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DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. The Taliban reaffirmed their commitment to defending Afghan women's rights under Islamic law on Tuesday, amid protests in the Asian country decrying their worsening situation since the Islamists took power last year. "The Islamic Emirate (as the Taliban call themselves) is committed to upholding all Afghan women's Sharia (Islamic law) rights," Taliban government spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid tweeted. He went on to say that International Women's Day provided "a fantastic opportunity for our Afghan women to demand their legitimate rights," which they would "protect and defend." Abdul Qahar Balkhi, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also emphasised the difficulties women face during wartime and stated his commitment to "providing them with facilities for an honourable and beneficial life" in accordance with Islamic values.

SOURCE: <https://www.laprensalatina.com/taliban-pledges-to-defend-afghan-womens-rights-under-islamic-law/>

2. The fate of a huge number of laws and regulations in different areas including criminal law, criminal procedure, family law, juvenile law, and women's rights is unclear. It can be concluded from the Taliban's statements that they ignore the laws in most areas but selectively point to provisions or reference some laws such as banking law when it serves their interests. Moreover, the random and often ambiguous orders of their supreme leader are considered the law of the land. One of the recent orders of the Taliban's leader addressed some issues related to family law including the marriage right of women based on Sharia. The Taliban has also claimed that they respect international law and international treaties as long as they do not violate Sharia law and their Islamic Emirate's principles. However, in practice, there is no indication that they intend to comply with any international treaties to which Afghanistan is a state party.

SOURCE: <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2022/03/mahir-hazim-afghan-legal-judicial-system-collapsing-taliban-regime/>

3. The Taliban, which has taken control of Afghanistan, has announced the provisional implementation of a constitution approved during the reign of Zahir Shah, on the condition that content contrary to Islamic law and Taliban principles be removed.

SOURCE: <https://p.dw.com/p/40ztj>

4. It is the first major human rights report issued since the Taliban seized power from the former US-backed government in August, raising serious concerns about a broader erosion of women's, journalists', and other rights. According to Bachelet, Taliban rulers have limited women's rights and freedoms in the name of Sharia. She advocated for women's right to "fully participate" in public life.

SOURCE: <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/1952632-un-security-council-set-to-discuss-humanitarian-situation-in-ukraine>

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5. Journalists in the provinces have reported Taliban members threatening, detaining, and beating them and their colleagues who were reporting the news. Many journalists have felt compelled to self-censor and report only official Taliban statements and events. Women journalists have been subjected to the most severe repression. Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesperson, told a meeting of the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee, a media advocacy group, that journalists should consider "national interests, Islamic values, and national unity" before publishing.

SOURCE: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/07/afghanistan-taliban-threatening-provincial-media>

6. According to her brother, Nadima Noor, an Afghan-Canadian woman working on humanitarian aid projects in Afghanistan, was arrested and has been held captive by the Taliban since Feb. 13. According to the Washington Post, which broke the story on Monday morning, gunmen arrived at the Dream Voice Act office, an NGO Nadima helped found, and demanded she follow them. "The Taliban have imposed rights-violating policies that have created huge barriers to women's and girls' health and education, limited freedom of movement, expression, and association, and deprived many of earned income," the report states.

SOURCE: <https://globalnews.ca/news/8664381/taliban-arrest-afghan-canadian-woman-gunpoint/>

7. Afghan comedienne Nadima, also known as "Patingera Kakai," has been missing from her Kabul office for the past 25 days, according to media reports on Monday. She is well-known for her social media posts and videos.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/afghan-comedienne-missing-for-nearly-one-month-in-kabul20220308004044/>

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

1. The human rights violations in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is the brainchild of neighbouring Pakistan, which played a key role in shaping both the Taliban's radical ideas in religious seminaries and the terrorist group's fate through unwavering support for its violent ways.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/pakistan-behind-human-rights-crisis-in-taliban-ruled-afghanistan-efsas-told-unhrc20220308190932/>

2. Sabir Hashmi, a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) activist arrested on charges of "running a malicious campaign against Prime Minister Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi, and the army on social media," has been granted bail after a judge ruled that the investigation agency failed to conduct an adequate investigation.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pml-n-activist-arrested-for-running-online-campaign-against-imran-khan-gets-bail20220308165151/>

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3. As the world progresses and women gain equal status in fields such as education and employment, Pakistan is experiencing a backslide in terms of women's rights, with the country becoming more conservative since Imran Khan came to power.

SOURCE: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/as-the-world-celebrates-international-womens-day-tomorrow-pakistani-women-continue-to-witness-deprivation-of-their-rights20220307205323/>

4. Pakistan's minister of religious affairs has called for the cancellation of events commemorating International Women's Day this year, and for March 8 to be renamed "Hijab Day" to honour a garment that faces no threat of extinction in this overwhelmingly Muslim country. He had also written to Prime Minister Imran Khan, requesting that International Women's Day be declared an unIslamic .

SOURCE: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/08/pakistan-women-rights-gender-equality-aurat/>

5. In yet another heinous case of female infanticide in this conservative Muslim-majority country, a man who desperately wanted to have a son allegedly shot his seven-day-old daughter in Pakistan's Punjab province. The incident occurred on Sunday in Mianwali, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's hometown. According to senior police officer Ismail Kharak, the suspect, Shahzaib Khan, married Mashal Fatima two years ago and has a daughter who was born a week ago.

