



WORLD ANTI EXTREMISM  
**NETWORK**  
BUILDING A FREE WORLD

# UNCENSORED WATCH

*Defending Freedom, Challenging Extremism and Authoritarianism*

Issue 9 | June 2025



# UNCENSORED WATCH

Issue 9 | June 2025

*Defending Freedom, Challenging Extremism and Authoritarianism*

## Copyright Page

Copyright © 2025 by World Anti-Extremism Network. All rights reserved.

Published by the World Anti-Extremism Network (WAEN).

## Reproduction & Distribution:

This newsletter and its contents are provided for personal use only. You may share the content through digital means (email, social media, etc.) as long as it is attributed to the World Anti-Extremism Network and no modifications are made. Commercial use or redistribution without prior written permission from the publisher is strictly prohibited.

## For permissions and inquiries, please contact:



<http://www.worldantiextremism.org>



[info@worldantiextremism.org](mailto:info@worldantiextremism.org)

## Issue:

Uncensored Watch – Issue 9 | June 2025

## Credits:

Editor-in-Chief: Rajaab Muqarrab

Design: Suliman Haydari

Contributors: WAEN's Research and Interns Team

## Stay informed by following us on social media:



World Anti Extremism Network



World Anti Extremism Network



WorldAEN



waenetwork

# Table of Contents

<b>SECTION 1</b> -Welcome to Uncensored Watch - A Project of World Anti-Extremism Network.....	4
<b>SECTION 2</b> - Global Crisis in Focus.....	6
DRC and Rwanda Sign Landmark Peace Deal in Washington .....	7
The Erosion of Rights Amid Africa's Crises.....	8
The Missed Potential of a Divided World.....	10
Protests Escalate in Serbia After Mass Arrests and Clashes.....	11
Defying the Courts: Journalist's Detention Raises Alarms Over Press Freedom.....	12
Guinea: Prominent Lawyer Abducted and Tortured Amid Rising Repression.....	13
Kenya: Hold Authorities Accountable for Protesters' Deaths.....	14
Resurgence of Suicide Bombings in Nigeria's Boko Haram Conflict.....	16
Girls, Women Under Constant Threat in South Sudan.....	17
Between Two Repressions: Bekchanova Faces Risk of Torture if Deported.....	18
Drone Strikes in Pakistan: A Growing Threat to Civilian Life, Safety, and Rights.....	19
<b>SECTION - 3</b> : Multimedia Update: Voices Against Authoritarianism.....	21
Write-ups by International Human Rights Certificate Program Participants.....	22
Scholarly Podcast: New Episodes are Live.....	23
Exciting Update: Toronto Democracy Forum 2025.....	24
<b>SECTION - 4</b> : Contact us.....	25



## **SECTION - 1:**

WELCOME TO UNCENSORED WATCH- A PROJECT OF WORLD  
ANTI-EXTREMISM NETWORK

**Hello, Dear Readers, and welcome to the June  
edition of Uncensored Watch!**

We're so glad to have you with us as we share some exciting updates and fresh content from around the globe. This month, we're especially thrilled to bring you a sneak peek into the Toronto Democracy Forum 2025; yes, it's back and bigger than ever, with powerful voices and inspiring conversations lined up. Alongside that, we've curated a collection of newly released scholarly podcasts and articles that dive deep into pressing global issues, from authoritarianism and human rights challenges to stories of resilience and impact from our global network. So settle in, and take a few moments to explore everything we've been working on.

As always, thank you for staying connected and being part of this growing community committed to freedom, dialogue, and change.

Enjoy Reading!  
The Uncensored Watch Team



## SECTION - 2:

Global Crisis in Focus

## DRC and Rwanda Sign Landmark Peace Deal in Washington

After years of armed conflict, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda have signed a peace agreement aimed at ending the violence

Photo by Tori Nefores on Unsplash



that has destabilized their border regions. The deal, brokered by the United States and Qatar, was signed in Washington, D.C., by the foreign ministers of both countries.

