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## **DAILY TRACKER**

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

1. No government has recognised the Taliban, and most are waiting to see how the hardline Islamists, who were known for human rights violations during their first term in office, restrict liberties. Women are primarily excluded from government work, and secondary schools for females are mostly closed, despite the group's promises of a softer rule based on its interpretation of Islamic Sharia law.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/taliban-seek-muslim-nations-recognition/article38293238.ece>

2. Following the Taliban's takeover, an Afghan woman claimed a Taliban gunman slapped her mother across the face, leaving a bruise. Because they were outside without a male chaperone, the extremists approached the two women. After her mother pleaded with the guys to forgive the two women, a fighter warned Pahlawan, "This should be the last time you wander around without a [male escort]," she told the Post. "I'm going to get lost." In the name of Islamic law, the Taliban have made it illegal for women to leave the house without a male companion.

SOURCE: <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/an-afghan-woman-says-a-taliban-gunman-struck-her-mom-across-the-face-and-left-a-bruise-because-she-was-outside-without-a-male-escort/articleshow/89004193.cms>

3. Sohaila Noori, a 29-year-old Afghan entrepreneur, watches as her drastically reduced workforce of roughly 30 women stitch scarves, gowns, and baby clothing in a modest sewing workshop in Kabul. She employed more than 80 people, largely women, across three distinct textile workshops a few months ago, before the Taliban organisation seized power in August. "We used to have so much work," said Noori, who was determined to keep her business running so that she could employ as many women as possible. The Taliban will only allow women to work if they follow their version of Islamic law, causing some to quit their employment for fear of being punished by an organisation that previously severely limited women's rights.

SOURCE: <https://www.geo.tv/latest/394281-afghan-women-losing-jobs-fast-as-economy-shrinks-and-rights-curtailed>

4. Women are primarily excluded from government work, and secondary schools for females are mostly closed, despite the group's promises of a softer rule based on its interpretation of Islamic Sharia law. 'I appeal on Muslim countries to take the initiative and officially recognise us.' Then I hope we can develop quickly,' Mohammad Hassan Akhund said during a conference in Kabul to discuss the country's severe economic problems.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/taliban-seek-muslim-nations-recognition/article38293238.ece>

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

1. Texas Synagogue Attacker Faisal's stay in Pakistan was the longest in 2020, and he was most likely groomed for terror activities and radicalised by Pakistan.

SOURCE: <https://www.news18.com/news/world/exclusive-texas-synagogue-attacker-radicalised-by-pakistan-in-2020-intel-sources-4680053.html>

2. On Thursday, a bomb ripped through a packed market in eastern Pakistan, killing three people and injuring more than 20, according to police. "It was a bomb blast," Arif Rana, a police spokesperson, said Reuters, adding that a time device fitted to a motorcycle exploded outside a market shop.

SOURCE: <https://www.timesnownews.com/international/article/motorcycle-bomb-rips-through-crowded-market-in-pakistan-s-lahore-3-killed-over-20-injured/851402>

3. On Wednesday, a Pakistani lady was sentenced to death for sending blasphemous WhatsApp messages to a long-distance friend. Anika Attique, a 26-year-old woman, was found guilty by a Rawalpindi court after Farooq Hassanat filed a case against her in 2020.

SOURCE: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/pakistani-woman-sentenced-to-death-for-blasphemy-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-anika-attique-case-10303891.html>

4. A citizen of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir has once again requested assistance from India. A resident of Muzaffarabad has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for assistance and intervention. POK management forcibly evicted the guy and his family from their home. They were forced to live out in the open in sub-zero conditions.

SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/toi-original/indian-pm-receives-cry-for-help-from-a-man-in-pakistan-occupied-kashmir/videoshow/89016689.cms>

5. Pakistan is dangling tax benefits for Chinese companies as Beijing's closest ally in South Asia tries to pique interest in special economic zones months after a bus carrying Chinese workers was blown up by terrorists.  
SOURCE: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-20/pakistan-lures-china-firms-to-economic-zones-after-bomb-attacks>
6. The Border Security Force (BSF) has intercepted another attempt at contraband smuggling in Punjab's Amritsar Sector by engaging a "flying object" from Pakistan and seizing heroin worth over 7 kg that it dumped in the vicinity. The BSF personnel foiled a devious attempt by anti-national elements to carry contraband on the night between Wednesday and Thursday.  
SOURCE: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/pakistani-drone-with-drugs-taken-down-by-border-security-force-in-punjab-amritsar-2719608>
7. According to sources, on January 14, 2022, a significant number of individuals from minority communities staged a protest rally in front of the Punjab Assembly in Lahore, Pakistan, demanding a fair and democratic procedure to fill reserved seats for minorities in the Parliament and Assembly.  
SOURCE: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/world/pakistan-minorities-in-lahore-hold-protest-rally-demanding-electoral-reforms>
8. Despite making up less than 2% of the population, Christian minorities are reported to account for almost a quarter of all blasphemy claims in Pakistan. "Girls and young women are still being kidnapped, forced married, and converted. All Christians face systematic discrimination; the authorities reserve jobs that are considered low-paying and unclean for Christians." In that year, 620 Christians were slaughtered in the country.  
SOURCE: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2022/01/20/one-in-seven-christian-minorities-under-threat-in-2022/?sh=244c4c377d2d>
9. In today's world, religious extremism poses a serious threat to Pakistan's human rights situation. In Pakistan, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and other religious minorities endure prejudice on a regular basis. In Pakistan, they feel intimidated in their homes and workplaces. When Pakistan was established in 1947, its founders envisioned a secular state in which everyone, regardless of faith, would be given equal opportunities and be free to live their lives. However, things are different in modern-day Pakistan, which does not reflect Quaid and Iqbal's vision.  
SOURCE: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/01/19/religious-intolerance-in-pakistan/>

10. The female complainant who last week walked back an earlier statement in a sexual harassment, torture, and stripping lawsuit charging Usman Mirza and his gang of torture and abuse told a trial court she couldn't recognise her tormentors and wasn't interested in continuing the case. She also informed the judge that she was being pressured to amend her statement and that she wanted a permanent exemption from the case.

