

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Fundamentalism, misogyny, brutality, patriarchy, and US occupation have all harmed our bodies as Afghan women. Women's persecution and brutality have only gotten worse under Taliban control. Women who wear nail varnish, high heels, or perfume, leave their homes without a male partner, or laugh loudly in public are all considered "immoral" by Islamic Law, as are women who go out to work or school. Women pay a price for having dreams because of their bodies, which many people feel were designed solely to satisfy men's lust and, as a result, must be covered and concealed rather than ornamented and shown.

SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/feb/09/living-in-a-womans-body-the-taliban-fear-our-beauty-strength-and-resistance>

2. The Taliban have always been publicly opposed and targeted by Islamic State Khorasan, which initially surfaced in Afghanistan in late 2014. "They work for infidels and do not properly apply Islam and Sharia [Islamic law]." "Pakistan - everyone knows it," Abu Ahmad remarked when asked what "infidels" the Taliban work for. This mirrors long-held suspicions from both inside and outside Afghanistan that the Taliban is a Pakistani stooge, which the Taliban adamantly denies.

SOURCE: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/is-the-talibans-campaign-against-the-islamic-state-working/>

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

1. The 'environment of bigotry' is Pakistan's most serious problem. The worst example of this was the lynching of a non-Muslim Sri Lankan manufacturing manager in Sialkot on spurious blasphemy charges. "A colossal failure of both policy and moral bravery," as it was accurately portrayed.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1674308/threats-from-within>

2. 'In exchange for economic aid, Pakistan supports Uyghur repression in China's Xinjiang.' Pakistan's government has no choice but to officially support China's policy.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-supports-uyghur-repression-in-chinas-xinjiang-for-economic-aid20220210105116/>

3. Violent attacks by secular ethnic Baluch separatists in Pakistan's restive southern province of Balochistan have increased drastically since the beginning of this year. Pakistani officials blame regional rivals for the rise in violence in the vast province bordering Iran

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and Afghanistan, which is also the site of major Chinese projects. Previously ragtag guerrillas relying on "hit-and-run" tactics are now turning to high-profile suicide attacks that cause mass casualties.

SOURCE: <https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=925258>

4. Khan of Kalat in Balochistan province has asked UN assistance to halt Pakistan's occupation, accusing Pakistani law enforcement authorities of forcibly disappearing hundreds of Baloch people.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/khan-of-kalat-asks-un-to-hold-referendum-in-pakistan-occupied-balochistan20220210141701/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. On Wednesday, Meta (previously Facebook) said that it will expand its signature anti-hate speech programme to Pakistan and the United Kingdom in order to combat violent extremism, terrorism, and organised hate speech on its platforms. Meta's Redirect Initiative, which is already in use in Australia, the United States, Germany, and Indonesia, is expanding to Pakistan and the United Kingdom in order to "break the connection between followers and the violent, extreme content they seek."

SOURCE: <https://www.sentinelassam.com/international/meta-on-hate-and-terror-speech-in-pakistan-577439>

2. Despite calling attention to the militant organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), India has criticised a UN Secretary-report General's on terrorism for ignoring them. While the report is quiet on terrorist groups that represent a threat to India such as the JeM and the LeT, it does include anti-Beijing Uyghur separatist groups such as the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) and the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP) in its scant coverage of South Asia.

SOURCE: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-criticises-un-terror-report-for-ignoring-jem-le-t-militant-groups-122021000496_1.html

3. While agreeing that "it is critical that we do not allow Africa to become a caliphate 2.0," the Russian Federation's ambassador expressed a different perspective on the sources of global terrorism. He said thousands of women and children remain in awful conditions in US-controlled territory, adding that tackling the situation is a question of "will and intentions," noting that the failed US presence in Syria has not contained the threat. Despite the death of the Islamic State's leader, a top counter-terrorism official warns the Security Council that defeating the terrorist group's affiliates remains a "long-term game."

SOURCE: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/despite-islamic-state-leader-s-death-defeating-threat-terrorist-group-affiliates>

4. Muhammad Asif Nadeem and Muhammad Nawaz, both members of the proscribed group ISIS (Islamic State), were apprehended. They intended to attack critical infrastructure, according to a statement released by the CTD on Wednesday. They were found with one hand grenade, a rifle, a pistol, bullets, explosive material, ISIS flags, and leaflets, according to the report. Terrorism charges have been filed in the case.

SOURCE: <https://www.outlookindia.com/international/counter-terrorism-department-held-2-isis-ultras-in-pakistan-s-punjab-news-121876>

5. What makes things even more complicated and fluid is that, despite their differences, all of these terrorist groups are ideologically similar, and they coordinate and enable one another. To deal with this threat, which ultimately threatens all of humanity, world powers must create a cohesive approach as soon as possible.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1674294/un-report-on-terrorism>

6. According to a joint threat assessment acquired by CNN, law enforcement is on high alert ahead of Sunday's Super Bowl, and remains concerned about the continued interest of international and local terrorists, as well as lone offenders, in attacking big gatherings. However, the threat assessment conducted by numerous federal, state, and local authorities found "no information to indicate a specific, credible threat to or linked with" the event at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California. To target the event, cyber criminals could use a range of strategies, techniques, and processes, such as ransomware, social engineering campaigns, denial-of-service attacks, point-of-sale network intrusions, or malware.

