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DAILY TRACKER

Taliban's extremist implementation of sharia law

1. The western world's attention may have shifted from Afghanistan to a new war, but a group of teenagers in Smiths Falls is paying close attention to the Taliban rulers' latest outrage. According to the New York Times, the Taliban reversed a previous decision to reopen high schools for girls that week on March 23. The rulers stated that schools would remain closed "until officials devise a plan to reopen them in accordance with Islamic law."
SOURCE: <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/teenagers-smiths-falls-taliban>
2. In the last month, there has been an increase in the amount of violence committed against the people of Afghanistan. Local news outlets and journalists have documented numerous kidnappings, tortures, rapes, and public executions in a country ruled by the Taliban once again. The media has been asked to follow rules from time to time, and most women in the media are barred if Islamic Law or Taliban rules are not followed.
SOURCE: <https://www.newsweek.com/afghans-worldwide-plead-support-taliban-terrorizes-their-relatives-1694184>
3. The Taliban's claims to the world that it will take responsibility for citizens and protect them under Islamic Law do not appear to hold water. Mohammad Gholami, a 30-year-old Hazara pharmacist, was also killed by Taliban fighters on Friday 1 April in Mazar-i Sharif city, Balkh province, according to Independent Persian. The Hazara genocide continues unabated while the rest of the world looks on.
SOURCE: <https://twitter.com/Folladwand/status/1510314884243902472>
4. This image of a Taliban school graduation ceremony in Helmand province is haunting. Afghanistan's next generation of children are being taught violence, war, and extremism. Devastating. The Taliban are strengthening their organic ties with Al Qaeda. In the midst of the Taliban's refusal to allow girls to attend school, the ground reality calls into question what the Taliban's Islamic Law teaches.
SOURCE: <https://twitter.com/NasimiShabnam/status/1510287576233656338>
5. On the first day of Ramadan, about 300 men dressed in traditional Afghan shalwar kameez gathered before sunset at the Wazir Akbar Khan mosque in the capital to offer evening prayers. "This Ramadan is different than under the previous regime," said worshipper Khairullah, who goes by one name like many Afghans. "Now we are performing our Islamic duty as a group... in an Islamic land governed by an Islamic regime." Several Taliban fighters broke their fast at checkpoints and mosques in the southern province of Kandahar, the Taliban's de facto power centre.

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SOURCE: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220402-afghans-mark-ramadan-first-since-taliban-seized-power>

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

1. Pakistan's fight against extremism cannot be won solely through the use of force. Because one of the most powerful enablers of the perilous security situation we face today is psychological in nature. It is that prevalent mindset that has yet to fully grasp what is at stake. It is estimated that over 70,000 Pakistanis died as a result of militant Islamist groups' vicious campaign of suicide bombings and assassinations between 2004 and 2015. Two major studies on the impact of terrorism on mental health in Pakistan discovered a large number of people with post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms.

SOURCE: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2022/04/02/constantly-lost-the-identity-crisis-and-meltdowns-of-the-blocked-elite-in-pakistan/>

2. 'In Pakistan, women agricultural workers are mostly unpaid for their time and labour. Pakistani rural women work in all aspects of agriculture, but they are not recognised or counted for their contributions to the national economy, according to the participants. Women farmers' protection issues are not well-known or documented in Pakistan, and policymakers have not addressed them in a systematic and shared manner.

SOURCE: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/946582-women-agriculture-workers-in-pakistan-mostly-unpaid-for-their-time-and-labour>

3. Since a Baloch student, Abdullah, revealed on March 30 that the university administration had facilitated harassment of students from his province and that security officials had allowed them to stay in the hostile environment of the university so that they could frequently probe and keep a check on them. The court ordered the university's vice chancellor to submit a report explaining why students from Balochistan felt they had been subjected to racial profiling.

SOURCE: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1682957/ihc-seeks-report-from-president-on-baloch-students-grievances>

