

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. The Taliban has already ordered restrictions on women's rights and the prohibition of smartphones due to their access to social media and outside information. It can be assumed that if they retake power, they will outlaw "inappropriate" or "un-Islamic" practises such as women's right to study at university, run for parliament or even president, own businesses, or wear Western clothing.
SOURCE: <https://whowhatwhy.org/politics/international/afghanistan-the-abandoned-nation/>
2. Afghanistan's Taliban defended their government on Monday against new US accusations that Kabul's male-only leadership is "dominated by one ethnicity" and lacks inclusivity. The Taliban Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, which is in charge of enforcing the group's strict interpretation of Islam, has announced that female government employees who do not wear all-covering hijabs or veils at work will be fired. The Taliban have opened private and public universities to female students and have promised that all school-age girls will be able to return to school in late March. They have attributed the delays to financial constraints and the time required to ensure that female students resume classes in accordance with Islamic Sharia law.
SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-reject-fresh-us-criticism-of-kabul-government-/6452038.html>
3. Maryam, a 27-year-old event manager, knew it was dangerous to walk alone on the streets of her home province, located north of Kabul, after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan this past August. Women are not permitted to travel alone under Sharia law. But, in November of this year, she decided to take a chance and take a taxi to a market. "I felt myself being pushed," she said to The Washington Post. "All of a sudden, I was in a car with Taliban men." They led me to a house and started touching my body.
SOURCE: <https://nypost.com/2022/02/20/ultra-orthodox-jews-funding-escape-for-afghanistan-refugees/>

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

1. Pakistan, which has been greylisted for inaction against terrorism, will face a new test at the FATF meeting. A case against three key LeT leaders collapsed due to an improper investigation, just weeks after the FATF urged Islamabad to do more to target terror group commanders.
SOURCES: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/pakistan-greylisted-for-inaction-against-terror-faces-new-test-at-fatf-meet-101645456221805.html>

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2. Sindh's citizens' lives are in danger. Haleem claimed that five members of the Bhand community had been murdered. He claimed that children are dying in Thar, that students are not receiving textbooks, and that medicines are in short supply in hospitals. The PPP, ignoring all of these issues, is planning a long march to Islamabad.
SOURCES: <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40155794/haleem-criticises-sindh-govt-over-poor-law-order>
3. BILL GATES' FIRST VISIT TO PAKISTAN SENT A STRONG MESSAGE — Probably not the one he expected. More than his discussions with Imran Khan, Gates' attendance at a lunch hosted by the prime minister made an impression, for all the wrong reasons: there was not a single woman in attendance. It demonstrates that an anti-women stance is prominent in Pakistan. Those who are still sceptical should remember that Mohammed Wasim, who murdered his sister Qandeel Baloch for 'dishonouring' her family, was acquitted by an appeals court last week.
SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1676256>
4. According to South Asia Media Research Institute, Pakistan's banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for a hand grenade attack on a police checkpoint in Peshawar's Phandu region (SAMRI).
SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/topic/taliban/>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. Radicalisation is nothing more than a misinterpretation of religious texts and a distortion of facts. As a result, the counternarrative must emerge from the Muslim community, primarily from Kashmiris. It is a difficult task, but the solution is only there. Radical Islamists pose a significant threat in Kashmir. And there is no doubt that this radicalization has occurred as a result of Pakistan's consistent efforts. To combat cross-border terrorism, a new doctrine is required, as Pakistan is hell-bent on promoting cross-border terrorism in India as part of its state ideology. To thwart Pakistan's evil plans, at the very least, a broad doctrinal statement of intent at the highest political level would be required.
SOURCES: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/col-nagial/combating-terrorism-in-jammu-and-kashmir/>
2. The annual counter-terrorism training programme for African forces launched on Sunday in Ivory Coast, at a time when Islamist fighters control large areas, coups are on the rise, and French forces are withdrawing. The Flintlock training programme will bring together over 400 soldiers from across West Africa to bolster the skills of forces, some of which are regularly attacked by armed groups linked to al Qaida and the Islamic State.
SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/6451365.html>

