

DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. Kabul University, one of Afghanistan's oldest and most revered higher education institutions, reopened on ASaturday, six months after the Taliban retook the country. However, as part of Sharia implementation, new restrictions were imposed, such as gender segregation and mandatory Islamic dress. Dozens of female students lined up outside the university gate, all wearing the hijab, a veil worn by Muslim women. They were eager to resume classes, which had been cut short following the Taliban's takeover in August. The Taliban stationed themselves at the campus' three entrances.

SOURCES: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/afghan-students-return-to-kabul-university-but-with-restrictions/articleshow/89849675.cms>

2. Nancy Wu, better known as Asia One, a visionary breakdancer and activist, has set out to assist in the rescue of a group of Afghan dancers hiding from the Taliban. "These artists have risked their lives to peacefully express their views, inspire hope, and give marginalised groups a voice." Western activities are prohibited and are regarded as un-Islamic.

SOURCE: <https://www.nme.com/news/music/breakdancer-asia-one-trying-to-raise-80000-to-rescue-afghan-hip-hop-dancers-from-taliban-3170018>

3. The international community wants the hardline group to govern Afghanistan through a broad-based ruling system that represents all Afghan ethnicities, respects human rights, including women's rights to education and work, and prohibits terrorists from using Afghanistan as a base for cross-border attacks. Taliban leaders dismiss criticism of their government, claiming that it represents all Afghans and that women are being given access to education and work in accordance with Islamic Sharia law. They also claim no terrorist groups are being allowed to use the country for international attacks, assertions disputed by foreign officials and independent critics.

SOURCE: <https://www.voanews.com/a/china-to-host-afghanistan-s-neighbors-to-review-post-taliban-situation-/6459511.html>

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

1. A Pakistani police officer shot dead a woman on her way to a wedding ceremony in the country's Punjab province, according to the husband, who claims the officer opened fire and killed his wife just as they were about to arrive at the village for the function.

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SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/woman-shot-dead-by-asi-on-patrol-duty-in-pakistans-punjab20220226165215/>

2. Protests erupted in Pakistan's Okara District, Punjab province, demanding that forced conversions of minor girls be stopped and that the Anti-Forced Conversions Bill be passed. Forced conversion incidents have increased from 50 in 2020 to over 60 in 2021, with 1000 girls abducted each year.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-people-protest-against-forced-conversions-of-minor-girls-demand-anti-forced-conversions-bill20220226214320/>

3. Moving out of your home for a woman in Pakistan does not always imply a fresh start with your spouse. It frequently implies that you must "adjust" to a family in which your diet, spending habits, and overall lifestyle are altered. There's also an unspoken rule: change yourself, not the environment. A "good" daughter-in-law takes up less space, doesn't speak her mind, and is subservient not only to her husband but to everyone in his family. In Pakistan, marriage is a buy one, get one free deal: marry your husband and you get his entire family as well. Few people talk about the difficulties and trauma that come with trying to fit into a new family after leaving your own.

SOURCE: <https://images.dawn.com/news/1189535>

4. The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) has ruled that Muslim women who seek Khula (divorce) from their husbands must return the Haq Mehr amount they received when they married. The ruling was issued by a three-member bench led by FSC Chief Justice Muhammad Noor Meskanzai on petitions filed by four men against their former wives. A man pays Haq Mehr to his wife in the form of cash or another valuable item at the time of their marriage. The Sharia court has ruled that the 2015 amendments to the 1964 Family Law, Section X and Subsections V and VI, directing women to return the entire amount of Haq Mehr to their spouses after Khula, are invalid.

