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## **DAILY TRACKER**

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

1. Tens of thousands of Afghans have fled or been evacuated, including many educated elites. They are concerned about their economic future or a lack of freedom under a group that adheres to a strict interpretation of Islam and barred girls from attending school and women from working during its previous rule in the late 1990s.

SOURCE: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/six-months-of-taliban-afghans-safer-poorer-less-hopeful-7775126/>

2. Female activists have been detained and released in recent weeks for protesting a rollback of their rights, while journalists routinely complain of curtailed press freedoms and violence by Taliban authorities. The Taliban's ties to terrorism, as well as a lack of inclusivity in the new Kabul administration, have discouraged the international community from recognising the Taliban as legitimate rulers. Kabul government officials deny allegations of repression and retaliation, insisting that they respect the rights of all Afghans, including women's rights to education within the framework of "Islamic laws" and Afghan culture. At the same time, Taliban officials have defended detaining those who "violate the law."

SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/afghan-taliban-s-quest-for-international-recognition-stuck-in-neutral-/6443108.html>

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

1. Analysts predict that Pakistan will be added to the FATF's "black list" for non-compliance ahead of the Plenary and Working Group Meetings in Paris.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-likely-to-slip-into-black-list-of-fatf-for-non-compliance-report20220216165535/>

2. Minorities in Pakistan, particularly those of the Hindu and Sikh faiths, are subjected to "atrocities" and are victims of "heinous crimes." Alarming reports came in from Peshawar, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where a local Sikh hakim, Papinder Singh, was shot and brutally injured, along with another Sikh passerby, in an attempt to resist an armed robbery by IS-KP militants, an affiliate of the Islamic State. These militias are working in tandem with the Pakistani government.

SOURCE: <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/minorities-in-pakistan-facing-atrocities-victims-of-heinous-crimes-indian-world-forum-writes-to-un/859317>

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3. Violence against women is on the rise in Pakistan, with officials in Lahore apprehending two people involved in the kidnapping of girls and selling them in other provinces, according to local media. Two people have been arrested for kidnapping and selling girls in other provinces, according to a report released last year, which stated that nearly a thousand minor girls and women from Pakistan's religious minorities, including Hindus and Christians, face violence every year, and in most cases, they are abducted, forcefully converted to Islam, and married off.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/violence-against-women-surges-in-pakistan-as-officials-arrest-two-for-abducting-selling-women20220216175430/>

4. Pakistan's anti-terror policy has now backfired on the Imran Khan administration. Pakistan has appealed to the United Nations for assistance in combating cross-border terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. Umer Siddique, a Pakistani diplomat, stated to the UN Security Council that "UNSC listed terrorist entities [TTP & JuA] have carried out hundreds of cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistani military & civilian targets."

SOURCE: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/videos/pak-terror-policy-backfires-imran-khan-pleads-to-un-for-help-against-ttp-terror-101645028326064.html>

5. Workers even demonstrated against the government's plan to lay off 6,000 employees who have been providing services for the past 15 years. They even claimed that the new hires were replacing them. Several lady health visitors (LHV) and other employees in Pakistan blocked the Multan-Muzaffargarh Highway in protest of unpaid salaries.

SOURCE: <https://www.indiablooms.com/world-details/SA/33379/pakistan-lady-health-workers-demonstrate-in-multan-over-unpaid-salaries.html>

6. On Monday, a Christian man was stabbed to death during a clash between members of the Muslim and Christian communities over the construction of a wall in the Factory Area police limits of Pakistan's Lahore city. This is the most recent attack on Pakistan's minority Christian community, but there have been many this year. Two Christian pastors, Pastor Patrick and Pastor Siraj, were attacked on a motorcycle by unknown assailants a little more than two weeks ago.

