

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Female students were permitted back on campus at Afghanistan's public institutions on Wednesday for the first time since the Taliban took control of the country last year. Women were allowed to attend classes on the condition that they were separated from male students, according to education officials. The Taliban administration has not formally stated its plan for female university students. Male and female students at Nangarhar University will attend separate classes, according to Khalil Ahmad Bihsudwal, the university's president. For security reasons, a female medical student at the university begged not to be identified. She claimed classrooms had been divided by gender, but it was unclear if women could be taught by male lecturers or contact with male students outside the classroom.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/02/03/asia/afghanistan-women-university-students-intl-hnk/index.html>

2. Another women's rights activist, Zahra Mohammadi, was kidnapped by the Taliban today. Meanwhile, yesterday the Taliban abducted Mursal Ayar, also a women rights activist from her house, days after they arrested Tamana with her two sisters and Parwana.

Source: <https://twitter.com/natiqmalikzada/status/1489219192704229378>

3. The Taliban appears to be cracking down on female protestors, with claims of at least two more activists being 'abducted' by the organisation in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, in the last 24 hours.

Source: <https://twitter.com/usarifi/status/1489217224573390856>

4. After participating in protests in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, the Taliban allegedly took a woman from her home by force. Mursal Ayar was detained in the city on Wednesday, according to a source, after participating in rallies calling for women's equality. Women have been involved in a slew of protests that have drew international notice. Ms. Ayar is the sixth demonstrator to go missing in the last few weeks.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60239525>

5. Another women's rights activist, Zahra Haqqarast, was detained by Taliban soldiers in Kabul. She has previously expressed her displeasure with the Taliban's continued detention of several female protestors.

Source: <https://twitter.com/Reporterlyaf/status/1489184355687804931>

6. Since the Taliban swept to power in August of last year, the international community has been on the verge of a cliff, unsure whether they will continue to enforce the same draconian restrictions as they did during their tenure in the 1990s. Despite the fact that

the Taliban has put a number of limitations on women, the group still has a long way to go before implementing any major reforms that would violate Sharia law.

Source: https://www.latintimes.com/taliban-reopens-universities-women-afghanistan-after-international-pressure-504947?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

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

1. The assassination of a priest, William Siraj, in Peshawar has placed a shadow of terror and resentment over Pakistan's minorities. The terrible tragedy serves as a reminder that the threat of both persecution and terrorism continues to undermine the Pakistani state's core fabric, with religious and ethnic minorities increasingly targeted for various reasons. After Sunday services in a local church in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan, Christian pastor William Siraj and his fellow priests were targeted. While one priest, priest Nadeem Patrick, was injured, another priest remained unharmed.

Source: <https://thewire.in/communalism/killings-suppression-and-the-blasphemy-ruse-pakistans-minorities-are-beleaguered>

2. With adolescent radicalization on the rise, the country's religious extremism problem is likely to intensify in the future unless the government makes a slow and discreet policy move toward separating religion and politics.

Source: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/930331-religious-extremism-among-sindh-s-youth-likely-to-grow-warns-study>

3. Pakistan is the worst country for minorities to live in; extremism and discrimination against minorities are at an all-time high! In Pakistan, four Sindhi Hindus were slain, seven were hung, eight cases of forced conversions were reported, three temples were vandalised, and two villages were devastated in the last month of January 2022.

Source: <https://twitter.com/AlkaSharma102/status/1489173699148533760>

4. On Sunday, a Christian priest was killed by gunmen in Peshawar, Pakistan. Pastor William Siraj was shot and killed while walking home after mass with two other priests, one of them, Naeem Patrick, was also injured. While no one has claimed credit for the incident, it was carried out by two men on motorcycles and comes as Pakistan sees an increase in extremist attacks. The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which coordinated a gun raid at a checkpoint in Islamabad, the country's capital, last month, claims responsibility for the majority of the recent surge of jihadist violence. The victory of their Afghan counterparts in Kabul has boosted the morale of the Pakistani Taliban and their supporters. They've also been emboldened by Pakistan's soft-spoken attitude toward jihadis.

Source: <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/pakistan-s-christians-are-living-in-terror>

5. In the district of Kech in Balochistan, a military operation has been ongoing for several days. According to sources, the forces arrested more than 10 persons in the Darachko district of Tehsil Dasht and transferred them to an undisclosed destination. Murad, Kamal, and Habib are three old people who have gone missing. Fida son of Nazar, Fida son of Ibrahim, Owais son of Rasool Bakhsh, Hanif son of Farak, Niaz son of Omid, Abid son of Bashir, and Bilal son of Bashir are the other child abductees. It should be mentioned that enforced disappearances are a common occurrence in Balochistan. Balochistan's political parties and human rights organisations have been working to recover missing persons for years.

