

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Ahmad Mawlawi The Afghan government announced on Tuesday that Jan Ahmadi, the chief of staff of the Taliban-led caretaker government in Afghanistan, had met with Monica Martinez, the UNAMA's head of rule of law. Ahmadi and Martinez discussed law enforcement and the fight against corruption in the Central Asian country during their meeting in Kabul on Monday, according to a statement. "Law enforcement and corruption elimination are among the Islamic Emirate's most essential tasks," Ahmadi was quoted as saying in the release. The situation in Afghanistan has changed, according to a UN official mentioned in the statement, and the UN wants to hear what Afghans want from the UN.
SOURCE: <http://www.ecns.cn/news/2022-01-25/detail-ihauzmfa9717377.shtml>
2. Since the Taliban took power last year, they have prohibited music, putting Afghanistan's rich musical tradition at risk. "We don't have music in Afghanistan right now," Homayoun Sakhi explains. Along with the rising humanitarian crisis, Afghanistan's rich musical culture is in jeopardy, as the Taliban, following Islamic law, have prohibited music since regaining power last year.
SOURCE: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2011771/lifestyle>
3. A group of women's rights protestors in Kabul were pepper sprayed by Taliban militants, one of several violent actions perpetrated against Afghans since the government collapsed in August 2021. Protesters held banners that said "women's rights, human rights" and yelled "equality and justice." Taliban rulers have excluded women and girls from public work and public education after the collapse of the Afghan government in August 2021. After primary school, women are no longer permitted to continue their education.
SOURCE: <https://msmagazine.com/2022/01/24/afghan-women-taliban/>
4. Rabia Balkhi, dressed in loose-fitting shirt and trousers, the typical clothing of Afghan men, moved through the streets of Kabul quietly, her face hidden under a mask and her head lowered to avoid eye contact. In Afghanistan, being a woman is challenging, but being a single mother is even more difficult. And it's been harder since the Taliban took over," Rabia remarked. One of the demonstrators said, "We want to show the Taliban that they can't stop us from exercising our right to free speech by imposing limits."
SOURCE: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/asia/2022/01/25/afghan-women-driven-to-risk-talibans-wrath-by-dressing-as-men/>

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

1. Sikh separatist leader Jaswant Singh Thekedar, the founder of Dal Khalsa and headquartered in the United Kingdom, has accused Pakistan of employing Sikhs to further its nefarious goals against India. In an exclusive interview with Times Now, Thekedar, a pro-Khalistan leader, claimed that Pakistan is unconcerned about Sikhs' wellbeing. "Pakistan has never and will never sympathise with Sikhs."
SOURCE: <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/ex-khalistani-leader-says-pakistan-using-sikhs-to-fulfill-its-nefarious-motives-against-india/852980>
2. According to a media report, opposition lawmakers in Pakistan lambasted the Imran Khan government in the Senate on Monday for the establishment's "policy of appeasement" towards terrorist groups, claiming that talks with such groups have emboldened and encouraged anti-peace actors in the country. Senators from the opposition expressed alarm over discussions with the proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which were being held through an Afghan Taliban authority that was not recognised by any country.
SOURCE: <https://www.siasat.com/pakistani-leaders-slam-imran-khan-govt-for-appeasing-terrorists-2264326/>
3. According to police, gunmen shot and murdered a Pakistani police officer who was providing security for polio vaccination workers in the northwest on Tuesday. No one claimed responsibility for the attack in Kohat, and the assailants fled the area. Militants in Pakistan frequently attack polio teams and the police officers assigned to defend them, erroneously accusing them of a Western plot to sterilise youngsters. Previous attacks across the country have been claimed by militants.
SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/gunmen-kill-pakistani-policeman-guarding-polio-workers/articleshow/89115549.cms>
4. The Taliban in Pakistan and Afghanistan, al-Qaeda, the Haqqani Network, and a slew of other lesser-known organisations and warlords utilised the area to keep captives, train terrorists, store weapons, and dispatch suicide bombers to Afghan and Pakistani targets.
SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/armys-gun-guards-shaky-peace-at-pakistans-global-terrorism-hq/articleshow/89124715.cms>
5. As Cricket Australia finalises preparations of a tour slated for March and April, some Australian players are getting increasingly apprehensive about terrorist strikes in Pakistan. Australia's first tour to Pakistan in nearly 24 years is well underway, but there have been a number of recent terrible incidents, including one in Lahore last week. Sheikh Rashid, Pakistan's interior minister, said during