SOURCE: <https://www.indiablooms.com/world-details/SA/33372/pakistan-christian-man-stabbed-to-death-in-lahore.html>

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

1. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which secures the majority of the country's airports, has been tasked with developing a Counter Terrorist Contingency Plan (CTCP) for the airports in Srinagar, Leh, and Jammu. The initiative was launched in response to Ministry of Home Affairs directives (MHA). The airports in Srinagar, Leh, and Jammu are classified as

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'hyper-sensitive' in India. The CISF took over the security of Jammu and Srinagar airports in February 2020, while Leh airport was handed over to the force in August of the same year.

SOURCE: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/draft-plan-to-counter-possible-terror-attacks-at-srinagar-leh-and-jammu-airports-home-ministry-to-cisf-4777391.html>

2. Kazakhstan's Secretary of State Yerlan Karin elaborated on the practical aspects of countering terrorism and Kazakhstan's role in combating this threat at the International Conference "Global and Regional Trends of Terrorism and Violent Extremism" in Nur-Sultan. According to the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KAZISS), which organised the event with the Kazakhstan Council on International Relations, the country faced an extraordinary, 'hybrid' case of terrorism in January, which differed in a combination of various aspects: from the merging of crime and to the information attacks.

SOURCE: <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/experts-in-kazakhstan-address-global-and-regional-trends-of-terrorism/>

3. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, six terrorists involved in recent attacks on military personnel in Balochistan's Kech district were killed during an exchange of fire with security forces on Wednesday in Injirkan Range near the district's Buleda area (ISPR). Terrorism has increased in Balochistan, with two major terrorist attacks on security forces reported in less than a week.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1675432>

4. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi expressed Egypt's desire to strengthen cooperation with the European Union (EU) in combating terrorism and extremism through a comprehensive approach. During a meeting with Charles Michel, President of the European Council, on Wednesday at the European Council's headquarters in Brussels, Sisi affirmed that this comprehensive approach should address the root causes of terrorism and extremism, according to Presidential Spokesman Bassam Radi.

SOURCE: <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/112969/Egypt-hopes-to-foster-cooperation-with-EU-in-combating-terrorism>

5. The National Association of Seadogs (Pyrates Confraternity) has urged President Muhammadu Buhari to learn from the United States of America's counter-terrorism strategy in order to address Nigeria's security challenges. The NAS Capoon, Mr. Abiola Owoaje, stated in a statement titled, "The Death of al-Qurayshi: Lessons for Nigeria in Counter-Terrorism," that the death of the terrorist leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, during a pre-dawn raid by US Special Forces in Syria offers a useful lesson for Nigeria.

SOURCE: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/02/learn-from-us-counter-terrorism-strategy-pirates-tells-buhari/>

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6. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) landed in Israel on Wednesday as part of a congressional delegation, reiterating the US's unwavering support for the country's security. "We are working together to combat the threat of terrorism posed by Iran, both in the region and through its nuclear development," Pelosi said in a speech to the Knesset. "The proximity of Israel to Iran is a source of concern for all of us."  
SOURCE: <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/594514-pelosi-vows-us-will-fight-with-israel-against-terrorism-posed-by-iran>
7. Ethiopia and Kenya have agreed to maintain peace and security along their shared borders, which are critical to the two countries' economic integration. General Demelash Gebre Michael, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Federal Police, met with his Kenyan counterpart, Hillary Nzioki Mutyambai, today. The two sides talked about how they could work together to combat terrorism and secure the border areas. According to Kenyan Inspector General Mutyambai, the officials have agreed to work together to ensure peace and security along the border areas.  
SOURCE: <https://wainfo.com/ethiopia-kenya-agree-to-combat-terrorism-in-border-areas/>
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SOURCE: <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2022/02/hesbon-owilla-if-raila-is-a-project-then-he-is-the-peoples-project/>
9. Four terrorist associates of the proscribed terror outfit TRF, who were involved in providing logistical and other support to active terrorists in Kashmir Valley, were apprehended in Srinagar on Wednesday, police said. According to police, the terrorist organisation The Resistance Front (TRF) is active in J&K and is being orchestrated by handlers based in Pakistan, based on reliable intelligence input.  
SOURCE: <https://odishatv.in/news/national/4-terrorist-associates-arrested-in-srinagar-170779>
10. On the third anniversary of the Pulwama terror attacks, India raised the alarm in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) about terrorists having access to modern and emerging technologies such as encrypted messaging services, drones and quadcopters for cross-border drug and arms trafficking, and carrying out attacks. In a briefing to the UN Security Council's counter-terrorism committee, senior Indian diplomat Rajesh Parihar said leaders of terrorist organisations in the region portrayed themselves as humanitarian NGOs and non-profit organisations, and continued to spread hatred against India and other countries