SOURCE: <https://www.theweek.in/news/world/2022/03/08/man-wanting-a-son-kills-newborn-daughter-in-pakistan-s-punjab-pr.html>

6. Terrorists from the Islamic State are attempting to incite a Sunni-Shia sectarian war in the Afghan-Pakistan region. The suicide attack on a Shia mosque in Peshawar, which killed at least 62 people, is a stark reminder of Pakistan's growing security challenges in the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, as well as the ongoing persecution of the Shia minority in the Af-Pak region. This was Pakistan's deadliest attack since the Quetta bombing in 2018, which killed 149 people. The Islamic State terrorist organisation, which has claimed responsibility for a number of suicide attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban took Kabul in August 2021, has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/terror-in-peshawar/article65201668.ece>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

1. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Khan stated that the government has zero tolerance for terrorists and that swift prosecution is necessary to set an example for terrorist elements. To counter the threat of terrorism, he emphasised the need

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for a multi-pronged approach, a broad scope, and vigorous implementation of NAP. He also emphasised the importance of taking proactive measures to address similar incidents in the future. Prime Minister Khan stated that nefarious plans to destabilise the country would fail because the entire nation is united in combating the threat of terrorism.

SOURCE: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-pm-imran-khan-vows-zero-tolerance-for-terrorists-122030701544_1.html

2. All of the participants are quick to point out that the slogans are based on true stories of oppression: a wife who was brutally beaten because she did not warm up her husband's food while he was sick, and a 13-year-old who was killed by her father for not making round rotis. Small victories, big determination: What is propelling Pakistan's Aurat March forward? In the face of widespread condemnation, Pakistan is planning its fifth Aurat March on Women's Day. Some participants discuss their motivations and motives. SOURCE: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/what-is-making-pakistans-aurat-march-womens-day-7806365/>
3. On the occasion of International Women's Day, an article in Global Strategy argued that the United States should recognise the Pakistani Army's genocide and organised rape of Bangladeshis in 1971, and impose sanctions on Pakistan for gross human rights violations. The stories of Bengali women being tied to trees and gang-raped, organs being hacked off, dumped in mass graves, and held in Pakistani rape camps all bear witness to the Pakistan Army's atrocities, according to Priya Saha, Executive Director of Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM), writing in Global Strat View. SOURCE: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/international-womens-day-us-should-impose-sanctions-on-pakistan-for-bangladeshi-genocide-460162>
4. According to multiple media reports, Zahoor Mistry, one of the five terrorists who hijacked Indian Airlines flight IC-814 in 1999, was killed in Pakistan. According to reports, Mistry was killed on March 1 in Karachi by two bike-riding assailants. The police suspect that the killing was premeditated. Geo TV, a Pakistani news outlet, confirmed the death and reported the murder of a "businessman" in Karachi without providing any further details. According to reports, Mistry was operating a furniture shop in the city under the alias 'Zahid Akhund.' Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/terrorist-who-hijacked-indian-plane-ic-814-shot-dead-in-pakistans-karachi-460241>
5. The terrorists behind a recent grenade attack in Srinagar have been identified, and the case will be solved soon, according to Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Tuesday. Terrorists exploded a grenade in the crowded Hari Singh High Street, near Amirakadal, in the heart of Srinagar on Sunday, killing two people and injuring 32 others. "Such cowardly acts are perpetrated by enemies of peace. We have previously defeated them by destroying all of the modules designed by the enemy forces to carry out civilian killings and throw grenades at the public "On the sidelines of a function in Kathua district, Singh told reporters.

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SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/terrorists-responsible-for-srinagar-grenade-attack-identified-jk-dgp/articleshow/90078715.cms>

6. Dilbag Singh, the Director General of Police in Jammu and Kashmir, said on Tuesday that women police officers of all ranks had played a critical role in combating terrorism across the Union Territory. When the Special Operations Group (SOG) was formed in the early 1990s with male and female officers and jawans fighting together against terrorism, the situation changed dramatically, Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a function to commemorate International Women's Day here.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/women-cops-have-played-key-role-in-combating-terrorism-in-jk-dgp-dilbag-singh/>

7. Two Malian soldiers and nine terrorists were killed in an Armed Terrorist Groups (GAT) attack in the country's north on Monday, according to a statement released by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations of the Armed Forces (Dirpa). The attack, according to the statement, was directed at N'Tahaka-based troops in the Gao region (north); two Malian soldiers were killed and two others were injured. The Malian army's air-land response killed nine terrorists.

SOURCE: <https://timesofoman.com/article/114065-two-soldiers-nine-terrorists-killed-in-mali-attack>

8. The US Department of State announced on Monday that an al Qaeda-affiliated group operating primarily in Idlib, Syria, has been designated as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist." In addition to the designation, the Katibat-al-Tawhid wal-Jihad group has been added to a sanctions list, which requires all United Nations member states to impose an asset freeze, a travel ban, and an arms embargo against the group, according to a statement from the State Department.

SOURCE: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/us-designates-al-qaeda-affiliated-group-as-specially-designated-global-terrorist/articleshow/90061991.cms>

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SOURCE: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-military-eliminates-12-us-backed-ypgpkk-terrorists>