

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **TALIBAN'S EXTREMIST IMPLEMENTATION OF SHARIA LAW-**

1. The Taliban has stated that it will not prohibit any sport as long as it adheres to its tribal interpretation of Islamic law. However, it has not been confirmed whether or not women will be permitted to participate in sports. "Boxing is considered haram by the Taliban, which means it is prohibited."  
<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghan-boxes-refuse-to-return-taliban/31612511.html>

### **HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER TALIBAN**

2. On International Women's Day in early March, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stood at a lectern against a backdrop of silvery drapes and somberly rattled off a list of Afghan women leaders killed by the Taliban or other terrorist groups. The Biden Administration has abandoned these women to the Taliban after placing a target on their backs. This grotesque moral cowardice is exactly what occurs when the Biden administration views the disaster in Afghanistan as a public relations disaster rather than a life-or-death situation for those left behind.  
[https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/12/16/us\\_honored\\_exemplary\\_afghan\\_women\\_--\\_then\\_left\\_them\\_behind\\_146893.html](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/12/16/us_honored_exemplary_afghan_women_--_then_left_them_behind_146893.html)
3. The UN has issued a warning about killings and a "total reversal" of rights in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. According to the New York-based watchdog, the Taliban has "summarily executed or forcibly disappeared" more than 100 former security force members in just four of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. Nashif expressed grave concern about the "continued risk of child recruitment" by the Islamic State's local affiliate as well as the Taliban, with "boys increasingly visible among security forces at checkpoints, as bodyguards, and in combat roles."  
<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-extrajudicial-killings/31608422.html>
4. Afghan boxers refuse to return home for fear of being killed by the Taliban. "Afghanistan's current situation is completely messed up," Nouri told RFE/Radio RL's Azadi. "Every day, there are suicide bombings, explosions, and targeted killings." We can't make any progress in our sport or education there."

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghan-boxes-refuse-to-return-taliban/31612511.html>

5. Some Afghan women in exile are finding it difficult to accept that the progress they helped to achieve has come crashing down so quickly. They begin each day by reading about new atrocities, waves of women fleeing the country, and signs of despair. Some, however, live with the hollow hope of one day returning to a liberated motherland. The horrifying sound of insults like "Afghani-e-Kesafat ("Dirty Afghan") whispered into their ears as they awaited a rescue flight at Kabul airport.  
<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/exile-america-brings-feelings-grief-and-opportunity-afghan-women-197970>
6. Nasir Ahmad Andisheh, Afghanistan's ambassador to Geneva, said the country had suffered a setback and that reports of "tribal cleansing" had been published in several Afghan provinces. The government led by the Taliban has yet to respond to the allegations. 'The safety of Afghan judges, prosecutors, and lawyers – particularly women legal professionals – is a matter of particular concern,' according to the UN.  
<https://www.jurist.org/news/2021/12/afghanistan-dispatches-the-safety-of-afghan-judges-prosecutors-and-lawyers-particularly-women-legal-professionals-is-a-matter-for-particular-alarm/>
7. When the United States military withdrew from Afghanistan and the Taliban took control, Bilal Ahmad's wife and 5-year-old son were in Kabul. Ahmad, a U.S. citizen and Fresh Meadows resident, travelled to Washington, D.C., to bring his family back to Queens, but was unable to obtain visas for them.  
<https://patch.com/new-york/bayside/queens-man-family-stranded-after-fleeing-kabul-rep-wants-visas>
8. Residents of Kabul's capital are complaining about telecom companies' high internet prices and poor service quality. A Pajhwok reporter spoke with a number of Kabul residents who complained about poor internet service quality. One of them, Rafiullah, a resident of Kabul's ninth police district's Yaka Tut area, told Pajhwok Afghan News that telecom companies' internet services had recently degraded in quality.  
<https://pajhwok.com/2021/12/15/kabul-residents-complain-of-poor-internet-quality-2/>
9. An Afghan trading company has provided humanitarian aid to over 7,000 teachers in the northern Balkh province, according to a company official on Thursday. According to UN estimates, 23 million people are in desperate need of food, the \$20 billion economy could contract by \$4 billion or more, and 97% of the 38 million people are at risk of falling into poverty.  
<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=905010>

