

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Abu Idrees grabbed a radio and dialled one of his commanders, inquiring about the missing young man. After a few more calls, one commander's response came crackling through the radio set: the young man had been detained after Taliban fighters searched his car and discovered he was carrying bottles of alcohol, which is prohibited under Islamic law. "Please, just judge him according to Sharia," the father pleaded. "Don't worry, we won't kill him," Abu Idrees replied, a mischievous smile on his face. "He will be detained while we conduct a criminal investigation, and you will be notified of our decision."
SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/feb/17/inside-taliban-return-to-power-afghanistan-mazar-i-sherif>
2. Since taking power six months ago, the country's new rulers have also issued directives requiring journalists to follow Islamic principles and work for the good of the country — rules that appear to be aimed at stifling independent reporting. According to Bilal Karimi, a deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Culture and Information, criticism is tolerated but must be constructive. Fear follows reporter Banafsha Binesh from her Kabul home to the newsroom of Afghanistan's largest television station every morning.
SOURCE: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2026881/media>

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

1. Human rights activists in Pakistan have slammed a proposal to replace the annual International Women's Day marches next month with a Hijab Day. The federal minister for religious and minority affairs requested a ban on the Aurat (women's) March in the country in a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Feb. 9. "The Aurat March's banners, placards, and slogans" challenge the Islamic social system, and thus "women should not be permitted to hold the Aurat March on Women's Day," Noorul Haq Qadri said.
SOURCE: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/anger-over-bid-to-ban-womens-marches-in-pakistan/96153#>
2. According to human rights organisations, a 25-year-old man was killed in Pakistan after being attacked by an extremist mob. Pervez Masih, a married game shop owner, died as a result of injuries sustained in Monday's attack in Lahore. According to an incident report filed by his uncle, he was targeted by a mob of approximately 200 people. Locals told the Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance, and Settlement (CLAAS), a Christian charity that helps Pakistani Christians, that his death occurred the day after an attack on his brother.

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SOURCE: https://www.christiantoday.com/article/things_are_only_getting_worse_for_pakistans_christians_after_young_man_kill_ed/138184.htm

3. A gang of four Muslim men entered a games arcade room owned by a Christian man and mostly frequented by Christians. When the Muslim men entered the arcade and began being disruptive, they were drunk despite the fact that it is illegal for them to drink alcohol in Pakistan. The Muslim men were from Compound B of a Lahore Development Authority community housing project, which had relocated impoverished Christians from one area to Compound A. This had caused many conflicts and arguments from the start, as the larger Muslim community could not bear living near ritually impure Christians. Ironically, these Christians had been relocated from an area where Muslims could not bear the thought of living near ritually impure Christians.

SOURCE: <https://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/head-line-news-details/7620>

4. Mohsin Baig, a Pakistani journalist who was arrested following a raid on his home, has claimed that while in police custody, he was tortured by Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officials on the orders of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The senior journalist, who appeared to have a black eye and cuts on his face, made the allegations to journalists while being escorted by police into a terrorism court in Islamabad on Wednesday.

SOURCES: <https://news.google.com/search?q=Pakistan%20Terrorism&hl=en-IN&gl=IN&ceid=IN%3Aen>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. "Our founders recognised that no single organisation can ensure peace, security, and development in a complex and rapidly changing world," Mr. Guterres said, describing the bloc, known as the CSTO, as an important partner for the UN system. Among other things, he described the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan as one area where strong regional support will be critical in the coming months and years. Counter-terrorism, Afghanistan, top priorities for UN cooperation with Eurasian security body.

SOURCE: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1112112>

2. According to a recent Chainalysis report, Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other prominent terrorist organisations attempt to fund their operations with cryptocurrencies. Terrorism financing is the provision of funds for such activities or the provision of financial assistance to non-state actors. The National Bureau for Counter-Terror Financing (NBCTF) of Israel announced the seizure of cryptocurrencies held by several wallets associated with Hamas donation campaigns. According to various media reports,

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the action followed a significant increase in cryptocurrency donations to al-Qassam Brigades in May, following increased fighting between the group and Israeli forces.

SOURCE: <https://www.outlookindia.com/business/al-qaeda-isis-hamas-using-cryptos-for-terror-activities-says-chainalysis-report-news-182792>

3. According to a Defense Ministry statement issued Thursday, the Turkish military killed nine terrorists from the PKK's Syrian offshoot, the YPG, in northern Syria. The terrorists were planning an attack on the Operation Euphrates Shield zone, according to the ministry's Twitter account. Turkish officials focused on ensuring the region's security and creating favourable conditions for civilians displaced by terrorism to return home.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-military-eliminates-9-ypgpkk-terrorists-in-n-syria>

4. According to Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soyulu, the number of terrorists in Turkey has dropped to around 150. According to preliminary reports, twelve more people were injured in the attack. Fearing that the number of casualties would rise, the injured were transported to a nearby hospital. Rockets fired from the nearby city of Tel Rifaat were aimed at Azaz. The opposition forces retaliated with artillery fire on the group's positions in Tel Rifaat.

SOURCE: <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/number-of-terrorists-in-turkey-around-150-minister-171565>

5. The UAE intercepted and destroyed two ballistic missiles fired by the Houthi terror group towards its capital Abu Dhabi on Monday, January 24, 2022, according to the Ministry of Defence, just days after two Indians and a Pakistani were killed in a rare drone and missile attack claimed by the Yemeni rebels.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uae-shoots-down-2-ballistic-missiles-fired-by-houthis-over-abu-dhabi/article38317001.ece>

6. As Labour toughens its stance on crime, Angela Rayner says police should 'shoot terrorists first and ask questions later.' As she seeks to distance the party from former leader Jeremy Corbyn, the deputy Labour leader has outlined a "hardline" approach to crime.