SOURCE: <https://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/26-Feb-2022/pakistan-s-top-islamic-court-rules-women-seeking-khula-should-return-haq-mehr-to-husbands>

5. As many as 599 people were seriously injured and were taken to various hospitals. In contrast, 492 minors were injured. According to the analysis, 485 drivers, 24 underage drivers, 168 pedestrians, and 445 passengers were killed in these road accidents. According to the statistics, 277 accidents were reported in Lahore, affecting 275 people, putting the provincial capital at the top of the list, followed by 89 in Faisalabad, affecting 97 people, and Multan, affecting 86 people. According to the data, these road traffic accidents involved 843 motorcycles, 87 auto-rickshaws, 133 motorcars, 31 vans, 19 passenger buses, 24 trucks, and 94 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts.

SOURCE: <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/7-dead-1091-injured-in-1049-accidents-in-p-1476843.html>

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6. Families of hundreds of Pakistani students stranded in Ukraine as a result of Russia's invasion are pleading with their government to assist them in returning home. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said at a press conference late Friday that the Pakistani embassy had been temporarily relocated from Kyiv to Ternopil on the Polish border to facilitate evacuations. According to media reports, 1500 Pakistanis, including 500 students, have been trapped in Ukraine since the Russian invasion on Thursday.

SOURCE: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hundreds-pakistani-students-stuck-ukraine-attack-83126673>

7. The Church of Pakistan's leadership has expressed concern about the rise in terrorism and mob violence in the country, and has urged the government to protect all citizens by addressing the root causes of extremism in society. The demands were made during a special memorial service held at the Raiwind Diocese's Central Praying Hands Cathedral Church for lay leader William Siraj, who was gunned down in Peshawar on January 30 by unknown assailants. Reverend Patrick Naeem, another priest, was injured in the attack. All bishops of the Church of Pakistan, Christians from various walks of life, members of civil society, and human rights activists attended the service.

SOURCE: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/02/26/church-leaders-condemn-anti-blasphemy-violence-spike-in-terror-incidents/>

8. Earlier this month, the department arrested four ISIS terrorists in two separate raids in Punjab. Pakistani government officials and ministers frequently deny the presence of ISIS in the country. Police in Pakistan's Punjab province arrested four terrorists from the banned militant group ISIS in separate raids on Saturday and recovered weapons and explosives from them, according to police. According to the Punjab police Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), three Daesh (ISIS) terrorists were apprehended during a raid by CTD officials in Gujranwala, about 100 kilometres from Lahore.

SOURCE: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2022/feb/26/security-agencies-arrest-four-isis-terrorists-in-pakistan-2424122.html>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. "Pakistan has a long history of conniving and conspiring with inimical elements to create disturbances in J&K," the DGP told reporters in Udhampur. While the militancy is dying, Pakistan is trying to keep it alive in some form or another, and thus uses drones and tunnels to transport arms, ammunition, drugs, and militants." "However, our security forces are doing an excellent job." A Pakistani drone dropped grenades, IEDs, pistols, and ammunition in the Arnia area of Jammu

yesterday, and for the first time, a chemical in liquid form was also sent with the shipment. "We're analysing it to see what it is, what it's used for, and what harm it could have caused," said the DGP.

SOURCE: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/pakistan-using-every-ploy-to-fund-terrorism-in-jammu-and-kashmir-dgp-101645819930142.html>

2. The recovery comes just two days after Special Operations Group (SOG) and Jammu police thwarted a major terror plot by Pakistan's ISI by recovering a consignment of arms, ammunition, and IEDs dropped by a Pakistani drone along the international border in Arnia area of RS Pura sector. The Border Security Force (BSF) said it shot down a Pakistani drone in the Arnia area of the RS Pura sector along the 198-kilometer international border between Wednesday and Thursday night.

SOURCE: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/jk-15-heroin-packets-smuggled-from-pakistan-recovered-on-loc-in-poonch-101645871294511.html>

3. The global fight against the shadowy, ever-changing threat posed by the ISIL terrorist group - known officially as Da'esh - and its affiliates remains a "long-term game" with "no quick fixes," according to the UN counter-terrorism chief, who addressed the Security Council earlier this month. The threat posed by Da'esh remains very real, according to Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, in both Syria and Iraq, where the group retains an estimated 6,000-10,000 fighters and continues to carry out hit-and-run operations, ambushes, and roadside bombings.

