

## **DAILY TRACKER**

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

1. It is apparent that the public has no say in the decision-making process under the Taliban's constitution, either through voting or by holding government agencies accountable. Because elections are considered un-Islamic by the Taliban, the constitution prohibits citizens the power to elect members of the shura, choose a prime minister, choose members of provincial legislatures, or choose governors, mayors, and members of district assemblies.

SOURCE: [https://www.faiobserver.com/region/central\\_south\\_asia/ikramuddin-kamil-afghanistan-constitution-taliban-news-afghan-world-news-43794/](https://www.faiobserver.com/region/central_south_asia/ikramuddin-kamil-afghanistan-constitution-taliban-news-afghan-world-news-43794/)

2. The Taliban have established a list of "journalism norms," which include media conformity to the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic philosophy on "enjoying good and forbidding bad." According to the poll, more than 6,400 journalists and media workers have lost their jobs since the Taliban seized control of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, on August 15. The decreasing Afghan media environment is not solely due to Taliban intimidation. Many media channels were receiving national and international funding, according to observers, until the Islamist Taliban took power and the US-led Western soldiers left Afghanistan. A loss of advertising revenue has aggravated their financial problems.

SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/un-amnesty-decry-latest-taliban-crackdown-on-afghan-journalism/6414969.html>

3. Along the lines of Sharia Law ,certain restrictions that recently are being reported. On Wednesday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that "Afghanistan is hanging by a thread," as millions of destitute Afghans fight to survive amid worsening humanitarian conditions. With females being barred from attending school, Guterres stated at a UN Security Council meeting that "the basic human rights that belong to every girl and woman" are being violated. He was alarmed by recent stories of arbitrary arrests and kidnappings of female campaigners.

SOURCE: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/26/un-chief-calls-on-taliban-to-uphold-womens-rights>

4. Taliban commanders reiterated the previous government's banning of same-sex relationships, and some of them promised to take a harsh position against LGBT rights. "LGBT... That's against our Sharia [Islamic] law," a Taliban spokesman told Reuters in October. Heather Barr, associate women's rights director at Human Rights Watch, said, "The Taliban have publicly sworn not to respect LGBT Afghans' rights."

SOURCE: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/whipped-gang-raped-lgbtq-people-under-grave-threat-in-afghanistan-report-reveals/bc4cebe4-72ba-4c62-981a-d0a3272c33f1>

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

1. The Texas synagogue hostage crisis, which US President Joe Biden described as a "act of terror," was concluded with the release of four hostages and the death of the hostage-taker, but the horrific incident has refocused attention on Al Qaeda and its Pakistan connection.  
SOURCE: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2022/columnists/texas-crisis-exposes-pakistan---s-tentacles.html>
2. The army claimed on Thursday that ten Pakistani troops were killed when terrorists stormed a security checkpoint in the restive southern Balochistan province's Kech area. Terrorists carried out a "fire raid" on the night of January 25-26, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing. Ten soldiers were killed in a fierce exchange of fire, according to the report, which also stated that one terrorist was killed and several others were injured in the event.  
SOURCE: <https://news.abplive.com/news/world/10-soldiers-killed-in-terror-attack-in-pakistan-s-balochistan-province-1509300>
3. I'm not going to argue that these ideas are wholly false, that there is another Pakistan, a more tolerant Pakistan, that is more true to the truth. In reality, I would testify that Pakistan has seen a rise in "radicalization" over the years, an observation based on my personal experience as well as reporting on the country. Over the last few years, acts of mob violence, particularly against religious minorities, have grown, while the state continues to promote a form of religious populism.  
SOURCE: <https://scroll.in/article/1015945/how-should-we-talk-about-pakistan-without-reinforcing-islamophobic-tropes>
4. Shah's assassination was condemned by Pakistan's Human Rights Commission, which called it "another testament to the collapsing law-and-order situation and the heightened vulnerability of journalists." The Committee to Protect Journalists asked authorities to "examine the murder of journalist Hasnain Shah as quickly as possible and bring the murderers to justice," calling the death a "outrageous and brazen attack on the press in Pakistan."  
SOURCE: <https://www.newslaundry.com/2022/01/27/police-arrest-prime-suspect-in-killing-of-pakistan-journalist-hasnain-shah>
5. During the court hearing, defence counsel called the court's attention to the police <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/sindhi-foundation-announces-protest-march-in-canada-to-highlight-minority-rights-issue-in-pakistan20220127095144/clarification>, claiming it was an attempt to cover up the investigation's flaws. The co-lawyer accused. "The Inspector General of the Islamabad Police has meddled in the justice system," Jamal claimed. The court enquired if this was done "officially," adding that if it was, it was not acceptable. This sparked a public outcry, prompting accusations on social media that the police were attempting to curry favour with the culprit.