10. A blast at a wedding party in southern Afghanistan killed two children and injured eight others, according to a local official on Thursday. According to an official who declined to be identified, the blast occurred on Wednesday in Gizab district's Khalach village in Uruzgan province.  
<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=905115>
11. Ex-Pakistan ISI Chief's Viral Admittance: "I Just Sent Two Sons For Jihad In Afghanistan" In a major revelation, a former Pakistan ISI Chief revealed his close ties to the Haqqani network during an interview with a Pakistani news channel. The old video, which has gone viral on the microblogging site, demonstrates the Pakistani military's deep ties to the terrorist organisation.  
<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/ex-pakistan-isi-chiefs-viral-admission-just-sent-two-sons-for-jihad-in-afghanistan.html>
12. A group of women and a few men took to the streets of Kabul on Thursday to demand that the international community provide them with food and protect their rights to work and political participation in the midst of the country's deteriorating humanitarian crisis. "The protest was held spontaneously by women, and the purpose was (to draw the attention of the international community to) Afghanistan's economic and human crises." <https://www.laprensalatina.com/women-protest-in-kabul-to-demand-food-political-and-work-freedom/>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

13. While the Canadian government was able to evacuate more than 3,700 people from Kabul, retired major-general David Fraser, who commanded more than 2,000 NATO coalition troops during Operation Medusa in the Afghan province of Kandahar in 2006, believes the number should have been "a hell of a lot higher." If the Canadian military is not authorised to go outside the Kabul airport to assist in the rescue of vulnerable Afghans eligible to come to Canada, retired Canadian General Rick Hillier told Power & Politics that Canada "should be ashamed as a nation." <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/afghanistan-canada-taliban-evacuation-1.6155596>
14. Local interpreters who worked alongside Canadian soldiers and diplomats during the Afghan war face retaliation from the Taliban and should be resettled as soon as possible, according to three retired generals in an open letter to the immigration minister. "Canadian Armed Forces members who served alongside these Afghan interpreters are pleading with the government to listen to their

pleas that we must do the right thing and support them at a time when they need us the most,"

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/afghan-interpreters-threats-taliban-1.6095850>

15. What Does Afghanistan's National Resistance Front Have to Offer? According to the NRF, it is pushing for a new course in Afghanistan. The NRF is led by Ahmad Massoud, the son of Ahmad Shah Massoud, also known as the "Lion of Panjshir," who led multiple offensives against the Taliban in the 1990s. "Ahmad Massoud is young, clean, and educated; he is not associated with the corruption of the last 20 years," says Ali Nazary, head of the NRF's foreign relations department. Afghanistan is at a critical juncture in its history, far worse than the people have ever known. Despite this, Nazary believes the international community has the ability to reverse many of these changes. <https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/what-does-the-national-resistance-front-of-afghanistan-have-to-offer/>
16. In their own words, what the Taliban truly desires from the world is On the one hand, [foreigners] argue that women have the right to an education and the right to work; why, then, does a woman not have the right to work or to learn? On the other hand, they froze the woman's financial assets. This type of double standard adds tension and a lack of confidence to the situation. We want to be human and live together as a group. And to truly grant rights to all living beings. There should be no distinction in human blood between those whose blood is expensive and those whose blood is inexpensive. No. They are, after all, human beings. <https://www.kunr.org/world-headlines/2021-12-15/what-the-taliban-really-want-from-the-world-in-their-own-words>
17. Selling Kabul' Provides a New Mirror Sylvia Khoury's play, After the Taliban Takeover, which takes place over one night in Afghanistan in 2013, has only deepened as a result of a pandemic postponement. Another abandoned apartment in Midtown Manhattan, the set — a modest living room in the Afghan capital — sat empty for over 19 months. Despite this, the cast and crew stayed in touch, video chatting and sharing their ongoing research on a regular basis. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/15/theater/selling-kabul-afghanistan-sylvia-khoury.html>
18. Since 2020, Afghanistan has reported 4,698 confirmed cases and 96 related deaths among healthcare workers (HCWs). Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, and Kunar have reported the highest number of positive cases among HCWs to date. Since February 2020, 157,634 confirmed cases (overall percent positivity 32.3) of COVID-19 have been reported in Afghanistan, with 7,328 associated deaths (CFR=4.6 percent). The country lacks the capacity to test for variants (Omicron), and plans are in the works to send the

samples to a WHO reference lab for further genomic research. <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/covid-19-epidemiological-bulletin-afghanistan-epidemiological-week-49-5-11-dec>

