

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law-

1. Following the recent two attacks on prominent ulema members, ulema members have called on the Taliban for protection. Unknown gunmen assassinated Bismillah Shakir, the head of Kabul's religious seminary. There has been no claim of responsibility for the high-profile targets.
Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/ulema-members-call-on-taliban-for-protection-amid-targeted-attacks20211220170147/>
2. Imran Khan Backs the Taliban According to the OIC, "every society's human and women's rights are different." The Taliban's culture is similar to that of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, where parents were paid stipends but did not send their daughters to school, according to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.
Source: <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/pakistan-news/imran-khan-defends-taliban-at-oic-says-every-societys-human-and-womens-rights-different.html>
3. Taliban morale squads have been ordered to be gentle with Afghans. "Our Jihad had two goals: one was to end the invasion in Afghanistan, and the other was to build an Islamic government; we accomplished the first goal, and now we must work on the second." "The ministry of propagation of virtue and prevention of vice is one of the key ministries for building an Islamic government," ministry official Mohammad Yahya tells Efe. No other religion in the world grants women the rights that Islam does. "One of the Taliban's main obsessions is 'protecting women from the corrupted male gaze.'
Source: <https://www.laprensalatina.com/talibans-morality-squads-ordered-to-take-it-easy-on-afghans/>

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

1. Why Does Imran Khan Always Get It Wrong When It Comes to Extremism in Pakistan? The prime minister believes that the SNC (Single National Curriculum) and restricting youth internet access will help to solve Pakistan's extremism problem. The prime minister does not understand how extremism is curtailed, how youth concerns are addressed, and how an SNC must be democratically vetted rather than rushed through.
Source: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/pakistans-extremism-problem-why-does-imran-khan-always-get-it-wrong/>

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2. Pakistan has been posing an ISIS threat to Afghanistan: Hamid Karzai Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai stated on Sunday that the landlocked country has been under attack by ISIS from Pakistan. In response to Khan's remarks about "Pakistan being threatened by Afghanistan ISIS," the former Afghan president stated that these allegations are false, according to TOLONews. ISIS has always threatened Afghanistan from Pakistan, not the other way around, according to Karzai.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/afghanistan-has-been-facing-isis-threat-from-pakistan-hamid-karzai-121122000153_1.html
3. Pakistan's Prime Minister tries to bring up Kashmir at the OIC meeting on Tuesday. Afghanistan. Speaking at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Khan stated that the people of Palestine and Kashmir want the Muslim world to respond to their democratic and human rights concerns in a unified manner.
Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/dec/20/pakistanpm-attempts-to-rake-up-kashmir-at-oic-meet-on-afghanistan-2397715.html>
4. When minorities are mistreated, the government offers only lip service. Pakistan certainly does not lack in terms of the number of laws it has – only in their implementation. Nonetheless, such incidents will continue to occur unless the perpetrators are held accountable. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an important document that should be made public so that people understand what true human rights are.
Source: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/918153-inhumane>
5. In a secret trial, a military court in Pakistan convicted human rights activist Idris Khattak of espionage and leaking sensitive information to a foreign intelligence agency, sentencing him to 14 years in prison, according to his family and lawyer. His whereabouts are still unknown.
Source: <https://www.siasat.com/pakistan-human-rights-activist-held-for-speaking-out-against-military-2244546/>
6. Hindus fear for their lives following blasphemy riots in Pakistan. Communal riots erupted in Ghotki, a southern Pakistani town, after an enraged mob attacked a school over blasphemy allegations levelled against its Hindu principal. In an Islamic country, blasphemy is a sensitive issue.
Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/hindus-fear-for-their-lives-after-pakistan-blasphemy-riots/a-50448332>
7. 200 Hindus from Pakistan have entered India, and the Akali leader has stated that they will seek citizenship. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the president of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee and an Akali leader, was at the border to receive four families who he claimed had "fled" Pakistan due to religious persecution.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/200-hindus-from-pakistan-enter-india-akali-leader-manjinder-singh-sirsa-says-will-seek-citizenship-f-2174252>
8. In Punjab, Pakistan's Counter-Terrorism Squad apprehends nine suspected IS and TTP terrorists. On Saturday, the Pakistan Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed to have apprehended at least nine suspected IS and TTP terrorists in Pakistan's Punjab province.

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Source: <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/pakistan-news/pakistans-counter-terrorism-squad-detains-9-suspected-is-ttp-terrorists-in-punjab.html>

9. A Pakistani national was apprehended by the BSF in Gurdaspur, and his currency and phone were recovered. The Pakistani man was apprehended in the Dera Baba Nanak area of Gurdaspur, Punjab. The Border Security Forces are looking into it further.

Source: <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/law-and-order/punjab-pakistan-nationalist-apprehended-by-bsf-in-gurdaspur-currency-and-phone-recovered.html>

10. Pakistani politics could be characterised by a tug of war between a middle-class populist, an aggressive military establishment, and radical Islamists. That is not in anyone's best interests, not even the Pakistan army's. Because the mainstream political parties are unpopular and weakened, this could be the opportunity that Rehman and his colleagues have been waiting for. Egypt has demonstrated how difficult it is for military dictators to combat political Islamism.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/is-pakistan-opening-the-door-to-islamists-11602467412862.html>

11. Religious extremism is on the rise in Pakistan. Its political class has neither the will nor the intention to combat religious extremism, despite the fact that everyone has benefited from it. Fawad's admission that rising extremism in Pakistan poses a serious threat to the country's stability comes after a string of recent setbacks that forced the state to strike deals with right-wing Islamist groups of various sects. Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a Bareilvi religious organisation, forced the government to allow it to operate as a political party despite the fact that TLP workers had killed several law enforcement officials in clashes.