SOURCE: <https://gulfnnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/woman-in-pakistan-stripping-case-withdraws-statement-1.85093077>

11. Women with obstetric fistulas endure a lot of prejudice. Women who contract the disease while giving birth are frequently evicted from their houses and separated from their relatives. According to doctors, more needs to be done to improve health care and treat the preventable disease.

SOURCE: <https://www.dw.com/en/pakistan-women-with-obstetric-fistulas-face-harsh-discrimination/a-60496560>

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

1. The broad definition of terrorism used in Turkey does nothing to prevent radicalization. Rather of addressing the root causes of violent radicalization, Turkey chooses a punitive strategy that restricts individual liberty and fails to prevent attacks.

SOURCE: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/turkeys-broad-definition-of-terrorism-does-nothing-to-halt-radicalisation/>

2. "No country likes to admit to having a lot of terrorist assaults," she explained. "It's awful for the economy, horrible for local politics, bad on a variety of levels and for a variety of reasons." As a result, it's much easier to give it a new definition that causes less anxiety." Terrorism is "a violent event that is directed at random at unsuspecting people just because they represent, in the sick mind of the offender, some sort of grievance that they have against the world," according to Habersfeld, who teaches at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and chairs the Department of Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration.

SOURCE: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-694081>

3. Egypt has denounced a dastardly suicide assault that occurred in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, on Tuesday, killing numerous people. The Egyptian government and people offered their heartfelt sympathies to the government and people of the Federal Republic of Somalia, as well as the relatives of the victims, in a statement made on Wednesday,

wishing all those injured a swift recovery. The statement emphasised the United States' support for Somalia in its fight against all forms of violence, extremism, and terrorism.

SOURCE: <https://dailynewsegypt.com/2022/01/19/egypt-reaffirms-solidarity-with-somalia-to-confront-extremism-terrorism/>

4. On Thursday, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir announced the arrest of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorist Jahangir Naikoo of Memander Shopian in Chadoora Budgam. "A joint team of forces nabbed Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist Jahangir Naikoo of Memander Shopian at Chadoora Budgam," the police said in a statement.

SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/jk-police-arrests-let-terrorist-from-budgam/articleshow/89016836.cms>

5. According to the Defence Headquarters (DHQ), troops killed 49 terrorists and bandits across theatres of operations in the recent two weeks, while 863 terrorists surrendered. The Director of the Department of Defense's Media Operations. Major General Bernard Onyeuko revealed this while presenting a report on military activities in Abuja on Thursday. According to Mr. Onyeuko, "Operation Hadin Kai" troops killed 37 terrorists, arrested 17 others, and recovered 21 weapons and 117 rounds of various calibres of ammunition.

SOURCE: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/506927-troops-eliminate-49-terrorists-as-863-others-surrender-dhq.html>

6. Following drone and missile assaults on the United Arab Emirates, US President Joe Biden stated on Wednesday that his administration is considering re-designating Yemen's Houthi movement as an international terrorist organisation.

SOURCE: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-yemen-envoy-lenderking-visit-gulf-london-state-department-2022-01-19/>

7. Thirty-seven (37) terrorist elements have been neutralised by Operation Hadin Kai troops in the northeast, with seventeen (17) being captured. The terrorists were caught with twenty-one (21) different weapons, one hundred and seventeen rounds of various calibres of ammunition, and four gun trucks.

SOURCE: <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/01/20/army-neutralizes-37-terrorists-in-northeast/>

8. In the post-COVID-19 pandemic world, Pakistan and Iran agreed on Wednesday to increase bilateral support and cooperation to address economic and human rights issues. The agreement was reached during a meeting in the office

of Pakistani human rights minister Dr. Shireen Mazari with Iranian ambassador Seyed Mohamad Ali Hosseini. Since Pakistan's inception 74 years ago, both Iran and Pakistan have had strong cultural, historical, and religious ties, according to the minister. "We respect our relationship with Iran, and we need to re-energize our cooperation in order to elevate our collective concerns about human rights around the world," she said.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/926583-pakistan-iran-agree-on-rights-cooperation>

9. As part of the investigation into the Texas synagogue siege, two men were arrested in Birmingham and Manchester. The males were apprehended by counter-terror officers on Thursday morning and remained in jail for interrogation, according to Greater Manchester Police. After the FBI entered the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, where he had taken hostages on Saturday, Malik Faisal Akram, 44, from Blackburn in Lancashire, was shot and killed.

SOURCE: <https://inews.co.uk/news/texas-synagogue-siege-two-men-arrested-birmingham-manchester-1412761>

10. In the latest persecution of members of the outlawed Christian sect, a Russian court in Siberia has sentenced two Jehovah's Witnesses to long prison terms. On January 20, the Investigative Committee reported that a court in the Tomsk region's city of Seversk sentenced a Jehovah's Witness to seven years in jail for orchestrating the operations of a "banned extremist organisation" in the city.

SOURCE: <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-jehovahs-witness-religion-/31662619.html>

11. Raisi said radicalism is causing concern at the moment during a meeting with Russia's Grand Mufti in Moscow on Thursday. The Iranian president stated, "Extremism and Takfirism have tremendously affected Muslims." He urged Muslim vigilance against Takfiri currents, saying that in the name of Islam, a number of organisations have harmed the divine faith.

SOURCE: <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2022/01/20/2647844/iran-s-president-urges-vigilance-against-extremism-takfiris>