Under the agreement, a joint security coordination body will be established within 30 days, and a regional economic integration plan will be launched within 90 days. Thousands of Rwandan troops currently in eastern DRC are expected to withdraw within three months.

The conflict has intensified recently due to the M23 rebel group's military gains. While Rwanda denies backing M23, the DRC and international observers insist that it does. Meanwhile, Rwanda demands that the DRC dismantle the FDLR, a group it sees as a threat due to its roots in the 1994 genocide. The agreement calls for the neutralization of both groups, though The agreement sets specific deadlines for regional coordination and economic plans, but remains vague on the timeline for M23's withdrawal from seized territories, which raises concerns about implementation.

DRC Foreign Minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner said the agreement marks a long-awaited step, but stressed that lasting peace will require justice, demilitarization, and the return of displaced families. Rwanda's Foreign Minister, Olivier Nduhungirehe, called the deal a "turning point" and urged an "irreversible" end to the DRC's alleged support for the FDLR.

Despite the optimism, people in conflict-hit areas like North Kivu remain uncertain about what the deal means for M23's ongoing presence. The group continues to control key territories and infrastructure.

The agreement also has broader geopolitical implications. The DRC holds vast reserves of minerals critical for global tech industries. With this deal, the U.S. seeks greater access to these resources amid rising competition with China in Africa. President Donald Trump welcomed the agreement as a step toward peace and economic opportunity, calling it a "wonderful day" for all involved. While celebrated as a breakthrough, analysts warn that real progress will depend on implementation, particularly disarming rebels and restoring trust on the ground.

This peace agreement between the DRC and Rwanda marks a significant moment in a conflict that has lasted for decades and claimed countless lives. Although hailed as a breakthrough it's fair to say that not everyone is convinced it will bring a lasting end to the violence. The wounds run deep, and many people, especially

those who have lost loved ones or been forced from their homes, are still waiting for justice. Without addressing those realities, peace might remain fragile. That said, if both countries stay committed to this agreement, it could open the door to real opportunities. A shift from conflict to cooperation could allow them to invest in rebuilding infrastructure, boosting trade, and improving region. Economic growth, job creation, and regional stability could all become possible if the focus moves from war strategies to development. Peace won't erase the past, but it could help both nations build a better future.



## The Erosion of Rights Amid Africa's Crises

A new report by the Norwegian Refugee Council "NRC" has once again put a spotlight on how the world is turning its back on some of Africa's most urgent humanitarian crises. Countries like Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and several others are dealing with extreme violence, mass displacement, hunger, and natural disasters, but receiving barely any global attention or support. The report says donor fatigue, limited media coverage, and weak political will are the main reasons why these crises are being overlooked. Of the 34

countries reviewed, most of the worst-hit were in Africa. In 2024 alone, more than half of the humanitarian needs across these countries went unmet, with a staggering \$25 billion funding gap.

Cameroon was named the world's most neglected crisis. Ongoing conflict in its English-speaking regions and violence from Boko Haram have displaced over a million people. Yet, the crisis has barely made headlines. Global donors, including the U.S., have also cut back aid, worsening the situation.

landslides have added to the suffering. Mozambique is facing political unrest, Islamist insurgency in the north, and the devastation left by Cyclone Chido. More than 100 people were killed, and thousands of homes were destroyed. Burkina Faso and Mali remain overrun by armed groups that have taken control of large parts of the countries. Civilians are stuck in besieged towns, and humanitarian access has been severely limited due to military governments cutting ties with Western aid providers.

Other crises also remain in the shadows. Uganda is hosting nearly two million refugees from neighboring conflict zones, but shrinking aid could lead to growing tension with local communities. The Democratic Republic of the Congo “DRC” continues to suffer from rebel violence and displacement, especially in the east, while disease outbreaks have worsened the crisis.