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a press conference in Islamabad on Saturday that the current wave of terrorism has escalated by roughly 35% to 38% since August 15, when Taliban forces entered Kabul, Afghanistan's capital.

SOURCE: <https://www.smh.com.au/sport/cricket/we-re-all-toey-about-it-aussie-cricketers-concerned-by-pakistan-terrorist-attacks-20220125-p59r6k.html>

6. According to preliminary statistics gathered by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), this is the only terrorism-related killing documented in Punjab this year (data till January 21, 2022). Radicalization is not a new phenomena in Pakistan, and Punjab has traditionally been in the forefront. Punjab suffered 20 terrorism-related fatalities in 2021, including nine civilians, five Security Force (SF) personnel, and six terrorists, compared to 16 fatalities in 2020, which included three civilians and 13 terrorists. The threefold increase in the civilian category means that the security situation will worsen overall by 2021. The figures indicate that the terrorists' position on the ground is strengthening.

SOURCE: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/25012022-pakistan-extremist-haven-in-punjab-analysis/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) has stated that it will fully support the Maldivian government in its efforts to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism. The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition is a 41-member alliance formed to safeguard Muslim countries from all terrorist groups and organisations, regardless of sect or name, and to coordinate counter-terrorism activities among countries.

SOURCE: <https://raajje.mv/112794>

2. Reports that the European Union is contemplating a joint bid with Egypt to chair an international counterterrorism agency have alarmed human rights groups, who point to extensive violations and the crackdown on opposition activists and politicians in the North African country. According to its website, officials in Brussels approved the EU-Egypt bid to co-chair the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), an organisation with 30 member countries that works closely with the UN "to reduce terrorist recruitment and increase countries' civilian capabilities for dealing with terrorist threats."

SOURCE: <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-eu-joint-counter-terrorism-human-rights-campaigners-slam>

3. Kazakhstan's National Security Committee announced on Tuesday that limits on counterterrorism operations in Almaty and the Almaty and Jambyl regions, the country's final remaining areas, will be lifted on January 26. This indicates that limitations will be

lifted across Kazakhstan's whole region. The three areas will continue to be classified as having a high level of terrorism risk, according to the agency. The threat of terrorism in Nir-Sultan, Kazakhstan's capital, is also considered high.

SOURCE: <https://tass.com/emergencies/1392963>

4. At the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC) in Udampur, new recruits of the Border Security Force (BSF) underwent rigorous training to polish their skills in fighting terrorism and other cross-border crimes. To execute duties on the border and in counter-insurgency operations, new recruits received Advanced Combat Training. "We offer them complete training over the course of 44 weeks so that they can fight in any terrain in the country, whether it's in Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, or along the north-eastern borders."
SOURCE: <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/video-jk-new-recruits-of-bsf-receive-rigorous-training-to-fight-against-terrorism-2930260>
5. Boy Rafli Amar, the head of the National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT), acknowledged that the agency had identified 600 possibly extremist social media accounts. During a meeting with Commission III of the House of Representatives (DPR RI) at the Parliament Complex in Jakarta on Tuesday, he said, "We have detected at least 600 social media profiles with a leaning to radicalism."
SOURCE: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/211601/bnpt-detects-600-potentially-radical-social-media-accounts>
6. Boy Rafli Amar, the head of the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), claimed in a meeting with the House of Representatives' Commission III on Tuesday that 16 of the 364 persons arrested on terrorism charges in 2021 were linked with the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI). According to the BNPT head, the now-defunct mass group engaged in operations comparable to those carried out by ISIS, particularly in terms of circulating videos judged to be a threat to national security.
SOURCE: <https://en.tempo.co/read/1553934/counterterrorism-agency-says-364-suspected-terrorists-nabbed-in-2021>
7. Terrorist assaults on oil storage facilities in the United Arab Emirates and a synagogue in the United States show that, despite all precautions, technology, and weapon systems, terrorist strikes continue unabated. In the first case, retaliation by the UAE and Saudi Arabia in Yemen, and retaliation by the US, Israel, and other countries on terrorist groups, their leaders, and bases, only slows but does not stop terrorist attacks. Terrorists have been able to encourage lone-wolf attackers as well as enable the manufacturing of improvised dangerous devices using technology and cyberspace, adding to fears. While domestic terrorism is an issue, transnational terrorism supported by nations has yet to be seriously handled.
SOURCE: <https://www.thestatesman.com/opinion/battling-terrorism-uphill-task-1503040994.html>
8. The horrific events of January 2022 in Kazakhstan revealed a slew of interconnected paradoxes. One thing is certain: the attacks were meticulously planned and carried out by well-trained radicals and foreign-origin fanatics. Any competition for resources, especially