Source: <https://thebalochistanpost.net/2022/01/kech-10-including-three-elderly-persons-go-missing/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. US Special Operations forces carry out counter terrorism mission in Syria overnight, Pentagon says. "We did what needed to be done and told Joe Biden when he woke this morning."

Source: <https://twitter.com/SpeculationNews/status/1489226697014751234>

2. A U.S. special forces raid in northwestern Syria early Thursday killed the top leader of the Islamic State group, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, President Joe Biden said.

Source: https://www.wcvb.com/article/us-launches-counterterrorism-raid-in-syria/38967677?utm_campaign=snd-autopilot#

3. On intelligence from Tajikistan's Interior Ministry, three'sleeper' terrorist cells were discovered and smashed in Russia, Tajik Interior Minister Ramazon Rakhimzoda said during a press conference on Wednesday. "As a result of our joint activity, we sent three messages to the Russian Interior Ministry stating that there were'sleeper' terrorist cells on Russian territory, and they carried out operational and search measures based on our information, apprehending over 13 members of terrorist and extremist organised criminal gangs made up of citizens from not only Tajikistan but also other republics," he said.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/russian-fsb-detained-three-sleeper-terrorist-cells-in-russia-on-tip-off-from-tajikistan/>

4. On Wednesday, seven "terrorists" were murdered in Saladin Governorate, according to Iraq's Security Media Cell. The Joint Operations Command initiated an operation against ISIS elements, according to the Cell, and "achieved positive results." "A force from the Saladin Operations Command stormed a den west of Hawi al-Azeem (Mutaybija area) and executed seven members of ISIS terrorist gangs with the help of the Iraqi Air Force." "The rest of the militants inside their hole are still being besieged by Iraqi forces." The message went on to say.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/iraqi-security-forces-killed-seven-terrorists-in-saladin/>

5. Iraqi security forces captured three people wanted by the Iraqi judiciary for ties to the terrorist group ISIS, according to a statement released by the Baghdad Operations Command on Wednesday. A squad from the Iraqi army's 11th infantry division's reconnaissance company was able to identify and capture two ISIS militants at a checkpoint near Baghdad, according to the statement.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/three-islamic-state-terrorists-captured-entering-baghdad/>

6. On the border between the governorates of Diyala and Saladin, the Iraqi Army killed four ISIS members. "Army aircraft targeted an ISIS lair in the Al-Maita area on the borders between Diyala and Saladin, killing four ISIS fighters," a security source informed Shafaq News Agency.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/iraqi-aviation-strike-an-islamic-state-stronghold/>

7. The troops achieved this achievement in collaboration with members of the Civilian Joint Task Force, according to a statement (CJTF). According to Army spokesman Brigadier General Onyema Nwachukwu, "gallant troops neutralised two BH/ISWAP terrorists following a ferocious battle, while others, bowing to troops' superior firepower retreated in disarray" during a clearance operation code-named "Operation DOMINANCE I" along the insurgents' route of manoeuvre at Ngirbua village. One AK 47 rifle, one FN rifle, and a motorcycle were also recovered by the military. These are in addition to other items retrieved by troops.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/nigerian-troops-eliminated-boko-haram-and-iswap-terrorists-in-borno-and-yobe/>

8. Following the death of its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2019, the Islamic State (ISIS) has been working to transfer most of its core operations to Turkey, and currently has weapons buried in stockpiles in six provinces in Turkey, according to Kasm Güler, the alleged ISIS Turkey chief, in his testimony. Istanbul, Izmir, Mersin, Denizli, Van, and Adana are the six provinces, according to Güler of Deutsche Welle Turkish. He went on to say that ISIS had chapters in 12 regions.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/islamic-state-buried-weapons-in-six-turkish-provinces/>

9. Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were killed in an encounter in the Nadigam district of Shopian, Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday. Umar Ishfaq Malik, a native of Bongam in Shopian, has been identified as the terrorist. In November of last year, he joined the violent group. After receiving information regarding the presence of militants, joint forces including soldiers from the Indian Army's 34 and 44 Rashtriya Rifles, the 14 Battalion CRPF, and the SOG of the Jammu and Kashmir Police sealed off the Nowpora area of South Kashmir's Shopian district earlier in the day.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/hizbul-mujahideen-terrorist-killed-in-encounter-with-security-forces-in-jammu-and-kashmirs-shopian/>

10. Kasm Güler, who was arrested on the charge of managing ISIS's so-called "Turkey province," has been charged by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. The case file contained 74 pages of confessions from an ISIS operator code-named "Abu Usama al-Turki," according to Deutsche Welle Turkish service. According to Güler's confessions, the organisation planned to assassinate opposition leaders and commit out attacks on tourists, LGBTI+ people, and Alevis, a religious minority.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/arrested-islamic-state-leader-in-turkey-confesses-plans-to-attack-opposition-leaders-and-tourists/>