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3. On Monday, a Bangladeshi construction worker in Singapore was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison for donating to campaigns linked to a Syrian terrorist group while detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA). Ahmed Faysal, 27, gave \$891.98 to campaigns he believed would benefit the militant group Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham on 15 separate occasions (HTS).
SOURCE: <https://news.yahoo.com/bangladesh-jailed-singapore-financing-syria-terrorist-group-campaigns-113510816.html>
4. A misalignment has emerged, according to Bosma, between the regulations requiring banks to detect and prevent terrorist financing and the practical reality within banks. 'Banks can screen terrorist lists, and they obviously need to keep customer records in order.' We must be clear about the goals that motivate the development of tools to combat terrorist financing, as well as whether those goals are being met. At the end of the day, the role of private actors in far-reaching security decisions is a political one.'
SOURCE: <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/university-of-amsterdam-combating-terrorist-financing-challenges-banks/>
5. The Sindh police have decided to establish a special unit for the security of places of worship belonging to minority communities across the province, with armed personnel present around the clock, it was revealed on Sunday. The new development of raising the new unit — the Special Protection Force for Minorities — by the Sindh police occurred in line with recent security administration measures to strengthen the police force in terms of numbers, dedicated wings of different law enforcement related jobs, and filling gaps in certain areas of regular policing.
SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1676236/new-police-unit-to-protect-worship-places-of-minorities-in-sindh>
6. Myanmar's military government has slammed calls for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' special envoy to meet with opposition groups to last year's coup, which the junta has labelled as "terrorist" groups. With little sign of the junta implementing a five-point peace plan agreed upon with ASEAN last year, which included an immediate cessation of hostilities and allowing a special envoy to facilitate dialogue, growing divisions have emerged within the 10-member bloc over how to restore stability.
SOURCE: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-junta-urges-asean-envoy-not-engage-with-terrorist-groups-2022-02-21/>
7. The Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology (Etidal) and Telegram have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism (PCVE). Etidal has been working with Telegram to review online terrorism content in Arabic for the past three years. Building on their success, both organisations have agreed to expand their collaboration in order to detect and remove terrorism-related material in Arabic more systematically. During a four-week period, a team of Etidal's specialised researchers assessed thousands of channels suspected of hosting terrorist propaganda, looking for patterns in their use of the platform's services.
SOURCE: <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/617361>

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8. Ken McCallum expressed concern about "terrorist infrastructure and networks reconstituting" in Afghanistan, which has been ruled by the Taliban for nearly six months. As the Taliban reclaimed the country, Western security officials warned that it could become a breeding ground for terrorist training and indoctrination once more. MI5 was bracing for a "increase in inspired terrorism" and the "potential regrowth of Al-Qaeda-style directed plots" after the Taliban's recapture of Afghanistan "heartened and emboldened" Islamist terrorists as early as September last year.
SOURCE: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2028931/world>
9. A suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist was apprehended in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Sunday, officials said. "In the ensuing encounter, two brave hearts made the ultimate sacrifice while saving civilian lives and ensuring zero collateral damage to civilian lives and property," said Lt Col Emron Musavi, PRO (Defence) Srinagar.
SOURCE: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/suspected-let-terrorist-arrested-in-j-k-s-doda-101645392851284.html>
10. The Philippine National Police (PNP) announced the arrest of another alleged communist terrorist group (CTG) member in Western Samar on Monday. PNP Chief Gen. Dionardo Carlos identified the suspect as Esteban Padaca Jr., who had been wanted for two counts of murder and was the subject of a Regional Trial Court arrest warrant.
SOURCE: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1557752/alleged-terrorist-nabbed-in-western-samar-pnp>
11. Northern Youth Network (NYN) has praised the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and other military forces for their relentless attacks on bandits and other criminal elements, claiming that recent airstrikes and ground operations that resulted in the deaths of many terrorists, including the Kingpin, Dogo-Umaru, Mallam Buba Danfulani, and 41 others, indicate that the end of banditry is near.
SOURCE: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/02/end-of-banditry-near-group-declares-as-airstrikes-kill-terrorist-commanders/>
12. The UAE and its allies issued a warning on Sunday about the growing threat of drone attacks, as Middle Eastern militants develop a taste for the cheap and easily accessible unmanned systems. While the countries called for a collaborative effort to protect airspaces from small and often difficult-to-detect targets, one question remained: how can a drone attack be easily stopped? "We must band together to prevent drones from endangering civilian safety and destroying economic institutions."
SOURCE: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2028671>
13. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the expansion of eNaira for cross-border transfers and agency banking may increase money laundering and terrorism financing. This was stated by the Bretton Woods Institution in its recently released staff

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country report titled 'Nigeria: 2021 Article IV Consultation.' The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) unveiled the eNaira, the country's first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), in October 2021. According to the IMF, the digital currency is expected to bring a variety of benefits, including increased financial inclusion, ease of remittances, and a reduction in informality and illegal activity because eNaira transactions are fully traceable.

SOURCE: <https://www.thecable.ng/imf-using-enaira-for-cross-border-payments-may-boost-money-laundering-terrorism-financing>

14. According to newly released documents, Canada's violent political extremists welcomed COVID-19 as a gift: a convenient "opportunity to promote disinformation" and a recruiting tool wrapped up in the guise of protecting "freedom." "Terrorist and violent extremist groups continue to spread propaganda and fear associated with the pandemic context and public health restrictions in order to galvanise intent," according to CSIS.

SOURCE: <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/how-political-extremists-took-advantage-of-covid-19>