Somalia is battling long-standing al-Shabab violence and severe drought, with dangerously low levels of aid reaching the people.



*Photo by Michael Ali on Unsplash*

The worsening neglect of humanitarian crises in Africa, as laid out in the NRC's

report, exposes a stark global failure to uphold basic human rights, safety, and security. Conflicts in these countries have displaced millions, yet shrinking aid and political disinterest have left these populations abandoned. The situation is not just a funding gap; it's a moral one. The world's largest donor's withdrawal from aid leadership doesn't just reduce resources, it signals to other nations that turning away from crises is acceptable. This domino effect is now evident, with European countries also slashing aid budgets. At a time when displacement, hunger, and violence are surging, the global retreat from responsibility is both dangerous and shameful. Critically, these decisions have real consequences for people's rights and dignity. Access to food, safety, health, and shelter is not a luxury; they are fundamental human right. Yet millions across Africa are denied these because their crises don't attract headlines or strategic interest. The world's silence in the face of their suffering erodes the very principles that human rights frameworks are built on. The African Union, too, must take greater responsibility. While donors must recommit to humanitarian funding, African governments and regional bodies must lead efforts in resolving conflicts and creating safe conditions for aid. Political will, not just money, is essential. When leaders, whether in Africa or the West, fail to act, they allow avoidable human suffering to continue, undermining the dignity and futures of millions.



*Photo by Levi Meir Clancy on Unsplash*

## The Missed Potential of a Divided World

A fragile ceasefire has paused 12 days of intense fighting between Iran and Israel, brokered by the U.S. after deadly airstrikes and missile attacks on both sides. Israel hit Iran's nuclear sites; Iran responded with strikes on Israeli military targets and a U.S. base in Qatar. Hundreds were killed, and critical infrastructure was damaged.

Tensions remain high. Iran claims victory, while Trump disputes it, threatening more strikes if Iran resumes nuclear activities. Iran has cut cooperation with nuclear inspectors, and both Israeli and U.S. leaders suggest they may

act again if provoked. The situation remains volatile, with global calls for diplomacy.

This conflict didn't come out of nowhere; it escalates existing geopolitical conflicts. Israel is already at war with Palestine, and the Russia-Ukraine war is still ongoing. Now, this new layer of conflict, involving three powerful nations, Iran, Israel, and the U.S., is setting the stage for even greater instability in the region and beyond. The truth is, wars like these don't bring victories; they bring grief. Civilians are the ones paying the highest price, with lives lost, families displaced, and futures destroyed. While leaders trade threats and missiles, ordinary people live in fear. This conflict doesn't just hurt people, it also blocks potential. These countries could achieve so much more if they chose cooperation over confrontation. Economic growth, regional stability, and better lives for their citizens are all within reach if relations improve. What's urgently needed now is serious, inclusive dialogue. Every leader involved must recognize the human cost of this violence and commit to peace, dignity, and justice, not more destruction. The world needs fewer wars and more humanity.



## Protests Escalate in Serbia After Mass Arrests and Clashes

In Serbia, thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest against their government. The protests started after a tragic rail station roof collapse in November 2024 killed 16 people. Many believe the accident happened because of government corruption and poor management. The protesters, mostly led by students, are demanding early elections and the resignation of President Aleksandar Vucic, who has been accused of ignoring public concerns and using his power to shut down opposition.

Recently, the protests became more intense. After a large rally in Belgrade that saw clashes with police, many demonstrators were arrested. In response, thousands of people blocked major roads across Belgrade and other cities, demanding the release of those who were detained. Some protesters used metal fences and garbage bins to block streets. While the movement began peacefully, there have been some violent moments, especially when protesters clashed with riot police. Police used pepper spray and force, claiming they were attacked first. Meanwhile, the government says these

protests are being influenced by foreign powers, though they haven't provided any proof.



