

## **Daily Tracker**

### **Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law-**

1. Afghan musicians are attempting to recreate a famous school in Portugal. Afghanistan has a rich musical tradition, and a thriving pop music scene has emerged over the last two decades. Many musicians, however, are concerned about their futures under the Taliban, which governs according to a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/afghan-musicians-look-to-recreate-famed-school-in-portugal-7675873/>

2. Nearly 100 former British Council staff remain in hiding in Afghanistan. Staff employed to teach British values and the English language were denied entry into the UK. Joseph Seaton, the former British Council Afghanistan English manager and deputy director, has written to the most relevant cabinet members in an attempt to gain their support.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/09/nearly-100-former-british-council-staff-remain-in-hiding-in-afghanistan>

3. The Malalai Maternity Hospital is one of the busiest in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, with around 85 babies born each day, including 20 via Caesarean section. However, the country's ongoing crisis is severely limiting the staff's ability to care for their patients.

Source: <https://www.indiablooms.com/health-details/H/10834/lifesaving-support-for-new-mothers-in-crisis-wracked-afghanistan.html>

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

1. The lynching of a factory owner on December 3rd in Sialkot, Pakistan, emphasises the need to reform the country's harsh blasphemy laws. These laws frequently condemn blasphemers to death, which not only violates the human right to freedom of expression, but also legitimises religious minority' mistreatment and, as recently proved, can instigate mob violence. Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana, a 49-year-old Sri Lankan national, was lynched and set ablaze by a tyrannical mob after allegedly tearing down a poster with Islamic holy passages. According to Al Jazeera, footage of "dozens of young men chanting chants associated with supporting Islam's Prophet Muhammad, while some took photos with the burning body" were shared to social media.

Source: <https://theowp.org/blasphemy-and-its-bloody-consequences-why-pakistans-blasphemy-laws-urgently-need-to-be-reformed/>

2. Pakistan's Defense Minister, Pervaiz Khattak, defends the assassination of Srilankan Manager Priyantha Kumara, who was brutally murdered by a mob. According to

Khattak, children do such things out of passion, which does not imply that they are wicked.

Source: <https://twitter.com/HamzaAzhrSalam/status/1467535784957726720>

4. Pakistan and China are committing one of the most serious human rights violations in Balochistan. China is currently establishing a colony in Gwadar port and has stolen people's land for agricultural, mass fishing lakes, and other activities from which they earn a living.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/D4ekHciIMJg>

5. This is a clear referendum by Baloch people against Pakistan's deep state oppression. Thousands of people demonstrate against the Pakistan Army's persecution, human rights violations, and disappearances of ordinary people.

Source: <https://twitter.com/AdityaRajKaul/status/1470373360525713409>

6. A well-known Human Rights lawyer Shafiq Ahmad was kidnapped by Pakistan Army from his house in Punjab, Pakistan. Kidnapping of Human Rights Defenders on International Human Rights Day speaks itself of Violation of Human Rights in Pakistan.

Source: <https://twitter.com/ZarAliAfridi/status/1469317097457172487>

7. Despite making up only 2% of the country's population, Christians account for about 80% of Pakistan's sanitation labour, according to a WaterAid research. This is due to severe discrimination in Pakistan, where Christians are purposefully hired for sanitation tasks because of a link between their faith identity and spiritual cleanliness perceptions.

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2021/12/15/municipality-pakistan-bans-use-derogatory-term-christians-sanitation-workers/>

8. Pakistan and seven other countries were named on the list by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week for allegedly "having participated in or permitted systematic, continuing, and severe breaches of religious freedom." Pakistan was also included to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom's list of countries with blasphemy and anti-Ahmadiyya laws, as well as forced conversions to Islam, last year.

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-prelate-rejects-clerics-statement-on-religious-freedom/95075#>

9. Donald Armin Blome, President Biden's choice for US Envoy to Pakistan, says he will never back down from safeguarding human rights in Pakistan and that religious minorities endure prejudice.

Source:

<https://twitter.com/sidhant/status/1470794820989829120?t=m0Tt55bgKvkNABMwZ5HSLw&s=08>

10. Concern has been expressed by liberal Muslims and Christian activists over Prime Minister Imran Khan's announcement of the establishment of the Rehmatul-lil-Alameen ('Mercy for All the Worlds'—a word from the Koran) Authority (RAA). This new body's mission is to ensure that Muhammad's teachings are implemented in Pakistani culture, including through regulating school curricula, encouraging Islamic research in universities, and preventing the spread of vulgar and blasphemous information on social media.