Positive stories on steps taken against radical Islam

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1. PSO is breaking the mould by being one of the first oil marketing companies in the country to employ female attendants at its fuel stations, terminals, and other operational locations. This represents inclusivity as well as PSO's commitment to monetarily engaging and elevating women in Pakistan, thereby driving the country's economic wheels.
SOURCE: <https://propakistani.pk/2022/04/02/psos-latest-dvc-mera-safar-mera-azm-highlights-how-women-breakthebias/>
2. Police in Malir Cantt arrested a suspected terrorist from the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan on Friday (TTP). "The accused was identified as Mir Sardar Khan, Zareem Khan's son." He was from the Tank district of Dera Ismail Khan and was currently residing in Orangi Town, according to police. "The accused has been involved in several terrorist incidents across the country," they added, claiming to have recovered explosives, batteries, ball bearings, and wires from him. "He was an active member of the banned TTP 2003, and he is also an expert in making and installing IEDs," police said. "During preliminary interrogation, he also confessed to orchestrating an attack on an NGO office in Dera Ismail Khan in 2007," police said.
SOURCE: <https://pakobserver.net/suspected-terrorist-arrested-with-explosives/>
3. General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), stated on Saturday that Pakistan was determined to resolve regional issues through partnership and cooperation. As the chief guest, the Army Chief delivered his opening remarks on the second day of the Islamabad Security Dialogue 2022. General Bajwa stated that regional security and stability were important components of the country's National Security Policy, adding, "Citizen security and prosperity is our priority."
SOURCE: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/912293/pakistan-determined-to-resolve-regional-issues-through-partnership-coas/>
4. The year-long negotiations over reviving the Iran nuclear deal have come to a halt, with no new meetings scheduled and little obvious room for compromise, due to Tehran's demand that the United States lift its designation of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organisation, and the United States' refusal to do so thus far. Since the Vienna talks ended last month, European participants have shuttled between Washington and Tehran in a futile attempt to reach an agreement with both parties. "At this point, nothing mutually acceptable" has been proposed, according to a US official familiar with the situation, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive diplomatic and political issue.
SOURCE: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/04/01/iran-nuclear-deal-terrorism/>
5. The trial of accused Islamic State fighter El Shafee Elsheikh began on American soil this week, and jurors in a northern Virginia courtroom were quickly exposed to accounts of unimaginable brutality. Prosecutors claimed that Elsheikh carried out terrorist acts that resulted in the deaths of four Americans, including journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, as well as aid workers Kayla Mueller and Peter Kassig. "There will always be people who sacrifice themselves for some ideological goal – those people aren't

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going to spend a lot of time thinking about this court case," Blazakis said. "However, there are other types of bad actors who could be deterred who are less steeped in Isis' religious ideological milieu."

SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/02/islamic-state-el-shafee-elsheikh-trial-virginia>

6. According to the Shin Bet, three members of a terror cell were killed in a firefight with Border Police's Counterterrorism Unit officers in Araba, near Jenin, on Friday night (Israel Security Service). They were later identified as members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's (PIJ) armed wing, which vowed after the incident to continue fighting Israel "in the name of the Palestinian people."

SOURCE: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-702994>

7. The French Embassy in Kenya has urged Kenyans and foreign nationals in the country to be cautious during the upcoming Easter and Ramadan holidays, citing an increased terrorist risk in the country. It also warned all those in the country during the period to avoid gatherings that could be potential targets for terrorist groups looking to disrupt the peace. "It is therefore advised that all people present in the country exercise extreme vigilance and avoid any gathering during this period," said the French Embassy in Kenya on Thursday.

SOURCE: <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2022/04/french-embassy-urges-vigilance-citing-terrorism-risk-during-easter-ramadhan/>

8. Documenting the Global War on Terror for future generations. The annual Pritzker Military Museum & Library's On War Military History Symposium, held March 31 and April 1 in Chicago, focused on the current state of military history. The second day of the summit, which was held both in person and virtually, was highlighted by three panel discussions. Panelists discussed the difficulties of documenting the history of the current Global War on Terrorism during the final presentation. The session, titled "Lessons to be Learned: Writing the Post-Cold War Period Military History," discussed how different audiences, such as academics and military professionals, use these histories. Historians face a variety of challenges, including locating sources, maintaining objectivity, and conducting interviews.

SOURCE: <https://www.legion.org/honor/255452/documenting-global-war-terrorism-history>

9. Three terrorist associates were arrested after a Jaish-e-Mohammed terror module was busted in Pulwama. According to the Jammu and Kashmir police, the three terror associates worked for JeM and provided logistical support and transportation to terrorists in Pulwama. According to the police, the trio was working for the JeM organisation, providing logistical support and transportation to terrorists in the area.

SOURCE: <https://zeenews.india.com/india/jaish-e-mohammed-terror-module-busted-in-pulwama-3-terrorist-associates-arrested-2449871.html>

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10. The military said three terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber-Dera Pakhtunkhwa's Ismail Khan district on Saturday. "On April 2, security forces conducted an Intelligence-Based Operation on the reported presence of terrorists in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District," the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said this evening in a statement. "Three terrorists were killed during an intense exchange of fire," the ISPR said. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists who were killed," it added. It went on to say that the terrorists who were killed were still actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces.

SOURCE: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2350738/three-terrorists-killed-in-di-khan-operation-ispr>

11. A terrorist supporter, a man who emailed his MP, and a Mercedes scammer were among the North Wales-based criminals sentenced in March. Judges believed that their crimes were so serious that only incarceration was justified. They involve a wide range of serious crimes committed throughout the region.

SOURCE: <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/terrorism-supporter-man-who-emailed-23265182>

12. President Muhammadu Buhari has stated that his administration is committed to addressing the terrorism threat in the Lake Chad region. President Buhari said Friday, while hosting Chadian President Mahamat Idris Deby at the State House in Abuja, that Nigeria and Chad had agreed to continue the fight against terrorism in the Lake Chad region. According to a statement issued by presidential spokesman Mallam Garba Shehu, the President also received assurances that the transition to democratic rule in Chad Republic, which was put in place following the death of long-standing ruler Idris Deby Itno, is proceeding as planned.

SOURCE: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202204020200.html>