

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Prior to the 1970s, women in Afghanistan had basic rights and liberties. The Taliban imposed an extremist interpretation of Sharia law, restricting Afghan women's rights and freedoms by subjecting them to strict dress codes, barring them from educational and employment opportunities, and forbidding them from appearing in public without a male relative companion. For breaking any of these rules, the penalties were severe and swift, ranging from public humiliation to beating and execution.
SOURCE: <https://www.orfonline.org/research/talibans-return-threatens-past-gains-for-afghanistans-women-and-girls/>
2. Taliban is the plural of Talib, which means student in Pashto. The majority of members are Pashtun, Afghanistan's largest ethnic group. It is unknown how many Taliban forces there are. The group's goal is to impose its interpretation of Islamic law on Afghanistan and drive out foreign influence.
SOURCE: <https://www.kake.com/story/45922890/taliban-fast-facts>
3. Nida, a young Afghan entrepreneur, opened a modern beauty parlour in Shahr-e Nau, an upscale Kabul neighbourhood, three years ago. As she drew a loyal clientele for beauty and hair treatments in the capital, her business grew steadily. Women all over the world are required or encouraged to wear the Islamic hijab. Female students who return to university are required to take gender-segregated classes. At the same time, many women working for government agencies have been laid off or receive low pay. According to Taliban officials, the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice now only advises Afghans on how to best follow Islamic injunctions, rather than enforcing them as it did during the Taliban's first tenure in power from 1996 to 2001.
SOURCE: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghan-beauty-parlors-take-a-cut-/31717012.html>
4. The Taliban publicly whipped a man accused of adultery in Afghanistan's southern Uruzgan Province. During the Taliban's previous reign from 1996 to 2001, such public punishments were common. However, this is the first time the militant group has meted out such a punishment in public since regaining power in August. There was no word on what happened to the woman who was allegedly involved in the case. There is no clarity on whether the method of punishment falls under Islamic Laws that are being implemented.
SOURCE: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-publicly-flogs-afghan-man-adultery/31716263.html>

5. "People didn't accept hip-hop," Moshtagh says. "They were just thinking, 'It's haram, you can't do it, it's illegal.'" According to the Taliban, the majority of current activities are in violation of Islamic law. "What exactly is this Western culture that you're promoting?" But we were just thinking that because we are young, we need to look for modern things, and we enjoy doing so." SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/feb/21/were-all-hip-hop-family-the-artists-fighting-to-get-afghan-breakdancers-to-safety>

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

1. In comparison to other South Asian countries, Pakistan has the highest rate of stillbirth (30.6 stillbirths per 1000 total births). According to the findings of this study, having multiple stillbirths has a devastating effect on women's mental and social well-being. Women who have had multiple stillbirths are labelled as "child killers," cursed, or punished by God. These women are regarded as social outcasts. Health care providers, such as physicians, lady health workers, and traditional birth attendants, should be trained to provide psychosocial support in addition to routine care in communities and health facilities. SOURCE: <https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-022-01622-3>
2. The Supreme Court was alarmed Monday when the DPO of Sargodha said the police had recovered 151 young women who had been abducted in the city in the previous year. "21 of them were rescued from brothels," the officer revealed. "Others were found in small towns across Punjab." The operation was carried out on the orders of the Supreme Court." Pakistan is ranked sixth on the list of the most dangerous countries for women. SSDO, a research-based advocacy organisation, reported 9,401 cases of violence against women, 1,422 cases of domestic violence, and 15,714 cases of child abduction in a report last year. SOURCE: <https://pakobserver.net/more-than-150-abducted-women-rescued-in-sargodha/>
3. On Tuesday, Ombudswoman Punjab Nabila Hakim Ali heard over thirty cases of women harassment and property disputes at the Deputy Commissioner Office in here. While hearing the cases, Ombudswoman Nabila Hakim Ali stated that harassing women and keeping them from inheriting was a serious crime. Harassing women at work, including staring at them, shouting, threatening, and harassing them on phone calls or text messages, is illegal, he added. It is the state's responsibility to ensure legitimate inheritance rights. She stated that her office would continue to ensure the delivery of women's rights. SOURCE: <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/ombudswoman-nabila-hakim-hears-over-30-cases-1474191.html>
4. The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) launched a human rights observer during a seminar, covering the key issues affecting religious minorities, such as the misuse of blasphemy laws, forced conversions, representation in population censuses, and a biased

educational system. The speakers at the launch discussion on the CSJ's factsheet 'Human Rights Observer 2021' expressed concern about the scale of religious content introduced in curriculum and textbooks, blasphemy law abuse, forced conversions, and Pakistan's declining population of religious minorities, which has resulted in demoralisation of numbers of minorities.

SOURCE: <https://dnd.com.pk/minorities-remained-unprotected-in-2021-rights-watch/264207>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. The coordinated campaign against online terrorist propaganda was primarily focused on the distribution and production of terrorist material by Daesh, Tahrir al-Sham, and Al-Qaeda-affiliated media outlets. Over the last three years, Etidal has worked with Telegram to review online terrorism content in Arabic. Both organisations have agreed to expand their collaboration in order to detect and remove Arabic material that glorifies terrorism more systematically.