*Photo by Alex Radelich on Unsplash*

Peaceful protest is a basic democratic right. Arresting people simply for protesting, especially if they haven't broken any laws, goes against that right. However, if protesters become violent, law enforcement may intervene to restore order. Still, it's important that police act fairly and don't use excessive force. In situations like this, dialogue is key. Instead of using force, the government should listen to its people and address their concerns. Holding talks with protest leaders, ensuring fair treatment of detainees, and being transparent about what caused the rail station tragedy could help ease tensions. Both sides should avoid violence, and the focus must be on justice, safety, and the rights of the people.

Photo by Karl Raymund Catabas on Unsplash

## Defying the Courts: Journalist's Detention Raises Alarms Over Press Freedom

Ethiopian journalist Tesfalem Woldeyes, a respected editor of the independent outlet *Ethiopia Insider*, has been detained by police since June 8, 2025, despite court orders for his release. He was arrested in Addis Ababa on accusations of spreading false information, a charge often used in Ethiopia to silence independent voices. Even though three different courts, including the highest court, granted him bail, the police have refused to let him go. This goes against the law and shows how authorities are ignoring the courts when it suits them, especially in high-profile cases.

This case is more than just one journalist being jailed. It's part of a bigger pattern of press freedom being crushed in Ethiopia. Tesfalem has been targeted before for his reporting, including a year-long detention in 2014 and another short arrest in 2021. Now, he's being punished again for doing his job, sharing information, and raising public awareness. The law used against him, Ethiopia's 2020 Hate Speech and Disinformation law, is vague and gives the government too much power to label anything they dislike as "false" or "harmful." This has dangerous

consequences, allowing authorities to silence critical voices without accountability.



Photo by Planet Volumes on Unsplash

Tesfalem should be released immediately, not just because courts have ordered it, but because holding him is unjust. The international community and donors must speak up and put pressure on Ethiopia to respect press freedom and human rights. Ethiopia's laws need to be reformed, especially those that misuse "hate speech" or "disinformation" to crack down on free speech. Journalists, activists, and ordinary people must be allowed to speak freely, criticize power, and hold leaders accountable, without fear of arrest. Free speech is a basic human right and the foundation of any democracy. Without it, there can be no truth, no justice, and no progress.



*Photo by Carlos Javier Yuste Jimenez on*

## Guinea: Prominent Lawyer Abducted and Tortured Amid Rising Repression

In Guinea, a well-known lawyer and human rights defender, Mohamed Traoré, was abducted and brutally tortured after speaking out against the country's military rulers. He was abducted by heavily armed men who stormed his home in Conakry, beat him and his daughter, and dragged him away. He was later found by locals, badly injured and showing signs of torture. Traoré has been openly critical of the military junta, which took power in 2021. He even resigned from an official advisory role earlier this year, blaming the junta for failing to return Guinea to civilian rule as promised. His abduction is part of a wider pattern where critics, journalists, and political opponents are silenced through violence, arrest, or threats. Media outlets have been shut down, and peaceful protests have been crushed. This attack is a serious violation of the right to free speech, personal safety, and due process. People should never be punished for expressing their opinions or holding their leaders accountable. Using violence and fear to silence critics is a clear abuse of power and goes against all basic human rights.

Guinea's government must investigate this crime seriously and independently and bring those responsible to justice. Leaders should publicly condemn violence against critics and protect people's right to speak freely. The international community and human rights groups should put pressure on the junta to stop these abuses and follow through on promises to hold elections and restore civilian rule. No one should be tortured or threatened for speaking the truth. Justice, safety, and free speech must be protected for everyone.