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

SOURCE: <https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/noor-mukadam-murder-case-court-warns-police-about-clarification-1.85255213>

6. The Sindhi Foundation has announced a protest march in Canada to raise awareness about Pakistan's minority rights issues. Pakistan openly supports the Taliban, extremists, and China in their efforts to oppress Pakistan's people. A long walk will be held to raise awareness about religious and ethnic minorities' human rights concerns.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/sindhi-foundation-announces-protest-march-in-canada-to-highlight-minority-rights-issue-in-pakistan20220127095144/>

7. Haider wrote political satire for a Pakistani national daily on a regular basis. He was also an editor for Tanqeed, or "Criticism," a progressive publication that focuses on religious and ethnic minority rights. According to him, the journal covered and criticised the army, including their Taliban support. Haider had received a barrage of hateful remarks and death threats on social media, as well as anonymous phone calls and messages including racial slurs and charges of blasphemy, which is a punishable offence in Pakistan. Pakistan's Federal Probe Agency has launched an investigation into Haider. Pakistan is mired in a vicious spiral of discussions around blasphemy, minority rights, and religious freedoms, with the country and its authorities split on the topics.

SOURCE: <https://newcanadianmedia.ca/a-victim-of-torture-blogger-continues-fight-for-human-rights-in-pakistan/>

8. In Karachi, Islamist students throw shoes at effigies of Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian woman who was released after eight years on death row for blasphemy. Academics like Ammar Ali Jan, a member of the democratic pressure group Haqooq-e-Khalq, tweeted about the fate of multiple blasphemy victims. "Blasphemy claims, according to church leaders and human rights organisations, are frequently used to frighten religious minority and settle personal scores."

SOURCE: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-netizens-divided-over-blasphemy-death-sentence/95876#>

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

1. According to Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (West) Reenat Sandhu, India and five Central Asian countries resolved on Thursday to form a cooperative working group on Afghanistan at the top official level. According to Sandhu, the leaders agreed to hold joint counter-terrorism exercises between India and Central Asian countries of interest.

SOURCE: <https://zeenews.india.com/india/afghanistan-counter-terrorism-and-a-dictionary-highlights-from-india-central-asia-summit-2431332.html>