19. Flights to and from Kabul were delayed or cancelled on Thursday (Dec 16) after the city was blanketed in snow overnight. Kabul's streets were also mostly deserted as shop owners, government employees, and workers sought refuge indoors from the bitter cold. Hundreds of workers cleared snow from Kabul's single runway, which has slowly reopened after being destroyed in August when tens of thousands of people fled as the Taliban reclaimed power. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/afghan-flights-delayed-as-snow-blankets-kabul-airport>
20. Afghanistan's central bank (Da Afghanistan Bank) announced that the Afghan International Bank (AIB) received a fourth batch of dollars in cash totaling \$19.2 million. Economic analysts believe that cash can solve the problem of a lack of cash and the highest dollar-to-Afghani exchange rate. The United Nations has decided to send Afghanistan \$20 million each week until March 2022. <https://www.khaama.com/fourth-batch-of-19-2-million-arrives-in-kabul-364346345/>
21. According to officials from Afghanistan's Ministry of Finance, the Taliban's interim government will soon pay two-month salaries to government employees. According to the ministry's spokesperson, Ahmad Wali Haqmal, salaries will most likely be paid in two days. It comes after three months of no pay for Afghan government employees. <https://www.khaama.com/government-employees-two-months-salaries-to-be-paid-soon-taliban-7457/>
22. Turkmenistan, according to Taliban leader Ahmadullah Wasiq, has provided one million and two hundred thousand dollars in humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan. On Wednesday, December 15, humanitarian aid arrived in the Western Herat province via the Tor Ghondi port. According to Ahmadullah Wasiq, the shipment includes petrol, diesel, gas, wheat, and clothing. <https://www.khaama.com/turkmenistans-over-1-million-worth-of-humanitarian-aids-arrive-in-afghanistan-346346/>
23. Following the Afghan currency's appreciation against the US dollar, food and liquefied gas prices, as well as car fuel prices, have fallen, and Kabul Municipality has reduced the price of a 140-gram loaf of bread from 15 to 10 afghanis. According to Haji Hussein

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Sadaqat, a Sadaghat Money Exchange Service employee in the Sara-i-Shahzada Market, one US dollar is worth 101 afghanis, up from 105 afghanis on Wednesday. <https://pajhwok.com/2021/12/16/bread-price-drops-to-previous-rate-of-10afis-in-kabul/>

24. Many countries are beginning to consider re-staffing embassies in Kabul. As several countries, including the UAE, Germany, Japan, and the European Union, begin to discuss the possibility of re-staffing embassies in Kabul, New Delhi is weighing its options for its presence in Afghanistan. While recognition for the Taliban remains "far away" and is only "remotely considered," <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-mulling-options-over-re-opening-mission-in-afghanistan/article37781058.ece>
25. Saeed Shajjan's Kabul law firm has been the local legal team for the Canadian Embassy in Afghanistan for the past eight years. But, with about a dozen of his employees still trapped in Taliban-controlled territory, Shajjan claims the Canadian government is doing little to assist them. "These are people who did everything they could to help the Government of Canada, to support Canada's mission in Afghanistan — and it's time to make sure the Canadian government reciprocates," he said. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/shajjan-kabul-law-firm-canada-embassy-refugee-backlog-1.6284699>
26. After being threatened with violence, a British national who travelled to Afghanistan just as Kabul fell and had to be evacuated has now fled war-torn South Sudan. Miles Routledge, 21, arrived in North Africa this week with a tent and canned food to "teach memes." <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/17047428/british-miles-routledge-trapped-kabul-camping-sudan/>