

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Marzia, 15, packed her suitcase for school this morning at her home on a mountain west of Kabul, for the first time since the Taliban took power last August. "When I heard school was starting again, I got so, very excited," she told the BBC. "It gives me renewed hope for the future." Around 200 more females had also arrived at the Sayed ul Shuhada school, significantly fewer than usual, while students and their families discussed whether or not lessons would begin and whether or not they would be safe to attend. Only girls' primary schools, as well as all boys' schools, have stayed open throughout most of Afghanistan since August.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60848649>

2. Taliban Minister of Edu quoted saying that according to Sharia, girls should only be educated up to the 6th grade. After that schooling causes bad behavior (fisat).

Source: <https://twitter.com/HalimaKazem/status/1506875440496988162>

3. Around 19 million Afghan women face a harsh reality and an uncertain future under the Taliban administration, which came to power last August after the United States withdrew its forces from Afghanistan. After 20 years of progress, the move has been a significant setback for younger women.

Source: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/afghan-women-life-taliban-march_n_623b8554e4b0d39357d0b5f8?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. Following the recent execution of a Hindu teenager for resisting an abduction attempt, human rights activists have urged the Pakistani government to protect females from minority communities. On March 21, Pooja Kumari, an 18-year-old girl, was shot in the head at her residence in Rohri, Sindh province. Wahid Bux Lashari, the murder suspect who has been apprehended, wanted to marry the youngster but she rejected, according to police.

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/activists-raise-heat-after-murder-of-hindu-girl-in-pakistan/96635>

2. According to Morning Star News (MSN), cybercrime officials in Pakistan arrested a Christian man last week on the false charge of blaspheming Islam's prophet Muhammad and tortured him until he confessed to the crime he did not commit. MSN said that Fansan Shahid was at his residence in Lahore on March 16 when authorities from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala Circle arrived just after midnight to conduct a raid.

Source: <https://www.worthynews.com/67394-pakistan-officials-torture-christian-man-into-false-confession-of-blasphemy>

3. On Tuesday (March 16), Pakistani authorities beat and arrested a Christian for allegedly making blasphemous comments on social media, and then tortured him into confessing guilt, according to sources. According to his wife, Safia Shahid, cybercrime officials from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala Circle raided Fansan Shahid's Lahore home shortly after midnight and took him into custody on allegations that he had blasphemed Muhammad, Islam's prophet, in a comment on Facebook in 2019.

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2022/03/christian-in-pakistan-arrested-tortured-on-blasphemy-charges/>

4. Forced conversions to Islam pose a threat to Pakistan's religious freedom and religious pluralism, thus it's critical to put in place legal and administrative safeguards to address crimes such as forced conversions, underage marriage, and women's maltreatment. These were the demands made during a recent conference in Karachi titled "Break the Bias," which was organised by the non-governmental organisation "Voice for Justice" (VFJ), which is dedicated to the defence of human rights, equality of rights, and religious freedom. "It is good that the Islamabad High Court has deemed marriage for children under the age of 18 illegal," said Nuzhat Shirin, chairperson of Sindh's Commission on the Status of Women. Poverty, societal conventions, traditions and practises, and religious misperceptions are all blamed for Pakistan's high rate of early marriages.

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/71885-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Forced_conversions_a_bill_is_urgently_needed_to_protect_religious_freedom

5. Munir Mengal, a Baloch political and human rights activist, has expressed his dissatisfaction with Pakistan's persistent discrimination against minority communities. "No amount of violence, no amount of brutality, no amount of regression can kill the people's longing for the basic right to freedom," Munir said at the UN Human Rights Council's 49th session, according to ANI. Since 1948, Pakistan has waged a colonial war on the people of Balochistan who refuse to relinquish their most basic right: the right to reclaim sovereignty over their land."

Source: <https://www.indiablooms.com/world-details/SA/33900/baloch-activist-raises-concern-about-rights-violation-in-pakistan-at-un.html>

6. Large number of protestors have now gathered in Gwadar after security forces mistreated women and children, who were heading towards the port in protest against illegal fishing.

Source: <https://twitter.com/TBPEnglish/status/1505145634902450179>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. India will continue to work with the League of Arab States to combat terrorism and promote pluralism, according to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla. This statement is made in the context of rising terrorism in many Gulf countries. Syria is one of the countries where terrorism has been more prevalent in recent years. On Wednesday, Shringla spoke at a UN Security Council meeting on cooperation between the UN and regional organisations (the League of Arab States). "For millennia, the Arab world has been a birthplace of human civilization," Shringla said during his UNSC speech. The Arab world's evolution have shaped our shared history and continue to have a worldwide impact due to its strategic location.

Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/india/will-continue-to-partner-with-arab-nations-to-combat-terrorism-says-india-at-unsc-10483361.html>

2. Jammu and Kashmir's DGP Dilbagh Singh stated on Friday that even one grenade or pistol left in the valley can cause a lot of damage, and that terrorism will not end until all terrorists have been slain. He stated that the number of active terrorists has decreased dramatically, but that terrorism has not disappeared. "The number of terrorists has dropped, but that does not mean that terrorism is over," the DGP told media on the sidelines of the J&K Police Martyr's Football tournament final match here. Terrorism is still alive and well, but the situation has shifted."

