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DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. "Participants urged the Taliban to do more to address the alarming rise in human rights violations, such as arbitrary detentions,... forced disappearances, media crackdowns, extrajudicial killings, torture, and restrictions on women and girls' education, employment, and freedom to travel without a male escort (which are as per Islamic Law," according to a joint US-European statement.

SOURCE: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/31/after-oslo-what-next-for-afghanistan>

2. Haqqani did not go into detail, but in previous pronouncements, he stated that before reopening public universities, gender segregation would be imposed in accordance with Sharia or Islamic law. He also stated at the time that female students will be required to wear hijabs. The Taliban's proclamation comes as the international community presses them to respect all Afghans' human rights, including women's rights, and to enable all girls to attend school.

SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-afghan-public-universities-to-begin-reopening-wednesday/6419122.html>

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

1. Experts claim that the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has enhanced the threat presented by Islamist militants in Pakistan. The Taliban's win in Afghanistan has empowered not only Pakistani Islamist terrorists, but also Islamic political organisations that share the Taliban's radical ideals. According to analysts, the surging popularity of some Islamist groups could put Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling Tehrik-e Insaf in jeopardy in the 2023 general elections.

SOURCE: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/pakistan-hard-line-islamists-taliban-victory/31680060.html>

2. With the Taliban's success, various terrorist groups have increased their violent actions, posing a greater threat of extremism and sectarianism. The United States has reduced its security and economic assistance to Pakistan.

SOURCE: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/the-cost-of-taliban-takeover-for-pakistan-1076414.html>

3. On Sunday, gunmen killed a Christian priest and wounded another as they drove home from church in Peshawar, Pakistan's northern city, authorities said. Officers said two attackers on a motorcycle opened fire on the car on the city's ring-road, instantly killing Pastor William Siraj. No one has claimed responsibility for the shooting in a place where scores of people were killed in a double suicide bombing outside a church in 2013 — one of Pakistan's bloodiest attacks against the Christian minority.

SOURCE: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/01/30/asia/pakistan-christian-priest-killed-intl-hnk/index.html>

4. According to local media, the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) presented a report on Sunday highlighting how press freedom in Pakistan declined in 2021 compared to the previous two years. The CPNE expressed worries about strategies intended at suffocating freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and access to information in a report titled "Pakistan Media Freedom Report – 2021," according to The Express Tribune. According to the research, five journalists were slain in the line of duty in 2021, including Nazim Jokhio, a Karachi-based social media activist and community journalist who was kidnapped and brutally murdered.

SOURCE: <https://www.thestatesman.com/world/media-freedom-deteriorated-2021-compared-previous-two-years-pakistan-report-1503042541.html>

5. The Parole Board has concluded that a terrorist who plotted to abduct and behead a British Muslim soldier should not be released. After pleading guilty to the plan and the delivery of equipment to terrorists on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, Parviz Khan was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 14 years in February 2008 at Leicester Crown Court. "The panel was not convinced that Mr Khan was eligible for release after considering the circumstances of his crime, the progress achieved while in custody, and the other evidence provided at the hearing," the Parole Board said. Along with him, four other men were convicted — one for failing to inform authorities about the plot and three for assisting him with his illegal supply line.

SOURCE: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/leicester-crown-court-muslim-pakistan-british-afghanistan-b2004097.html>

6. A grenade attack in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan region injured at least 17 persons, including two police officers, according to police. Unidentified motorcyclists hurled a hand grenade near a shop in a bustling market in Jaffarabad district's Dera Allahyar town on Sunday night, according to senior police officials. The attack was condemned as a "act of terrorism" by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo and Balochistan Assembly Speaker Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali. A long-running violent insurgency exists in Balochistan, which borders Iran and Afghanistan. Baloch militant groups have already carried out attacks in the region aimed at the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

SOURCE: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2022/jan/31/17-injured-in-grenade-attack-in-pakistans-restive-balochistan-province-2413533.html>

7. The appointment of Masood Khan as Pakistan's next ambassador has been halted by the US due to alleged terror ties. Scott Perry, a member of the US Congress, wrote to the President of the United States, saying: "I'm writing to express my deep worry over Masood Khan's appointment as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States. Imran Khan's nomination of a known terrorist sympathiser "trying to undermine our interests in the area — as well as the security of our Indian friends" can only be regarded as a stunning lack of judgement at best, and a proof of Islamabad's utter contempt for the US at worst."

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SOURCE: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/us-blocks-pakistan-ambassador-masood-khan-s-appointment-1906917-2022-01-31>

8. After battles broke out between several groups of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) over positions, a wanted terrorist of the banned TTP was slain on Monday. In fighting between several factions, outlawed TTP infamous commander Rafiullah was slain. Rafiullah was known by various aliases, including Wahab, Doctor, and Ahmed Abdullah. He was a supporter of the terrorist groups NDS, ISIS, and the Baloch.