*Photo by Oladepo Adejumo on Unsplash*

## Kenya: Hold Authorities Accountable for Protesters' Deaths

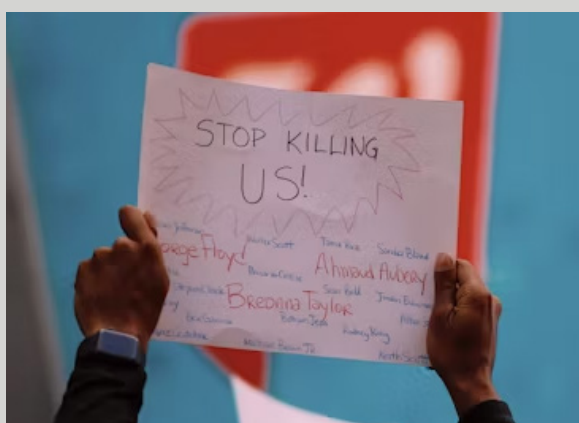
On June 25, 2025, thousands of people across Kenya, especially in Nairobi, took to the streets to mark the first anniversary of deadly protests against the Finance Bill of 2024. These new protests were meant to honor those who lost their lives last year when security forces responded violently. But sadly, instead of protecting the right to protest, Kenyan authorities once again responded with lethal force, resulting in at least 16 deaths, over 400 injuries, and the deployment of the military. Among the injured was a journalist,

Ruth Sarmwei, hit by a rubber bullet while reporting. Adding to the crisis, the government ordered a media blackout, instructing TV and radio stations to stop covering the protests live. Signals for major stations like NTV, KTN, and Citizen TV were cut off until the High Court suspended the ban, calling it unconstitutional.



international human rights standards, including: Right to peaceful assembly )Article 37 of Kenya's Constitution & Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights(, Right to life (Article 26 of Kenya's Constitution(, Freedom of expression and media )Articles 33 & 34 of Kenya's Constitution( Using lethal force against peaceful protesters, abductions, and media censorship are not only unjustified, they are illegal under both national and international law. Suppressing live coverage and targeting journalists directly attacks press freedom, which is essential in any democratic society.

The Kenyan government must stop using violence to suppress protests and refrain from deploying the military for crowd control. There must be transparent and independent investigations into the killings and injuries, and those responsible, especially within the police and military, must be held accountable. Media outlets must be protected, and any restrictions on live coverage must be lifted permanently, in line with court orders and constitutional rights. Bodies like the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) must step up their efforts and ensure meaningful action is taken against those violating the law. President William Ruto must publicly uphold the rights to protest, free press, and the safety of citizens, ensuring state agencies respect the rule of law. Kenya is at a turning point. Protecting human dignity, freedom of expression, and the right to protest aren't just about law; it's about the kind of country its people want to live in.



*A protester holding a "Stop Killing Us" board in a protest demonstration; by Domo on Unsplash*

The events in Kenya are a clear violation of fundamental human rights protected both under Kenyan law and



*Photo on Unsplash by Kenny*

## Resurgence of Suicide Bombings in Nigeria's Boko Haram Conflict

On June 21, 2025, a woman suicide bomber detonated an explosive at a crowded fish market in Konduga, near Maiduguri, Nigeria. At least 12 people were killed in the attack, which is the first of its kind in 2025 after a troubling spike in suicide bombings in 2024. This attack marks a renewed threat from Boko Haram, an insurgent group that has waged war in Nigeria for 16 years, causing widespread violence, deaths, and displacement. Boko Haram and its offshoots, like ISWAP and JAS, have long used suicide bombings, often forcing or manipulating women and girls into carrying out these deadly missions by hiding explosives under traditional clothing like hijabs.

Suicide bombings directly violate the right of civilians to live in safety and dignity. Forcing or coercing women to be suicide bombers is a severe abuse of human rights and international humanitarian law. These attacks amount to war crimes and must be condemned by both national and international bodies.

Armed groups must immediately stop all attacks on civilians and cease using women or children as tools of war. The Nigerian government must investigate and prosecute those behind these attacks. Authorities should improve intelligence gathering, increase community protection, and support victims and survivors. Beyond military action, Nigeria needs a comprehensive counter-extremism approach that addresses poverty, radicalization, and lack of education, which fuel recruitment into extremist groups. Special protection, rehabilitation, and mental health services should be provided to women and girls affected by Boko Haram's abuses. This tragic attack is not just a security issue; it's a human rights crisis. Peace and justice can only be achieved when the rights, safety, and dignity of all civilians, especially women and children, are prioritized and protected.



