

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. It appears that the Taliban's religious beliefs are primarily focused on the control of women. In five years, they hope to be granted all Islamic rights. Afghanistan's women are counting down the days until 2027.

SOURCE: <https://www.rte.ie/news/2022/0311/1285735-world-taliban-afghanistan/>

2. The Taliban conducts their searches with absolute power and casual brutality. When we spoke, Najibeh, who has two sons, 9 and 3, was hiding in a rented house, while Talibs slept in a nearby mosque as they prepared to search the neighbourhood. She described how they beat people with rifles and sticks, destroy any passports found (part of the goal is to keep untrustworthy Afghans from fleeing the country), and loot money, gold, and jewellery. Noori sent me photos of the bodies of several military women who were murdered a few days ago and dumped in alleyways on piles of rubble or trash. One of them was bound by the wrists and legs with rope. This all comes after Taliban's new restriction while implementing Islamic Law where woman are barred from travelling abroad.

SOURCE: <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2022/03/afghanistan-withdrawal-left-behind-women-soldiers/627022/>

3. Unlike Afghanistan's elections commission, which the Taliban decided to abolish after declaring that no presidential or parliamentary elections would be held in the country, the future of the human rights commission is unknown. Despite the exodus of many human rights activists, some Afghans, particularly women's rights activists, have continued to advocate for human rights, freedom, and justice in Kabul and other cities across the country. According to independent watchdogs, Taliban authorities have detained women's rights activists and beaten journalists at times. Several media operations and female-led work have been halted in the name of Islamic Law, resulting in the aforementioned incidents.

SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-uncertainty-prompts-bid-for-afghan-rights-body-in-exile-/6479378.html>

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

1. According to a report on violence against women and children in Pakistan, the number of cases has increased dramatically. According to a report presented by SSDO and published bi-annually, the projected numbers are not estimates but are based on governmental data and FIRs.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/report-on-violence-against-women-in-pakistan-shows-stark-increase-in-cases20220311162123/>

2. According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Pakistan 2021, 45 percent of students, mostly fifth graders, could not read a sentence in Urdu and their regional languages. The report emphasised the implementation of Article -25 A of the Pakistan constitution, which calls for universal education.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/survey-reveals-pakistani-fifth-graders-unable-to-read-english-properly20220311192323/>

3. Human rights activists from the World Baloch Organisation have placed billboards in London to draw attention to the dire human rights situation in Pakistan's Balochistan. 20,000 people have reportedly been kidnapped, with 3000 discovered dead with bullet wounds.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/billboards-go-up-in-london-highlighting-cases-of-enforced-disappearances-in-pakistans-balochistan20220311200009/>

4. Khaulia Jamil investigates the difficulties faced by Bengali-speakers in Pakistan, as well as how they are passed down through generations. Regardless of category, there is a provision in Pakistan's nationality laws that deals with the separation, granting Bangladeshis migrating to the country the right to citizenship. Anyone with documents proving they have lived in Pakistan since before 1978 is theoretically eligible for statehood. However, due to corruption and discrimination from other Pakistanis who believe Bengalis do not belong in their country, this law is not always followed.

SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/mar/11/women-behind-the-lens-khaulia-jamil-bangladeshi-pakistan-gymnastics>

5. A country where a lot of people go 'missing' all of a sudden. The missing person may be dead, their mutilated body dumped in a ditch, or imprisoned in some shady detention facility. Torture or maltreatment may be inflicted on them by ruthless interrogators. The law cannot protect them because the state (the very body in charge of ensuring that protection) has purposefully placed the individual beyond its reach. Since its inception, it has received over 8,279 complaints, at least 6,047 of which have been 'disposed of' — a phrase that implies that some form of justice has been dispensed in final form. The inquiry commission cheerfully continues to cross people off its list, while new names emerge. Hafeez is the most recent.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1679400/missing-in-pakistan>

6. For more than three years, the public mood in Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan has been charged. Lack of clean drinking water, deteriorating health facilities in district headquarter hospitals, and unscheduled load shedding for long periods of time have forced the people of PoGB to protest on a daily basis in Gilgit, Skardu, Astore, and Hunza, to name a few cities. More than 60 people were

killed in a suicide bombing at a Shia mosque in Peshawar. A young geologist from PoGB was among the dead. Protests against the targeted attack on a Shia mosque rocked the occupied territory because PoGB is a predominantly Shia majority region.

SOURCE: <https://www.news18.com/news/opinion/opinion-unhrc-must-note-the-misery-of-pakistan-occupied-kashmir-and-gilgit-baltistan-4862954.html>

7. While we have repeatedly stated that Pakistan's girls and women are not safe, especially when they venture out, there is a minimum expectation that they can feel safe at home or in educational institutions. Unfortunately, the reality appears to be the polar opposite. We are already aware of the numerous ways in which women face danger even at home: domestic violence and honour killings are two prominent examples. When they do manage to enter places of learning, they face a new set of challenges and trauma.

SOURCES: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/940349-safety-for-women>

8. As Pakistan recovers from the heinous Peshawar Mosque attack, Ahmad Maudood Ausaf reflects on how frequent terror attacks have desensitised the country to terrorism. "Our history may be gruesome and flimsy, but the only way to deal with terrorism is to move on." Terrorist attacks are on the rise, with five occurring since the start of the year. The sharp increase observed could be attributed to Pakistan's location in an unstable geopolitical landscape.

SOURCE: <https://www.globalvillagespace.com/coping-with-terrorism-why-moving-on-is-not-enough/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. The UAE also reiterated that terrorist attacks will not be tolerated in the absence of a comprehensive response, and that the UAE has the legal and moral right to prevent terrorism from threatening its soil. This was stated by Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State, during the 157th ordinary session of the Arab League Council, which was held at the headquarters of the Arab League's General Secretariat in Cairo at the level of foreign ministers.