SOURCE: <https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/639173-Wanted-banned-TTP-terrorist-killed-clashes-break-out-between-faction>

9. Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) denounced the assassination of a pastor in Peshawar, which took place in a barbaric attack. Unidentified gunmen killed a Christian priest and injured another in Pakistan's northwest metropolis on Sunday. Pastor William Siraj was killed instantaneously when assailants on a motorcycle opened fire on his automobile. HRFP president Naveed Walter said in a statement that this appears to be a targeted attack by Islamists. As documented by a European Parliament group last year, members of the Christian, Sikh, and Hind groups have been frequently attacked.

SOURCE: <https://www.siasat.com/pak-rights-group-condemns-targetted-killing-of-christian-priest-in-peshawar-2267350/>

10. Some madrasas are suspected of spreading extreme ideology and collaborating with terrorist organisations. His goal was to indoctrinate Muslim youngsters with the intention of revitalising Islam. The Deobandi school of Islam adheres to traditional Islamism, believing that following Sunni Islamic law, or sharia, is the only way to salvation and rejecting all non-Islamic views.

SOURCE: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/31012022-on-the-need-to-reform-madrassa-education-oped/>

11. The mosques' public address systems began to broadcast explosive and incendiary statements on a regular basis. Thousands of audio cassettes containing identical falsehoods were broadcast in various locations throughout the Valley in order to further terrorise the Kashmiri Pandit minority. Another Navalny worker was sentenced to two years and three months in prison in 2017 in the central Russian region of Chuvashia for "inciting hatred" and "extremism" in social media posts.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenorthlines.com/kashmiri-pandits-offered-three-choices-by-radical-islamists-2/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. For the first time this summer, armed counter-terrorism officers will be deployed on British cross-Channel ferries, despite government sources claiming there is no specific threat to passenger ships. The Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) will station firearms officers aboard ferries leaving Dover and on passenger ships sailing between Newcastle and the Netherlands.

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SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/31/armed-counter-terrorism-officers-british-cross-channel-ferries-security>

2. Following a DNA test, Iraq's National Security Services confirmed the killing of an Islamic State (ISIS) senior north of Baghdad on Monday. The murder of the so-called deputy governor, or Wali, of northern Baghdad in an airstrike in al-Tarmia area, north of the Iraqi capital, was confirmed by the National Security Services. Following DNA testing, he was recognised as Adwan Farhan Jafal, according to the statement.

SOURCE: <https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/310120223>

3. Mustafa Kadhimi, Iraq's outgoing Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, has launched a war against ISIS remnants to preserve the country's security. The strong political struggle between blocs and parties is being used by ISIS and all armed organisations and factions. However, the Prime Minister maintained all military and security efforts against the terrorist organization.

SOURCE: <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3446871/iraqi-army-targets-isis-remnants>

4. On Sunday, US-backed Kurdish troops claimed to have beaten all ISIS militants remaining inside the Syrian jail that the extremists stormed ten days ago, prompting fighting that left over 370 people dead. According to a statement, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) proclaimed the end of their mopping-up campaign inside the prison "after terminating the final pockets where ISIS militants were present."

SOURCE: <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3446566/syrian-kurdish-forces-end-mop-operations-isis-hit-jail>

5. Mamza, whose family members have been killed by the Islamist group Boko Haram, recently challenged US Secretary of State John Kerry to justify his decision to remove Nigeria from the persecution watchlist, claiming that he has witnessed the brutal persecution of Christians in Africa's most populous country. As bishops condemn Islamist violence, an expert urges attention to persecuted Christians.

SOURCE: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/31012022-nigeria-expert-urges-attention-to-persecuted-christians-as-bishops-decry-islamist-violence/>

6. Ophélie Meunier, a 34-year-old French TV journalist, hosts the documentary series Zone Interdite, with the most recent episode focusing on the impact of radical Islamic influence in France. After presenting a documentary on the influence of radical Islam on a French village, a journalist has been placed under police protection. For her role in Zone Interdite, a hard-hitting documentary about the impoverished northern town of Roubaix, Ophélie Meunier, 34, has received death threats. The presentation featured a

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restaurant with booths where women could eat without being seen by men, as well as a toy store that offered faceless dolls to Muslims who adhere to the Islamic edict that forbids the depiction of facial features in any form.

SOURCE: <https://www.thebharatexpressnews.com/a-french-journalist-under-police-protection-after-a-documentary-on-radical-islam/>