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DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Women will also be barred from flying abroad unless accompanied by a male relative, mirroring similar domestic restrictions imposed last year that barred solo travel between cities and towns. "If they (women) want to travel abroad, they should be accompanied by a chaperone," Mujahid advised. "This is the Islamic sharia law order." The announcement came the same weekend that a search for "kidnappers, thieves, and looters" began in Kabul and other Afghan cities, as part of a separate "clearing operation" from the travel restrictions.

SOURCE: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/taliban-ban-afghans-from-evacuating-amid-massive-security-sweep-457508>

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

1. Many women in Pakistan's Punjab province are still being held against their will, living in misery and humiliation with no hope of rescue. Between 2017 and 2022, 40,000 women were abducted in Pakistan.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-scores-of-women-abducted-in-punjab-between-2017-and-january-202220220228175903/>

2. The recent desecration of 45 graves belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim sect has brought to light the state of Pakistan's deep contempt for minority communities. Ahmadiyya sect remains most vulnerable in Pakistan.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/ahmadiyya-sect-remains-most-vulnerable-in-pakistan-report20220228144510/>

3. The deterioration of the law and order situation in Pakistan's Karachi was visible as security forces stood by and watched a robbery on a major city road that robbed over a hundred people of their valuables, according to local media.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-law-and-order-situation-worsening-in-karachi-amid-rising-crime20220228115838/>

4. During the COVID 19 pandemic, child labour increased at an exponential rate. While authorities were busy trying to mitigate the virus's effects, closed schools combined with crippling economies meant that more children were forced into the workforce. It

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should come as no surprise that, while child labour is a heinous crime, it has irreversible consequences for economies such as Pakistan's. The disturbing part is that, due to the unpoliced nature of this world, children incarcerated in it will almost certainly be forced into hazardous work environments, such as the burning heat of brick kilns.

SOURCE: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/02/27/the-plight-of-child-labour-in-pakistan/>

5. There is a significant gender disparity in education in Pakistan. Pakistan is a patriarchal society in which women face numerous forms of discrimination, resulting in low social, economic, and political status. According to World Bank data, women make up 52% of Pakistan's total population. It is a terrible situation to keep such a large portion of the population illiterate, and it may be the root cause of the country's fragile and lopsided economy.

SOURCE: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/02/27/gender-inequality-in-education/>

6. Over the last two months, there has been an increase in violent attacks in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province. Baloch militants carried out a major attack on a security checkpoint in Kech on the night of January 25 and 26. The attacks are similar to those carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates. Until now, the Baloch rebel groups' tactic of using improvised explosive devices and hit-and-run attacks has been the norm.

SOURCE: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/pakistans-afghan-gamble-worsens-conflict-in-balochistan/>

7. The Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights appears to have awoken to this issue, with its members taking note of the country's increasing youth violence. We have watched in horror as Pakistani society has become increasingly violent over the last 40 years or so, with recent years bringing nightmare-inducing optics directly to our phones. This is a direct result of society's extremist tendencies, which are an unavoidable result of consistent state policies. Violence shatters the social fabric, and ordinary people become fodder for violent extremism.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/937350-violent-youth>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. Terrorism exists in the mind of the observer. It is any form of political violence that we despise. "Terrorist" is a frequently racialized epithet levelled at political opponents, including domestic actors. Terrorism exists in the mind of the beholder. The terms "terrorist goals" and "violence" are not defined. With such shaky definitions, it's no surprise that the GWOT is fought against a constantly shifting foe.

SOURCE: <https://inkstickmedia.com/the-global-war-on-terror-will-never-end-terrorism/>

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2. Defense Minister Benny Gantz signed a seizure order for Hamas-related cryptocurrency worth tens of thousands of shekels on Monday morning. This is the third time in less than a year that Israel has seized cryptocurrency accounts used to fund terrorism. According to the Defense Ministry, the 12 digital accounts and 30 digital wallets belonged to businesses associated with the Al'matchadun currency exchange company.
SOURCE: <https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/banking-and-finance/article-698886>
3. An effective domestic terrorism strategy should include both enforcing existing laws that regulate paramilitary activity by private militia groups and enacting new federal legislation. State law enforcement would disrupt existing groups and discourage individuals from engaging in prohibited paramilitary activity. However, in a society with easy interstate communication and travel, an inconsistent patchwork of state laws is insufficient. In addition to enforcing existing state laws, Congress should consider enacting federal legislation to address unauthorised paramilitary activity.
SOURCE: <https://warontherocks.com/2022/02/a-well-regulated-militia-the-laws-that-can-counter-domestic-terrorism/>
4. Officials gather for the International Conference on Central Asian States' Cooperation in the Fight Against Terrorism. Following the conclusion of the international meeting, the key documents should be the Tashkent Declaration and an updated Joint Plan of Action, in which Central Asian countries will define specific tasks for and reaffirm their commitment to the joint fight against terrorism, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security.
SOURCE: <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/officials-gather-for-international-conference-on-cooperation-of-central-asian-states-in-the-fight-against-terrorism/>
5. The United States celebrated the assassination of Islamic State (IS) leader Abu Ibrahim al-Qurashi in Syria. The subsequent euphoria, however, failed to conceal the fact that this operation was merely a minor setback for jihadist groups. To be successful, the fight against terrorism must address the root causes of the respective crises first and foremost. The billions of dollars spent on military operations and bounties should go toward projects that strengthen state institutions, promote political integration, and promote economic development. Governments should be assisted through projects aimed at strengthening their societies, integrating citizens into public life, and strengthening democracy and civil culture.
SOURCE: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/02/28/opinion/columns/decapitating-terrorist-organizations-wont-end-terror/1834549>
6. The trial of two more Armenian citizens accused of terrorism in Azerbaijan's Kalbajar district, Ishkhan Sargsyan and Vladimir Rafaelyan, resumed on February 28 in the administrative building of Baku's Sabunchi District Court, according to Trend. Elmin