political ones, has always been a source of tension in Central Asia, which has always been at the crossroads of heightened geopolitics, both regional and international. The incidents in Kazakhstan highlight the necessity for a broader alliance to combat global terrorism.

SOURCE: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/kazakhstan-incidents-reaffirm-need-for-widening-partnership-to-fight-global-terrorism/articleshow/89118252.cms>

9. India has said that the United Nations member states have failed themselves by delaying the conclusion of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism, expressing concern that the global body has yet to agree on a common definition of terrorism or craft a well-coordinated policy to combat the global scourge and dismantle its enabling networks.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/un-yet-to-agree-on-common-definition-of-terrorism-india/article38322614.ece>

10. The European Union (EU) may be about to present a joint bid with Egypt to co-lead the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, a multilateral platform with far-reaching influence on global counterterrorism policy, according to a recently leaked document. Given Egypt's heinous history of human rights atrocities in the name of counter-terrorism, the EU should reconsider its decision.

SOURCE: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/25/eu-egypt-bid-lead-global-counterterrorism-body-affront-rights>

11. The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act, signed by President Joe Biden in late December, allows the memorial to be built at one of three proposed locations on the National Mall. The National Mall has remembered major battles from the last century, but the Global War on Terrorism was not only the country's longest war, but also one fought by volunteers who make up less than 1% of the population. Rodriguez sees it as a tribute to his fellow residents.

SOURCE: https://www.insidenova.com/headlines/global-war-on-terrorism-memorial-approved-on-mall/article_03ddc4ca-7d97-11ec-bdc4-6322e282ff36.html

12. Global News has learned that two minors have been arrested in Ontario and Quebec on terrorism charges. In Toronto, a teen was arrested on a preventive terrorism peace bond on January 14 and appeared in court on Thursday in connection with a case reportedly involving the so-called Islamic State. Following a court hearing in Terrebonne, Que., north of Montreal, another adolescent was arrested on a terrorism peace bond and released on conditions.

SOURCE: <https://globalnews.ca/news/8525552/rcmp-preventive-terrorism-arrests-ontario-quebec/>

13. Human Rights Watch has encouraged the European Union not to go ahead with a potential joint candidacy with Egypt to lead a global counter-terrorism group, citing Egypt's treatment of opponents as a reason. Egypt's foreign ministry said on Sunday that it will run for president of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) on a combined ticket with the EU, an organisation characterised by Human Rights Watch as "a multilateral forum with far-reaching influence on global counterterrorism policy."

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SOURCE: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/25/eu-egypt-counterterror-forum-bid-affront-to-human-rights-hrw>

14. The main concerns of Human Rights Watch with regard to the human rights situation in Iraq, submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee in advance of its review of Iraq in March 2022. Discriminatory personal status laws give men power over women's life, putting them at risk of violence.

SOURCE: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/25/human-rights-watch-submission-un-human-rights-committee-advance-its-review-iraq>