SOURCE: <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/uae-reaffirms-right-to-protect-its-soil-gains-from-terrorism-threats>

2. In Germany, three cases of violent extremism stand out in recent memory: the neo-Nazi National Socialist Underground (NSU) murder spree from 2000 to 2007, the 2016 Islamist attack on Berlin's Breitscheidplatz Christmas market, and the racist killing spree in Hanau in February 2020. The victims of these attacks will be remembered on Friday, when Germany observes its first National Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Terrorist Violence. The date, March 11, is significant because it is also the European Day of Remembrance of Terrorist Victims, which was established after a series of bombings on trains in Madrid killed 191 people and injured over 2,000 on March 11, 2004.

SOURCE: <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-marks-first-ever-national-remembrance-day-for-victims-of-terrorist-violence/a-61085303>

3. India briefs a high-level UN team on South Asian terrorism concerns. India has expressed a strong desire to expand its security cooperation with the SCO and its RATS, which specifically addresses security and defence issues. Discussions also took place on a variety of counter-terrorism topics, including "threats from the misuse of new and emerging technologies and unmanned aerial systems for terrorism, links between terrorism and organised crime and narco-trafficking, and unconventional methods of terror financing," according to a statement from the MEA.

SOURCE: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/mar/10/india-briefs-high-level-un-team-on-concerns-over-terrorism-in-south-asia-2428611.html>

4. The "Stopping Pakistani Terror Act," introduced by Scott Perry, a Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania, has now been referred to the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs, according to Pakistan's Dawn newspaper, which reported from Washington. If passed, it could result in a slew of sanctions, including restrictions on foreign aid, a ban on defence exports, and restrictions on the export of dual-use items.

SOURCE: <https://www.deccanherald.com/international/world-news-politics/designate-pakistan-as-a-state-sponsor-of-terrorism-us-congressman-scott-perry-1090389.html>

5. A Pakistani terrorist from the Lashkar-e-Taiba-backed The Resistance Force was killed in a shootout on Thursday when he arrived at Hazratbal Dargah Sharif in Srinagar with two Kashmiri operatives of the outfit, fired at police guards stationed at the shrine, and attempted to snatch their service weapons. Two more LeT terrorists were killed in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pakistani-terrorist-die-in-hazratbal-shootout-2-lashkar-men-killed-in-pulwama/articleshow/90135413.cms>

6. A court heard that an Anglesey man referred to Oklahoma City bomber Tim McVeigh as a "saint" and shared links to information about terrorists and neo-Nazis. Samuel Whibley, from Anglesey, is one of four people on trial in Sheffield for terrorism-related charges. According to the prosecution, the 29-year-old, who was born in Menai Bridge but now resides in Keighley, Yorkshire, shared a photo of McVeigh with the victims of the 168-person attack he carried out in the American city.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/anglesey-man-accused-terrorism-offences-23361422>

7. Religious leaders in Kenya are assisting youths in regaining their freedom from Islamic extremism.. "I was duped into believing that wars being fought against Muslims are part of a global campaign against Islam," said the 37-year-old father of two, adding

that he was told that as true Muslims, they were to take up arms and prevent Islam. "However, I'd like to thank the religious leaders who spoke to us and reminded us that Islam is a peaceful religion." Juma, who was later deradicalized and offered money to start a grocery business by religious leaders, said the false preaching to join Islamic militias increased in 2011 after Kenyan troops entered neighbouring Somalia to launch a military offensive against al-Shabaab, a militant group in Somalia fighting the Somali government. Kenya's national security had been jeopardised by the militant group with links to al-Qaeda.

SOURCE: <https://www.sightmagazine.com.au/features/23936-reintegrating-the-radicalised-how-religious-leaders-in-kenya-are-helping-youths-to-find-their-way-back-from-islamic-extremism>

8. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) opened a new Programme Office in Nairobi, Kenya, bolstering the fight against terrorism. According to officials, the programme, which was launched on Wednesday, will assist countries in East Africa and the Horn of Africa in combating terrorism and preventing violent extremism. The launch event was held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) in collaboration with Kenya, and it brought together government representatives from Kenya and other countries in the region, the diplomatic community, and global, regional, and national partners.

SOURCE: <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-03-10-boost-on-security-as-uns-counter-terrorism-unit-launches-nairobi-office/>

9. A New Brighton man was sentenced to three years in federal prison on Thursday for conspiring with the extremist group "Boogaloo Bois" in a 2020 plot to provide material support and resources to a foreign terror organisation. According to an indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis, Michael Robert Solomon, 31, sold silencers and other gun parts to an FBI agent he thought was a Hamas member. In May 2021, a federal judge accepted Solomon's guilty plea. In addition to the prison term, Senior U.S. District Judge Michael J. Davis sentenced Solomon to five years of supervised release on Thursday. According to the US Attorney's Office, Solomon cooperated with authorities following his arrest and provided critical information to other investigations.

SOURCE: <https://www.twincities.com/2022/03/11/new-brighton-man-sentenced-for-boogaloo-bois-terrorism-plotting-during-george-floyd-unrest/>

10. A US lawmaker has introduced legislation to designate Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism, as well as to investigate Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, for alleged terror links. The bill, introduced by Republican Congressman Scott Perry to the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs, seeks to "designate the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism, among other things." The bill also called for restrictions on foreign aid, a ban on defence exports and sales, export restrictions on dual-use items, and other financial measures. Some provisions in the bill also called for penalising individuals and countries who do business with a state designated as a terrorist sponsor.

12th March 2022

SOURCE: <https://www.newsindiatimes.com/us-lawmaker-seeks-terror-designation-for-pakistan-inquiry-against-pakistani-envoys-alleged-terror-link/>