Source: <https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/pakistans-surgings-religious-extremism/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. Islamic art and culture are powerful tools for combating extremism, said the Minister of Culture and Youth on Monday at the start of the Al Burda Festival at Expo 2020 Dubai. The two-day festival promotes the values of tolerance, openness, and coexistence. The festival also features 15 exhibitions of Islamic artworks, as well as ten live performances from around the world, including the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

Source: <https://gulfnnews.com/expo-2020/islamic-art-culture-can-combat-extremism-uae-festival-hears-1.84524701>

2. Moderating Extremism, The Current State of Terrorist Content Removal Policy in the United States Stricter regulation of social media providers in the United States may not be the most effective way of combating online terrorist and extremist content.

Source: <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/terrorism-study/moderating-extremism-the-state-of-online-terrorist-content-removal-policy-in-the-united-states/>

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3. A recent INTERPOL-led operation codenamed Trigger-Salvo saw law enforcement from ten countries in Central, East, and Southeast Asia collaborate in a series of border enforcement actions aimed at preventing firearms trafficking and detecting any links to terrorism and organised crime. The operation was notable for destroying a cache of 2,000 illegal firearms seized over a three-year period by Mongolian law enforcement. Thousands of firearms were destroyed as a result of an anti-terrorism operation in Asia.
Source: <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/law-enforcement-and-public-safety/thousands-of-firearms-destroyed-following-counterterrorism-operation-in-asia/>
4. According to Datuk Chong Sin Woon, the rise of "extreme forces" in the country and globally is concerning, and all political parties in the country should rise and unite against extremism and racism. According to the MCA secretary-general, some people were becoming less accommodating and tolerant, or worse, had less respect for others. "Someone is out there trying to encroach on other people's lifestyles, forbidding us from eating or drinking or doing certain things." Everyone is pretending not to notice the elephant in the room. This is concerning.
Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/12/19/unite-against-extremism>
5. The United Nations Terrorism Council has warned that new pandemic restrictions increase the risk of radicalization. A two-year review of the impact of Covid-19 on terrorism urges countries to 'prioritise' regulating new technologies. "Terrorist groups across ideological lines are already attempting to weaponize social alienation and grievances arising from pandemic-related measures and perceived state excesses."
Source: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2021/12/20/un-terrorism-council-warns-new-pandemic-restrictions-raise-risk-of-radicalisation/>
6. Despite claims to be cracking down on extremists, Facebook tagged photos of beheadings and violent hate speech from ISIS and the Taliban as 'insightful' and 'engaging.' According to an investigation, Facebook is being used to promote "hate-filled agendas." Experts discovered hundreds of groups that support either the Islamic State or the Taliban. New Facebook tools labelled offensive posts as 'insightful' and 'engaging.'
Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-10328801/Facebook-failed-crack-extremist-content-report-reveals.html>
7. Terrorists strike where it is most convenient for them. Terrorists will be more likely to throw rocks and Molotov cocktails at cars or open fire in a drive-by attack or ambush in Judea and Samaria if it is easier for them to do so. However, this does not mean that the rest of the country is safe. Indeed, jihadist attacks all over the world have demonstrated that no one is safe.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/the-world-must-stand-behind-israel-in-fight-against-terrorism-editorial-689200>
8. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa discussed plans for bilateral cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Amirabdollahian and General Bajwa then discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. According to Iran's foreign minister, only the formation of an inclusive government representing all ethnic groups can bring peace and security back to Afghanistan.

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Source: <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2021/12/20/2629185/iran-pakistan-discuss-joint-action-against-terrorism>

9. On Sunday, India and Central Asian countries agreed to take their relations to the "next level" in areas such as commerce, connectivity, defence, and counter-terrorism. The ministers also condemned terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, emphasising that providing safe havens, using terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, and financing terrorism violated basic human and international relations principles.

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/india-central-asian-nations-to-expand-defence-trade-counter-terrorism-ties-352268>

10. The National Investigation Agency investigated 34 terrorism-related cases involving ISIS and arrested 160 people: Terrorism Country Reports 2020 for the United States Terrorist organisations continued to operate out of Pakistan: According to the US report, 'Pakistan made additional progress in 2020 toward completing its Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Action Plan, but did not complete all Action Plan items, and thus remained on the FATF'gray list.'

Source: <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/us-praises-india-on-counter-terrorism-ops-ticks-off-pakistan-for-no-action-against-masood-azhar-sajid-mir/841215>

11. In a competition held on Monday, Singapore students played detective for a day, dusting black magnetic powder onto drone propeller wings to find thumbprints and working to unravel a fictitious terrorist plot. The plot of the virtual game revolved around a terrorist attack on the F1 Grand Prix, with a drone threatening to drop a bomb on the venue. One of these problems necessitated the use of computer skills to take control of a fictitious terrorist's computer in order to safely land a drone.

Source: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/community/singaporean-students-compete-to-counter-terrorists-in-3d-virtual-world>

12. NATO's Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP) eAcademy has just launched its first podcast series, "DEEP Dive." Interviews practitioners and experts in counter-terrorism, geopolitical current events, and international security and defence as the academic project lead for NATO's first ever Counter-Terrorism Reference Curriculum. Individuals from a variety of backgrounds, including journalists, activists, academics, and policymakers, are among the guests. The goal is to provide comprehensive perspectives and insights into the most pressing issues confronting our world today.

Source: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_188880.htm