Source: [https://acninternational.org/new-religious-body-adds-to-islamization-in-pakistan/?utm\\_content=bufferb9413&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitterEN&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://acninternational.org/new-religious-body-adds-to-islamization-in-pakistan/?utm_content=bufferb9413&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitterEN&utm_campaign=buffer)

11. On Wednesday, the Minorities Alliance Pakistan (MAP) condemned the criminalization of forced conversions of underage girls and requested that the federal and provincial governments develop universal policies to protect religious minorities. MAP Chairman Akmal Bhatti, speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club, said minorities would not tolerate any violations of adolescent girls' rights. At the news conference, the families of three rape victims spoke about their ordeals and difficulties dealing with numerous government offices and institutions while pursuing their cases.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1664009>

12. After Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan promised to tackle religious vigilantes, minorities have expressed mistrust. I've decided that people who use violence in the name of Islam, particularly in the name of the Prophet Muhammad, shall not be spared from now on. This is what we see. Khan claims that people are being set on fire and that killing continues in the name of Islam. With the advent of anti-blasphemy party Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan, attacks and blasphemy lawsuits against Christians and Ahmadis have grown in recent years. After being accused of blasphemy by hospital personnel in Faisalabad, two Christian nurses were rescued by police from an irate mob. In September, they were given bail.

Source: [https://www.ucanews.com/news/minorities-skeptical-of-pakistan-pms-vow-to-tackle-religious-violence/95295?utm\\_source=ADF+International&utm\\_campaign=2d5fa459f1-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_09\\_30\\_09\\_41\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_7732cae558-2d5fa459f1-94768670&mc\\_cid=2d5fa459f1&mc\\_eid=3d91ec7422#](https://www.ucanews.com/news/minorities-skeptical-of-pakistan-pms-vow-to-tackle-religious-violence/95295?utm_source=ADF+International&utm_campaign=2d5fa459f1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_09_30_09_41_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7732cae558-2d5fa459f1-94768670&mc_cid=2d5fa459f1&mc_eid=3d91ec7422#)

13. Human rights abuses and violations are evident in Pakistan. A young girl from a minority community in Pakistan was raped brutally. She was nearly dead when she was found and still now is in a critical condition.

Source: [https://www.ucanews.com/news/minorities-skeptical-of-pakistan-pms-vow-to-tackle-religious-violence/95295?utm\\_source=ADF+International&utm\\_campaign=2d5fa459f1-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_09\\_30\\_09\\_41\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_t](https://www.ucanews.com/news/minorities-skeptical-of-pakistan-pms-vow-to-tackle-religious-violence/95295?utm_source=ADF+International&utm_campaign=2d5fa459f1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_09_30_09_41_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_t)

[erm=0\\_7732cae558-2d5fa459f1-94768670&mc\\_cid=2d5fa459f1&mc\\_eid=3d91ec7422#](https://www.thefridaytimes.com/we-are-deaf-to-the-screams-of-religious-minorities/)

14. Forced conversions are a significant violation of human rights that severely limit one's right to religious freedom. Those who believe that forcing minorities to convert to a religion will reward them with a high prize in the afterlife are mistaken. Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani Nobel Laureate, spoke out against forced conversions, saying, "It should be a personal choice, and no one, especially a child, should be compelled to join any faith or convert to any other religion out of the will."

Source: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/we-are-deaf-to-the-screams-of-religious-minorities/>

15. The country's telecoms authority has initiated an intuitive crackdown on minorities like Ahmadiyyas, despite the fact that the situation of Pakistan's minority communities is already deteriorating. The Imran Khan government is limiting information sharing by and among Ahmadiyyas by using the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). According to The Singapore Post, the telecom regulator has urged digital giants like Google and Apple to remove mobile applications made by developers in other nations from the country's market. Seven religious apps have been targeted, all of which are released under the name "Ahmadiyya Muslim Community." Furthermore, despite being available on app stores in other countries, Google has taken down several of these apps in Pakistan.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-intensifies-digital-crackdown-on-minorities-like-ahmadiyyas-121121100175\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-intensifies-digital-crackdown-on-minorities-like-ahmadiyyas-121121100175_1.html)

### **Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam**

1. In the Arab East, cyberfeminism appears to be gaining traction. The rising use of the Internet by women from all areas of life is set to elevate Arab feminism to new heights. Women in Saudi Arabia have begun to share public space, despite the fact that the prevailing societal dogma opposes such rights. Isolationism is a fiction in the age of the Internet. Unlike the West, the Arab East lags behind in recognising the value of women in all aspects of human life. The Arab Spring, which began on December 17, 2010, and lasted until December 2012, saw widespread use of social media platforms to protest authoritarian regimes in West Asia and North Africa, and had a significant impact on the increase of activism against the oppression of Arab women and their rights.

Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/how-cyberfeminism-is-paving-the-way-for-gender-revolution-in-saudi-arabia-10214931.html>

2. Saudi Arabia has banned the Tablighi Jamaat, the Islamist proselytising movement. Saudi called Tablighi jamaat as one of the gates of terrorism. With this step, the group

will face slow death in many parts of the world as Saudi's charities have been the chief source of funds for the movement.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-bans-tablighi-jamaat-calls-it-gate-of-terror/articleshow/88234611.cms>

3. In Saudi Arabia, a large international conference on philosophy was convened to encourage critical thinking in a country where citizens have been imprisoned in recent years for expressing what are perceived to be opposing ideas. Leading American philosopher Michael Sandel was one of a handful of well-known academics who attended the three-day conference in Riyadh. The Harvard professor, who has been compared to a rock star, told the organisers that he didn't want to give a lecture and instead wanted to engage directly with young Saudis, especially women, in a virtual appearance.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-59609233>

4. Azar Mansoori was elected on Thursday as leader of the main reformist political party in #Iran, Nation's Unity Party of Islamic Iran. A rare female head of a political party.

Source:

[https://twitter.com/arash\\_tehran/status/1467201183773245444?t=ADDNPhIq\\_PmrH8-TgFVeYg&s=08](https://twitter.com/arash_tehran/status/1467201183773245444?t=ADDNPhIq_PmrH8-TgFVeYg&s=08)

5. The two-day South Asia Conference on "Return of the Taliban in Afghanistan: Implications and Way Forward," hosted by The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), concluded on Friday, with experts and scholars from around the world unanimously agreeing that the emerging humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, following the Taliban's return, demanded international attention, but that the Taliban would have to moderate their stance.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/taliban-must-moderate-to-attract-support-from-international-community-experts/articleshow/88344287.cms?from=mdr>

6. On July 25, Tunisia will hold a constitutional reform, followed by fresh parliamentary elections on December 17, 2022. President Kais Saied stated on Monday that changes to the constitution will be made after a public online consultation commencing in January, and that the parliament would be suspended until a new one was elected. Tunisia, the home of the Arab Spring upheavals, has been hailed as the only Arab country to successfully complete a democratic transition, including Egypt, Libya, and Yemen, where popular revolutions toppled governing regimes.

Source: <https://www.trtworld.com/africa/tunisia-announces-referendum-on-political-reforms-elections-52598>

7. Lebanese apparel firms are converting to local production to turn the sector on its head, despite the maelstrom of violence and economic crisis. Maurice Kozeily, wearing an intricately patterned dishdasha, a long traditional cloak worn in the Arab world since

Biblical times, opens the door to his second-floor residence in Kaslik, Lebanon, a 25-minute drive north of Beirut.

Source: <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/in-battle-scarred-lebanon-fashion-designers-are-stitching-their-destiny-52739>

8. Americans of Armenian ancestry should join Hindu Americans in calling on the US government to hold Pakistan fully responsible for human rights violations, religious freedom limitations, harmful regional actions (particularly against Artsakh), and state terrorism support.

Source:

[https://twitter.com/ANCA\\_DC/status/1471518626578579457?t=qTGnN4DZZRU\\_UEs\\_JCevQA&s=08](https://twitter.com/ANCA_DC/status/1471518626578579457?t=qTGnN4DZZRU_UEs_JCevQA&s=08)

9. The UAE announced a substantial change of its Islamic personal regulations allowing unmarried couples to live under the same roof, reducing alcohol prohibitions, and criminalising honour killings. The expansion of personal freedoms reflects the country's expanding status as a westernised tourist, fortune-seeker, and commercial destination, despite its Islamic legal code, which has historically resulted in court cases against foreigners and uproar in their home countries.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1589223>

10. Because of the extremist nature of its imam's preaching, France's interior minister announced on Tuesday that he has started a procedure to close a mosque for up to six months. Gerald Darmanin told the Cnews TV channel that he was the one who "started" the process of closing the mosque in Beauvais, a town of 50,000 people around 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of Paris, due to "inappropriate" preaching. In his speeches, he claims the mosque's imam "targets Christians, homosexuals, and Jews."

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/france-moves-to-shut-mosque-with-preacher-targeting-christians-homosexuals-jews/>