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through internet platforms, highlighting the urgent need for the UN monitoring team and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to focus on non-traditional aspects of terror financing.

SOURCE: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/at-unsc-india-flags-tech-use-by-terrorists-370221>

11. A self-proclaimed eco-terrorist was sentenced to more than eight years in prison for planting a viable homemade bomb in a popular public park in central Edinburgh. Nikolaos Karvounakis, originally from the Greek island of Crete, had placed the improvised device, which contained 58 nails and metal pipe sections, in a shelter at Princes Street Gardens in January 2018. The words "fuck you all" were written on the inside flap of the box. The device contained low-grade explosive as well as a crude but disconnected fuse made of a light filament and a battery.

SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/feb/16/eco-terrorist-who-planted-bomb-in-edinburgh-park-jailed>

12. Terrorist groups have begun to shift their recruitment focus to children, according to Elvi Hendrani, Assistant Deputy of Protection for Children in Particular Conditions at the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) Ministry. "Children are targeted by terrorist groups because they are naive, innocent, and emotionally unstable, as well as lacking adequate experience and knowledge." "Recruiting children also aims to avoid suspicion from security forces," Hendrani said in a statement released here on Wednesday.

SOURCE: <https://en.antaranews.com/news/215673/children-have-become-targets-of-terrorist-groups-ministry>

13. Canada expands 'TERRORIST FINANCING' RULES as freedom convoy gets stronger. With Canada's "Freedom Convoy" of truckers successfully obstructing commerce, officials are taking more aggressive steps to censor bitcoin donations.

SOURCE: <https://bitcoinmagazine.com/culture/canada-employs-terrorist-financing-rules-to-stop-trucker-convoy>

14. The PTA, which was enacted in 1979, allows authorities to conduct warrantless arrests and searches if a person is suspected of involvement in "terrorist activity." The Human Rights Commission (HRC) of Sri Lanka called on February 16 for the complete repeal of a controversial anti-terrorism law that gives police broad powers to arrest suspects without a trial, amid mounting pressure from Tamil and Muslim political parties concerned that it violates human rights.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lankan-human-rights-commission-calls-for-abolition-of-anti-terror-law-pta/article65055210.ece>

15. The funds will be used to fund research projects by academics at Leeds Trinity University, including Dr. Madeline-Sophie Abbas, who will investigate counter-terrorism and its impact on British Muslims. Dr. Abbas will conduct interviews with government

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officials involved in policymaking, including those working in key government organisations, as well as police officers from West Yorkshire Police who are involved in counter-terrorism work as part of her research.

SOURCE: <https://www.wharfedaleobserver.co.uk/news/19928617.funding-help-study-counter-terrorism-impact-british-muslims/>

16. Lieutenant General Fahd Bin Abdullah Mohammed Al-Mutair, Commander of Royal Saudi Land Forces, is visiting India this week in a historic first. The three-day visit is the first by a Saudi Land Forces Chief to India, and it demonstrates the strengthening bilateral defence ties between New Delhi and Riyadh. Intelligence Sharing, Counter-Terrorism, Artificial Intelligence, and Cyber Security are among the new areas of mutual cooperation being identified.

SOURCE: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-saudi-arabia-armies-explore-new-areas-of-coop-including-intel-sharing-counterterrorism/articleshow/89605524.cms>