism efforts and new issues on Tuesday. "(The officials) discussed a wide variety of matters of mutual interest throughout the conversation.)" Algeria, Comoros, Cuba, and Nicaragua were placed on a Special Watch List for

serious violations of religious freedom, and several terrorist groups, including the Islamic State (banned in Russia) and the Taliban (under UN terrorism sanctions), were designated as entities of particular concern, according to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

SOURCE: <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/russian-senior-diplomat-algerian-ambassador-1437552.html>

17. President Biden signed a \$768 billion defence strategy bill into law, signalling to the Pentagon vital national security challenges and providing the Department of Defense with a whopping \$740 billion. The US National Strategy Against Terrorism and Illicit Finance will no longer include wording expressly identifying cryptocurrency, "by striking...such as so-called cryptocurrencies, other computer, telecommunications, or Internet-based means, cyber crime," according to the revised law.

SOURCE: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jasonbrett/2021/12/28/new-768-billion-defense-bill--removes-cryptocurrencies-from-national-strategy-against-terrorists/?sh=3e4ca94699ff>

18. Dilbag Singh, the Director-General of Police in J&K, stated today that the war against terrorism and efforts to ensure peace and serenity in the state are ongoing. In the recent several days, he said, successful anti-terror operations have been undertaken in Kashmir back to back. In a flag-off ceremony conducted at District Police Lines Jammu today, the DGP was addressing while dedicating Operations Command vehicles, which are fitted with enhanced modern technology and other safety features, to the Jammu and Kashmir Police. These "Black Panthers" vehicles will be employed in operations.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenorthlines.com/anti-terror-ops-would-continue-with-more-intensity-for-peace-dgp/>

19. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed the third supplemental chargesheet in a narco-terrorism case against two people, one of whom is a Pakistani national, on Wednesday. According to an official, the chargesheet was filed against Gurjant Singh alias Sunny and Nasir alias Nasir Khan alias Pathan, a Pakistani national. The NIA has mentioned in the chargesheet that Gurjant Singh was a narcotics trafficker, and he was in close contact with other co-conspirators for the supply of heroin and channelising the proceeds of sale of narcotics. "The other chargesheeted accused, Nasir alias Nasir Khan, is a Pakistan-based trafficker who smuggled heroin into India through the Attari border under the guise of exporting rock salt granules," an NIA officer said.

SOURCES: <https://ommcomnews.com/india-news/narco-terrorism-case-chargesheet-against-2-including-pak-national>

20. According to India Today, India voted in favour of a UN Security Council resolution exempting Afghanistan from sanctions in exchange for humanitarian assistance, emphasising that the Council should have control over the distribution of aid and guard against any possible diversion of money. On December 22, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador T S Tirumurti, stated, "India backed the resolution to allow exemption from sanctions for humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan." The situation in Afghanistan is in

flux, and the international community's expectations were clearly stated in Security Council Resolution 2593, which lays out the requirements in terms of the fight against terrorism, noting the Taliban's commitment not to allow terrorists and terrorist groups designated under Resolution 1267 to use Afghan soil for terrorism.

SOURCE: https://akipress.com/news:666505:India_supports_UNSC_resolution_on_humanitarian_assistance_to_Afghanistan/

21. The Turkish military stated Wednesday that mortars and multiple rocket launchers were used to kill eight PKK-linked terrorists who attacked an Operation Euphrates Shield zone in northern Syria. According to the ministry, terrorists from the PKK's Syrian offshoot YPG attacked soldiers in the operation zone, but the military reacted and destroyed their trucks. Although the particular site of the attack was not disclosed, the Operation Euphrates Shield zone encompasses the northwest Syrian towns of al-Bab and Jarablus. During the operation, terrorist cells were eliminated from a 2,055 square kilometre (793 square mile) area between the two towns in 217 days. In over seven months, Turkish soldiers and the Syrian National Army (SNA) killed almost 3,000 Daesh militants.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-military-eliminates-8-ypg-terrorists-in-syria>

22. In an effort to fight Hamas, Israel's defence chief talks with the Palestinian leader. Following 11 days of fighting in May, in which hundreds were killed by Israeli strikes in Gaza, Hamas fired rockets that killed 13 in Israel, and mass protests against the Israeli assault swept across the West Bank and towns in Israel, Israel has been alarmed by the rise in popularity of Islamist militant group Hamas in the West Bank. 6,000 West Bank residents, some of whom are refugees or descendants of refugees from the 1948 and 1967 wars, will be able to be officially added to a population registry, while about 3,500 Gaza residents will receive residency documentation, making it easier for them to obtain official identity documents for travel or work within Israel.

SOURCE: <https://www.ft.com/content/6ef8c9e5-6105-49f4-adaa-f9815891f020>

23. The incumbent government should be commended for introducing the Single National Curriculum in an attempt to promote a single national mindset (SNC). The teaching the Quran to students in school is critical if they are to understand its message of peace. Religious extremism exists in all religions, without a doubt, because all individuals love their beliefs unconditionally. The Islamisation that occurred during Zia's rule is at the foundation of the current radicalism in Pakistan. Students at madrassahs were taught certain religious doctrines and interpretations of 'Jihad' and blasphemy, and religious platforms were utilised to support political goals. As a result, several innocent people died, including Mashal Khan, Salmaan Taseer, and Priyantha Kumara. Extremism must be combated urgently.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/920644-curbing-extremism>

24. It ultimately comes down to combating terrorism and extremism. When it occurs in China's Xinjiang and Western cities, however, the same story is conveyed in a different way by the West. According to reports in the French press, France has ordered the shutdown of a mosque in the country's north for six months due to "the extremist nature of its imam's preaching." According to reports, the sermons foment hatred, bloodshed, and "support jihad." At least 99 mosques in France have been scrutinised in recent months for the possible dissemination of separatist ideology, with 21 of them already closed.

SOURCE: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202112/1243739.shtml>

25. While legislation and non-legal measures are being used throughout Southeast Asia to reduce communal tensions, strong anti-discrimination laws and policies that protect minorities are urgently needed. With divided colonial histories and ethnic and religious diversity, laws currently in use by governments founded by majority ethno-religious groups are becoming increasingly discriminatory towards minority groups. To guarantee that such laws and policies comply with international human rights norms for the protection of minorities, inclusive stakeholder processes are required.

SOURCE: <https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2021/12/29/effective-antidiscrimination-protections-needed-for-minorities.html>

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