SOURCE: <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/police-shoot-terrorists-first-ask-questions-later-angela-rayner-labour-crime-1466145>

7. France, its European Union partners, and Canada will end anti-terror operations in Mali by June, according to a joint statement issued Thursday ahead of an EU-African Union summit. France has 4,300 soldiers stationed in Africa's Sahel region to combat terrorism. Mali, where up to 2,500 French soldiers are stationed, is a major focus of the mission, known as 'Operation

Barkhane.' France is also in command of Task Force Takuba, to which several European countries have contributed troops and whose mission is to combat terrorism.

SOURCE: <https://gazettengr.com/france-canada-to-end-terrorism-operations-in-mali/>

8. The High Commissioner of the United Kingdom in Nairobi has handed over forensic medical equipment worth \$39,602 (Ksh4 million) to Kenya to aid in the fight against terrorism in the region. The equipment, which included a portable mortuary fridge, mortuary tables and slats, stepladders, collapsible tables, folding chairs, body bags, and evidence bags, was handed over Wednesday at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya's largest public health facility.

SOURCE: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/kenya-receives-counter-terrorism-medical-equipment-from-uk-3720248>

9. According to civil society groups, Montenegro's new counter-terrorism strategy must focus more on young people and the dangers of extremist content online. Montenegro's new Preventing Radicalization and Violent Extremism Strategy has been in the works since June of last year. The Interior Ministry told BIRN that the new document, which had been promised by the end of last year, would focus on young people and the role of the internet in "spreading false information," but civil society organisations say the authorities must keep their word at a time when Montenegrin society is becoming increasingly polarised.

SOURCE: <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/02/17/polarised-montenegro-urged-to-address-online-extremism-in-new-strategy/>

10. In an effort to improve security and peace stability in the region, the Kilifi County Government has unveiled a new action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism. The Kilifi County Action Plan (CAP), which was launched in 2018, focuses on eight main pillars, including ideology, politics, economic issues, media, and the internet, to guide the fight against violent extremism. Through their Peace and Stability Programme, the Office of the Governor, County Commissioner, National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), and Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE) organisation developed the action plan aimed at reducing violent extremism, political and resource-based conflicts in the County.

SOURCE: <https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/kilifi-county-unveils-new-counter-violence-extremism-action-plan/>

11. The fact that an investigation is underway could confirm long-held suspicions among some activists that some police officers in D.C. and elsewhere have been sympathetic to or have maintained ties to extremist groups. During a protest in 2019, a D.C. police officer was seen fist-bumping a Proud Boys member, and activists have also complained that extremist and white supremacist groups have frequently received ample police protection in the city.

SOURCE: <https://dcist.com/story/22/02/17/dc-police-investigating-lieutenant-proud-boys/>

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12. After arrests were made and in connection with allegations of conspiracy to murder officers, Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino stated on Wednesday that individuals at the truckers protest have strong ties with far-right groups with leaders in Ottawa. He went on to say that the group is "organised, agile, knowledgeable, and driven by an extremist ideology," which is detrimental to democracy.
SOURCE: <https://globalnews.ca/video/8625128/protesters-are-organized-driven-by-extremist-ideology-says-public-safety-minister-following-arrests/>
13. As Lebanon deteriorates, a growing number of young people join extremist groups. In recent months, at least 48 young men have vanished from Tripoli. Families believe their loved ones have joined the Islamic State in nearby Iraq. According to the Associated Press, between 70 and 100 young men have gone missing in Tripoli, with a significant increase beginning in August. In late January, the Iraqi military killed five Lebanese Islamic State militants.
SOURCE: <https://www.mnnonline.org/news/poverty-in-lebanon-heightens-extremist-appeal/>
14. Chris Alexander, a former Canadian minister and diplomat, has called on Pakistan to compensate 9/11 victims because the attacks were planned in Karachi. According to a former Canadian ambassador to Afghanistan, the Afghan assets belong to the people of the war-torn country, not to Pakistanis.
SOURCE: <https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=927826>
15. Six terrorists were killed in Pakistan's Balochistan province on Wednesday during a firefight with security forces in the Injirkan Range near the district's Buleda area, according to local media.
SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/six-terrorists-killed-in-pakistans-balochistan-province-in-exchange-for-fire20220216230807/>
16. The minister delivered the keynote address at the opening session of the 8th Istanbul Process meeting, which was themed "10th Anniversary of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18: Looking Back and Moving Forward." The strategy calls for a review of discriminatory state laws, policies, and practises, as well as the promotion of interfaith harmony, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence, as well as the creation of an international instrument to prohibit the dissemination of ideas that incite acts of religious intolerance and hatred.
SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2343821/pakistan-unveils-strategy-to-counter-hate-speech>
17. Pakistan has urged the United Nations Security Council to hold the "masterminds" who continue to support, finance, and sponsor cross-border terrorist attacks into its territory accountable. Pakistan raised the issue of cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan after India accused Pakistan of sponsoring terrorism in occupied Kashmir at a UN forum on Monday.

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SOURCE: <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/world/pakistan-asks-uns-cto-help-stop-attacks-from-afghanistan>