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Rustamov, a judge of the Ganja Grave Crimes Court, presided over the court session. The prosecutor requested that Ishkhan Sargsyan be sentenced to 20 years in prison and Vladimir Rafaelyan be sentenced to 19 years.

SOURCE: <https://www.azernews.az/nation/189957.html>

7. In separate attacks on the Sabon Gari and Mandaragirau villages in the Damboa and Biu local government areas of Borno State's southern region, fifteen people were killed. According to sources, insurgents on gun trucks and motorcycles attacked the villages on Saturday and looted food and drugs after scaring the villagers with indiscriminate gunshots. "On Saturday night, about eight people were slaughtered in two separate attacks by Boko Haram terrorists in the Biu Local Government Area of Borno State," according to the source.

SOURCE: <https://punchng.com/terrorists-kill-15-in-borno-loot-foodstuffs/>

8. According to Citibank analysts, Ericsson shares may become "uninvestable" in the near future as a result of a new report detailing the Stockholm-based company's involvement in making potential payments to terrorist organisation ISIS to facilitate the sale of its goods in Iraq.

SOURCE: <https://fortune.com/2022/02/28/ericsson-uninvestable-icij-report-involvement-alleged-payments-isis-terrorist-group-iraq/>

9. The Somali National Army (SNA) said its forces killed five al-Shabab terrorists during a security operation in the Balad and Afgoye districts, which are located northeast and southwest of Mogadishu, respectively. The government has recently increased operations against al-Shabab in the central and southern regions, but the militants remain in control of strongholds in those regions' rural areas, conducting ambushes and planting landmines.

SOURCE: <https://www.mangalorean.com/somali-army-kills-5-al-shabab-terrorists/>

10. Tasmania Police and Victoria Police have joined forces to conduct a counter-terrorism training exercise on a remote Northern Tasmanian island later this week. From March 1-3, the community can expect increased equipment and personnel from both forces, a Victoria Police aircraft at Launceston Airport, and vessels travelling in and out of mainland Tasmania, according to Commander Jo Stolp.

SOURCE: <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7638527/counter-terrorism-training-set-for-northern-tasmania/?cs=12>

11. According to the Interior Ministry, Turkey launched a new counterterrorism operation in the country's southeast on Monday, as part of ongoing efforts to combat and eradicate the threat of terrorism. The operation, dubbed Eren Winter-27 (Diyarbakr-Sarm Stream)

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Martyr Gendarmerie Staff Sergeant Erdal en, will involve a total of 1,070 security personnel, according to a written statement from the ministry.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkey-launches-new-counterterrorism-op-in-southeast>

12. Syl and the UKCMA have formed a new Special Interest Group called Protecting People in Crowded Places. This is a critical area for 'competent' crowd safety and security professionals who, on behalf of owners and operators, consider the risk of terrorist attacks and take 'proportionate and reasonable measures' to prepare and protect the public under the proposed 'Protect Duty' legislation (aka Martyn's Law). This will necessitate a multi-agency approach in our planning and response."

SOURCE: <https://www.ifsecglobal.com/integrated-security/syl-and-ukcma-launch-new-protecting-people-in-crowded-places-special-interest-group/>

13. According to the Commissioner of Prisons, Ahmed Mohamed Fulhu, programmes to rehabilitate sexual offenders and to combat the spread of extremism are in the works. Speaking on RaajjeTV's 'Falasurukhee' programme, Commissioner Ahmed expressed concern about the spread of religious extremism in prisons. He stated that they are planning a programme to help stop the spread of these views and deradicalize those who are spreading them in prisons. Ahmed also addressed those imprisoned for sexual offences. He stated that special programmes to rehabilitate these detainees are being planned.

SOURCE: <https://raajje.mv/114463>

14. Facebook has reportedly removed 'pages and groups' associated with Alt Info, a violent extremist group largely responsible for organising mass attacks on journalists in Tbilisi last July, and which many suspect is funded by Russia. The move by the social media company, first reported by the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a Georgian election watchdog, coincided with growing calls in Georgia to curb "Russian propaganda" in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last week. 'Along with the ongoing war in Ukraine, we are doing everything we can to deter Russian propaganda and information manipulations about the War,' wrote ISFED on Twitter.

SOURCE: <https://oc-media.org/facebook-takes-down-pages-tied-to-georgian-pro-russia-extremists/>