SOURCE: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/battle-against-da-esh-a-long-term-game-says-un-counter-terrorism-122022600183_1.html

4. According to Dunya News, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Sukkur apprehended a terrorist during an operation in Khairpur on Friday night. According to a CTD spokesperson, an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was carried out on the National Highway in Khairpur, which resulted in the arrest of a terrorist. CTD personnel also recovered two homemade bombs, a timer, detonators, ball bearings, and nut bolts from the arrested terrorist's possession.

SOURCE: <https://dunya.com/en/Pakistan/643034-CTD-arrests-terrorist-in-Khairpur>

5. Hulusi Akar, Turkey's Defense Minister, announced on Friday that 12 YPG/PKK terrorists had been killed in northern Syria and Iraq. The ministry said on Twitter that ten terrorists were killed while attempting to attack the Operation Peace Spring and Operation Olive Branch zones in northern Syria. The term "neutralise" is used by Turkish authorities to imply

that the terrorists in question surrendered, were killed, or were captured. He added that two more terrorists were killed in the Operation Claw-Lightning zone in northern Iraq.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/12-yppgpk-terrorists-killed-in-northern-syria-iraq>

6. Troops of Operation Hadin Kai have continued to achieve success, with 466 terrorists surrendering and scores killed in separate operations in the North-east over the last two weeks, according to Defence Headquarters. Bernard Onyeuko, Director, Defence Media Operations, stated this on Thursday in Abuja while providing updates on military operations across the country from February 10 to 24. According to Mr Onyeuko, the troops' sustained land and air raids resulted in the surrender of 466 Boko Haram and Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists, including 120 adult males, 137 adult females, and 209 children.

SOURCE: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/513964-466-terrorists-surrendered-in-two-weeks-scores-killed-official.html>

7. The World Alliance Against Terrorism, Violence, and Inhuman Treatment, WAATVIT, has vehemently condemned President Vladimir Putin's-led Russian government's unlawful invasion of Ukraine, calling it a total violation of Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter. "This condemnation of Russia's military actions against Ukraine is seen by most Human Rights Groups around the world as aggression and oppression," Dr. Orunkoya continued, adding that unless the UN provides Ukraine with the necessary military support, as it did for Kuwait when it was invaded by Iraq, Russia will likely occupy Ukraine and cause a regime change.

SOURCE: <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/russias-invasion-of-ukraine-a-violation-of-un-charter-says-alliance-against-terrorism-waatvit/>

8. With approximately 2.7 billion gamers worldwide, video game platforms have proven to be an ideal and ever-expanding arena for recruitment, financing, radicalization, and the ideal vehicle for spreading extremist ideologies, particularly among younger users. This has compelled policymakers and academics to recognise the multiplying power of gaming platforms for incitement and recruitment, as well as to pay closer attention to video games and gaming communities as a key medium for online radicalisation. Experts are concerned about the trend of radicalization in the gaming industry. There is growing concern that the video gaming industry is being abused, with many extremist and terrorist organisations developing their own video games and gaming forums that serve as effective propaganda platforms for youths.

SOURCE: <https://intpolicydigest.org/gamifying-extremism-playing-for-hate/>

9. While social media has enabled families to stay connected throughout the pandemic, it also means that young people are more vulnerable than ever to being indoctrinated into an extremist group through online grooming. In practise, keep in

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mind that extremists groom and use the same techniques and prey on the same vulnerabilities as all other forms of grooming, whether for sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation (e.g., county lines or money mules), or beyond. Giving your child the opportunity to talk about their life and worries with you as a parent, a friend, or a helpline such as Childline or The Mix is often a great way to ensure that they can talk to an expert listening ear and find help in the right place.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-10305125/How-protect-child-radicalisation-online.html>