SOURCE: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/02/09/politics/super-bowl-terrorism-target-no-specific-credible-threat/index.html>

7. We have reached a point where we must consider whether the state should promote a religious agenda or whether it should remain neutral in religious matters and focus on mundane matters. It will be difficult to eradicate religious fanaticism and violent extremism in any form unless and until this "chemical imbalance" is corrected. Analysts claim that officials in the country have failed to build a unified comprehensive approach. Many people believe that the state's policies are conceived and implemented by non-representative entities. As a result, there is no comprehensive and strategic national security policy.

SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2342799/why-insurgencies-and-terrorism>

8. The international community incorporated the goal of combating terrorist financing into its anti-financial-crime infrastructure, particularly through the intergovernmental Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which had previously focused on money laundering. Unfortunately, due to the dramatic nature of terrorism, our collective understanding of terrorism finance remains highly fractured and anecdotal. It's a place for "specialists" in government bureaucracies, but that's not always a compliment; in the 2019 Amazon Prime Video series pilot of "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan," popular culture picked up on the waning perception of counter-terrorist financing by portraying it as a fictional CIA backwater, the Terror Finance and Arms Division (T-FAD).

SOURCE: <https://www.lawfareblog.com/what-we-have-and-havent-learned-about-terrorism-financing>

9. Following a UN report that members of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement have called for jihad, or holy war, in Xinjiang, China's senior representative to the UN stated that the country is facing an increased threat from terrorism. Ambassador Zhang Jun also encouraged the Taliban administration in Afghanistan to take more action against terrorism during a UN meeting on Wednesday.

SOURCE: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3166574/chinas-envoy-un-urges-taliban-take-action-amid-terrorism>

10. Interpol, the international police organisation, declared on Thursday (February 10) that it will not assist countries in circumstances involving domestic politics, just days after the Myanmar army revealed it was seeking assistance. The Myanmar army's foreign affairs ministry announced on Tuesday that it has asked international security organisations to help Myanmar fight "terrorism," citing the actions of the country's opponents, notably the de facto shadow government, the National Unity Government (NUG).

SOURCE: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/myanmar-asks-interpol-help-fight-terrorism-will-not-interfere-2489621>

11. As we go about our business, we must all be sure to defend and promote human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. We applaud CTED's continued efforts to engage civil society, as well as Mr Chen's emphasis on their collaboration with various partners, particularly the study of gender and masculinity in the fight against terrorism. Terrorist groups continue to instigate and recruit supporters around the world, particularly through the use of social media and encrypted internet platforms, as the SG's report shows, and this has been worsened by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, as Mr Chen has just stated.

SOURCE: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/continuing-our-efforts-to-combat-global-terrorist-threats>

12. The Sri Lankan government introduced a draught on Thursday to alter the country's contentious counter-terrorism law, which has been widely criticised for its draconian measures. Foreign Minister G L Peiris presented the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) Amendment Bill, which proposes a number of changes, including the addition of a new section allowing detainees to be granted bail, a reduction in the period of detention, and the ability for magistrates to visit detention facilities to prevent torture and expedite case hearings. Lawyers will have access to detainees under the new legislation, and those imprisoned under the PTA will be able to correspond with their relatives.

SOURCE: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2022/feb/10/sri-lankan-governmenttables-prevention-of-terrorism-act-amendment-bill-in-parliament-2417847.html>

13. During the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, a terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire between security forces and terrorists in Shewa tehsil of North Waziristan tribal district. During the day, a bomb-and-gun attack on security forces in the same region

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injured six soldiers and a kid. Terrorist Irfan aka Abu Darda was killed in an exchange of intensive fire between security personnel and terrorists in the general region of Shewa, according to a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). He was found in possession of a weapon and ammo.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1674286/terrorist-shot-dead-in-north-waziristan>

14. A Birmingham woman was sentenced to five and a half years in prison for sending violent videos encouraging Islamic State terrorism to an undercover cop. During encrypted Telegram talks with a Muslim woman, Aaminah Amatullah, 39, of Livingstone Road, Handsworth, had a "entrenched extremist attitude." However, the 'friend' was discovered to be an undercover cop, and she was detained. After a trial, she was found guilty of two counts of distributing a terrorist publication and was sentenced to prison.

SOURCE: <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/city-woman-sent-islamic-state-22262067>

15. Following intensive ground and air onslaughts on the terrorists' hideouts and dens, 965 Boko Haram militants and their families surrendered to forces in the North East in the previous 21 days, according to the Defence Headquarters. The surrender of 104 terrorists and their families from the ISWAP group earlier this week was particularly significant.

SOURCE: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/02/965-terrorists-surrender-as-troops-eliminate-120/>