Source: <https://zeenews.india.com/india/number-of-terrorists-falling-but-terrorism-will-exist-till-even-one-terrorist-is-alive-jk-dgp-2447688.html>

3. Morocco's efforts in the fight against terrorism and extremism have been lauded by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which include regional and international initiatives such as the opening of the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa in Rabat last June, as well as co-chairmanship of the Global Forum on Counter-Terrorism with Canada. The OIC applauded the work of the Mohammed VI Foundation of African Ulema and the Mohammed VI Institute for the training of Imams, Morchidines, and Morchidates in the fight against extremist speech at the close of the 48th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers on Wednesday in Islamabad.

Source: https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/566411095/oic-commends-morocco-s-efforts-to-combat-terrorism-and-extremism

4. On Wednesday, police in Srinagar disrupted a grenade-throwing module and detained four Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, as well as seizing four hand grenades from them. "During a Naka checking at Bemina Chowk, one over ground worker (OGW) named Zubair Sheikh was intercepted and on his search, one hand grenade was seized from his possession," the Srinagar police stated in an official statement. "The accused was arrested on the scene, and a case was filed at Bemina police station under relevant sections of the Indian Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act (UAPA), and an inquiry was launched," the statement continued.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/four-lashkar-e-taiba-terrorists-held-and-grenade-throwing-module-busted/>

5. After entering a building near Mogadishu Airport, members of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group reportedly battled with police personnel. Al-Shabaab members reportedly stormed a residential complex that houses the United Nations, as well as the US and British embassies, according to Somali television. Following the attack, all domestic and international flights at Mogadishu Airport were cancelled, according to the report.
Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/al-shabaab-terrorist-groups-attacked-the-un-headquarters-in-mogadishu/>
6. Local media reported on Wednesday that 7,000 members of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorist organisation and Boko Haram surrendered in northeastern Nigeria in the last week. The Nigerian News Agency quoted Maj. Gen. Christopher Musa as saying that the onslaught on ISWAP and Boko Haram extremists has continued to yield major results. During the raids, at least 7,000 Boko Haram and ISWAP militants surrendered, according to Musa.
Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/at-least-7000-boko-haram-and-other-terrorists-surrender-in-northeast-nigeria-in-week/>
7. According to a UK-based monitoring organisation, the Russian military struck multiple positions allegedly controlled by fighters linked with the Islamic State (ISIS) in the Raqqa province on Tuesday. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), "approximately 10 air attacks targeting the movements and locations of ISIS mercenaries in Rasafa desert" were carried out on Tuesday, "raising the total number of air strikes carried out by Russian jets on Raqqa desert to about 25."
Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/russian-planes-hits-islamic-state-positions-south-of-raqqa/>
8. Mohammad Abu al-Kian (35) was a Bedouin from Hura in the Negev who stabbed four people to death in Be'er Sheva on Tuesday. In addition to killing himself, he injured four others, some of whom were badly injured, before being shot by a bus driver who happened to be nearby. The security services were aware of Al – Kian. After entering a plea deal, he was sentenced to six years in prison for attempting to enter Syria and join the Islamic State forces in 2016.
Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/terrorist-who-killed-four-people-in-beer-sheva-was-affiliated-with-islamic-state-terrorist-group/>
9. Today, the Iraqi intelligence service revealed that an ISIS network in Saladin had been dismantled. The agency stated that it had acquired intelligence information about the four-member network, which was responsible for supplying financial and logistical assistance to the terrorist organization's members and had carried out numerous attacks against civilians and security forces. The culprits admitted to their crimes and were subjected to the necessary judicial action.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/islamic-state-terrorist-network-dismantled-by-iraqi-authorities-in-saladin/>

10. The assets of a guy linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) – Khorasan, the extremist group's Afghan affiliate, have been frozen by Turkish authorities. According to a presidential order published in the Official Gazette on March 22 for financially mediating and carrying out human trafficking activities for the group, smatullah Khalozai's assets were frozen in compliance with a United Nations Security Council decision. In November 2021, the US Treasury added Khalozai's name to a list of sanctioned individuals.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/turkish-authorities-have-frozen-assets-of-man-with-connections-to-islamic-state-affiliate-in-afghanistan/>

11. A \$ 5 million reward has been promised by the US for information leading to the apprehension of Jihad Serwan Mostafa, also known as Ahmed Gurey, a prominent member of the Somali extremist group al-Shabab. Mostafa, a former California resident, was involved in al-Qaeda-linked activities throughout East Africa, including Kenya and Somalia, according to the US Department of Justice. Mostafa, 41, a member of the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist List, attended a college in San Diego, California, before fleeing to Somalia in 2005, according to the US.

Source: <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/us-department-of-justice-offered-5-million-for-information-on-key-al-shabaab-leader-jihad-serwan-mostafa/>