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2. "Any associations cherishing extremism, the Chetnik or neo-fascist ideology, should be labelled as dangerous and explicitly deviant in both Bosnian entities," said Aljosa Campara, the interior minister of the mainly Bosniak and Croat Federation, one of two entities that make up Bosnia. a period dominated by the threat from radical Islamists, particularly the phenomenon of Muslims from the Balkans, including Bosnia, travelling to Syria and Iraq to fight alongside the Islamist  
SOURCE: <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/01/27/bosnian-counter-terrorism-strategy-delayed-by-dispute-over-right-wing/>
3. A military coup in Burkina Faso, a weak West African country, could prohibit the US from intervening. The terrorist threat has spread into Burkina Faso, preventing the US Air Force from continuing vital counterterrorism surveillance and targeting efforts in an area where Islamic terrorism is growing. The Air Force gathers intelligence on specific target areas, then collaborates with Burkina Faso intelligence services to queue areas of interest in the ISR platform. "They continue to collaborate, which is extremely beneficial to the mission's development because we can actually assist in the queueing of operations and then do the analysis afterwards."  
SOURCE: <https://www.airforcemag.com/burkina-faso-coup-may-halt-u-s-air-force-counter-terrorism-cooperation/>
4. The three main themes of the Summit for Democracy—anti-corruption, human rights, and the preservation of civil society spaces—directly address the causes and consequences of elite predation, which allows transnational terrorist groups to spread. The administration can ensure mutually reinforcing reactions by paying more attention to how counterterrorism responses impact these challenges. The suggestions aren't exhaustive, but they do point to the kind of integrated thinking that will help the US advance its democratic and counter-terrorism goals.  
SOURCE: <https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/strengthening-democracy-better-counterterrorism-strategy-363037>
5. A US-led multinational coalition has worn down ISIS's so-called caliphate after years of fighting, culminating in the assassination of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a raid by US Army special operators in 2019. Large-scale operations against ISIS in the United States have come to an end. The Combined Joint Task Force-Inherent Resolve still has troops in Iraq and Syria, but they switched from direct combat operations to a non-combat mission in December, advising and assisting Iraq's military.  
SOURCE: <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/as-the-us-looks-away-from-iraq-elite-us-trained-operators-are-still-battling-the-remnants-of-isis/articleshow/89144824.cms>
6. The nation's operative headquarters on counter-terrorism reported on Tuesday that the terrorism warning level in Almaty, as well as the Almaty and Zhambyl areas, has been reduced from critical red to high orange as of Jan. 26 midnight. Investigative efforts to identify the organisers and participants in the mass unrest, as well as measures to detect weapons and explosives, were all part of the operation.

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

SOURCE: <https://astanatimes.com/2022/01/kazakhstan-lowers-risk-of-terrorism-warning-level-in-three-regions/>

7. Either a political habit of exploiting Islam as a political platform or an ideology of Islamic domination. Islamist anti-Semitism is a strong combination of historic Islamic anti-Jewish beliefs and contemporary anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. Americans should demand freedom of expression everywhere and at all times, lest Islamists use 'respect' and invented 'Islamophobia' to silence those who dare to fight Islamism's anti-Semitism."

SOURCE: <https://www.jns.org/opinion/lessons-from-colleyville/>

8. After expressing a classmate that he wished his school would burn down, an 11-year-old child from a Muslim home was referred to Prevent, a UK government anti-extremism programme. "Being a brown, Muslim, Asian boy does not make you a terrorist," his mother told the Guardian newspaper. She acknowledged that her son's remarks were inappropriate, but she said that they were "isolated" and the product of stress. Anxiety is thought to be a problem for the child.

SOURCE: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2012766/world>

9. The 16-year-old British schoolgirl was accused of having instructions for making homemade guns and explosives. However, an expert unit determined that she had been internet groomed by a US terrorist. This is the first time a terrorism investigation has been terminated as a result of such a decision. The Derbyshire adolescent, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was detained in October 2020 and accused of holding strong right-wing views.

SOURCE: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60132861>

10. To assuage public anxiety and suspicion, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) has asked the National Counter-Terrorism Agency (BNPT) to reveal the identities of Islamic boarding schools that the agency suspects are linked to terrorist organisations. "To clarify the problem," MUI vice chairperson Anwar Abbas said in Jakarta on Thursday, "I urge the BNPT release the names of Islamic boarding schools that they have accused of being associated with terrorist groups." He encouraged the agency to give Islamic boarding schools, also known as pesantren in Indonesian, the opportunity to clarify their positions while the government examines their alleged ties to terrorist organisations.

SOURCE: <https://en.antaraneews.com/news/212081/reveal-names-of-boarding-schools-affiliated-with-terror-groups-mui>