SOURCE: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2029211/saudi-arabia>

2. Algerian official emphasises the importance of mosques in preventing extremism. During a visit to mosques in the northern province of Bordj Bou Arréridj, Youssef Belmehdi stated that mosques and Quranic schools contribute to Algeria's national identity, according to the Aps.dz website. He mentioned the inauguration of mosques and religious centres built by the ministry with the assistance of benefactors, and emphasised the government's commitment to serving religion. According to Belmehdi, establishing Quranic schools and mosques paves the way for the promotion of moderation and peace, as well as the prevention of violence and extremism.

SOURCE: <https://iqna.ir/en/news/3477921/algerian-official-highlights-role-of-mosques-in-preventing-extremism-%C2%A0>

3. The internet has provided an advantageous platform for cybercriminals to carry out their malicious activities, spread hate propaganda, and so on. This was possible due to minimal online regulations, anonymity, a large audience, rapid information dissemination, and a variety of other advantages," says Anuraag Singh, a Cyber Expert. The mere mention of the word terrorism sends shivers down the spine, and when combined with the word Cyber, i.e. digital, it becomes even more terrifying.

SOURCE: <https://www.deccanherald.com/brandspot/pr-spot/cyber-terrorism-the-real-threat-to-india-s-security-anuraag-singh-1083937.html>

4. Drones could assist countries in responding to maritime terrorists, as the UN warns of an increasing number of extremist groups gaining access to nations via African sea routes. Terrorist groups are now carrying out attacks in African ports, according to Rocco Messina, head of border security management at the UN Counter-terrorism Centre, and security is "critical." "Such groups have the capability of seizing control of key maritime infrastructures, such as ports," Mr Messina said.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2022/02/22/drones-could-help-tackle-maritime-terrorists-as-un-warns-of-major-threat-in-africa/>

5. South Africa is sending additional troops and armoured vehicles to Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado province to combat Islamic State-linked insurgents. The deployment is part of the military intervention launched by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in July of last year. More than 3,000 SADC and Rwandan troops have been dispatched to Mozambique to combat Islamic State-linked insurgents. More than 3,000 people have died in the conflict, and 800,000 have been displaced.

SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/south-africa-sending-fresh-troops-to-mozambique-to-fight-islamist-insurgents-/6454195.html>

6. The Rwanda National Police (RNP) and the Malawi Police Service (MPS) held a bilateral meeting in Kigali to strengthen policing cooperation in a variety of areas. The meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) in charge of Administration and Personnel, Jeanne Chantal Ujeneza, and his visiting counterpart from Malawi, DIGP Merlyne Yoram, at the RNP General Headquarters in Kacyiru. On Monday, a Malawian delegation arrived in Rwanda for a five-day visit focused on administrative issues, counterterrorism, and canine management.

SOURCE: <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/malawi-delegation-rwanda-strengthen-police-cooperation>

7. The Department of State Service, DSS, has refuted claims that its Counter-Terrorism Centre in Bauchi State was not being built despite budgetary provisions. TrackaNG–BudGIT Tracka, a private budget implementation monitor, claimed on February 19 through its social media platforms that the SSS Counter-Terrorism Training Centre, Gubi Dam, valued at N1.1 billion, had not been executed.

SOURCE: <https://witnessngr.com/dss-reacts-to-budgit-report-says-bauchi-counter-terrorism-centre-project-ongoing/>

8. According to Yeldos Kilimzhanov, Deputy Head of the Prosecutor General's Office's First Service, at a February 21 briefing at the Central Communications Center, the Prosecutor General's Office has been investigating 91 cases, including 46 terrorism cases and 45 cases of mass riots related to the tragic events in early January. The Ombudsperson for Human Rights and her representatives also paid visits to pre-trial detention facilities, as well as to groups of members of Parliament, the National Council of Public Trust, the Public Association "We Are Against Torture," and the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law. According to reports, criminals deliberately attacked government buildings, caused riots in the regions, and blocked roads and railways.

SOURCE: <https://astanatimes.com/2022/02/prosecutor-generals-office-investigates-91-cases-in-connection-to-terrorism-and-riots-in-early-january-monitors-conditions-of-detention-centers/>

9. A federal appeals court upheld a more than 13-year prison sentence for a former Coast Guard officer accused of stockpiling weapons and plotting politically motivated killings inspired by a far-right mass murderer on Tuesday. Christopher Hasson claimed that the district court judge who sentenced him in January 2020 erroneously used a "terrorism enhancement" that more than tripled the recommended range of a prison term under federal sentencing guidelines. Hasson was not charged with or convicted of a terrorism-related crime.

SOURCE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/02/22/sentence-upheld-coast-guard-officer-tied-terror-plot.html>

10. The Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with other security forces, apprehended an active terrorist of the proscribed terror outfit LeT in Bandipora district on Tuesday. According to police, a special checkpoint was established by joint parties of police, 26 Assam Rifles, and the CRPF in response to a specific input about the presence of terrorists in the Aloosa area of Bandipora.

SOURCE: <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/north-and-central/let-terrorist-arrested-from-jammu-and-kashmirs-bandipora-1084136.html>

11. Dr. Mustapha Muhammad Inuwa, the Secretary to the Government of Katsina State (SSG), has urged the Federal Government to deploy more troops and sophisticated equipment to put an end to the terrorism that has plagued the state and the entire northwest. Mustapha also emphasised the importance of security agents conducting coordinated and simultaneous attacks on terrorist hideouts rather than waiting for the hoodlums to attack innocent communities before taking action.

SOURCE: <https://dailypost.ng/2022/02/22/deploy-more-troops-sophisticated-arms-to-end-terrorism-katsina-ssg-urges-fg/>