Photo by Bob Brewer on Unsplash

## Girls, Women Under Constant Threat in South Sudan

In South Sudan, the safety, dignity, and Basic rights of girls and women are under constant threat. Recent cases, like the abduction of four female students on their way to exams and the gang-rape of a 16-year-old girl in the capital, Juba, paint a grim picture of how vulnerable girls are in the country. These incidents are not just tragic events; they highlight a deeper, ongoing crisis where girls are being denied their right to education, freedom of movement, and physical safety. When even a school becomes unsafe, it shows how broken the protective systems truly are.

What makes this situation even more alarming is that many of these attacks go unpunished. Even when suspects are arrested or when incidents spark public outrage, convictions remain rare. Survivors are often left without justice, while the perpetrators walk free. This failure to enforce the law signals to society that such violence is tolerable. In reality, it is a clear violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to safety, the right to education, and the right to live free from violence and discrimination. At the heart of this crisis is a toxic mix of armed conflict, weak law enforcement, and harmful cultural practices such as bride price, which reduces girls to commodities. Girls are treated not as individuals with rights and futures, but as bargaining chips in disputes or tools for power. The state, while having signed international agreements to protect women and children, continues to fall short of its responsibilities. The promises made on paper have yet to materialize into real protection on the ground.

What South Sudan needs is not just new laws, but strong political will to implement them. The proposed Anti-Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection Bill could be a vital step, but only if it is passed and enforced seriously. The government must prioritize rebuilding trust in legal systems, ensuring justice for survivors, and making schools and communities truly safe spaces for girls. Long-term change will also require challenging harmful traditions and shifting societal attitudes around gender.

The situation in South Sudan is not just a women's issue or a local issue; it is a human rights emergency. Every day of inaction costs girls their futures, their health, and sometimes even their lives. Without urgent reform, South Sudan risks continuing the cycle of violence, inequality, and silence. What's needed is a clear commitment to human dignity, justice, and the rights of every girl to grow, learn, and live free from fear.



*Photo by Humberto Chavez on Unsplash*

## Between Two Repressions: Bekchanova Faces Risk of Torture if Deported

The case of Umidajan Bekchanova, a Turkmen dissident detained by Turkish authorities, raises serious human rights concerns. Bekchanova, who has lived in Türkiye legally since 2017, was arrested on May 29, 2025, and placed in a deportation center in Istanbul. She now faces the threat of being forcibly returned to Turkmenistan, a country notorious for harsh crackdowns on dissent, arbitrary arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances. Her only “crime” is speaking out against her government’s repression and advocating for human rights through peaceful protest and digital activism.

This situation is deeply troubling because it directly violates the principle of nonrefoulement, a fundamental international legal standard that prohibits returning anyone to a country where they are likely to face persecution or torture. Bekchanova’s case is not isolated; Turkish authorities have been accused of detaining and deporting other Turkmen activists, many of whom were rendered undocumented because Turkmenistan refuses to renew passports for known dissidents abroad. Bekchanova’s expired passport and the sudden cancellation of her residence permit without a proper explanation make her especially vulnerable.

The danger Bekchanova faces if sent back is not hypothetical. Turkmenistan’s track record includes widespread use of torture, zero tolerance for political dissent, and targeting of critics’ families. Her own sons have allegedly faced detention and abuse in retaliation for her activism. Despite court decisions in Türkiye recognizing her right to remain, the authorities are continuing to hold her on vague claims that she is a “threat to public order”, without presenting any evidence.

What’s needed now is immediate action. Turkish authorities should release Bekchanova without delay, halt any deportation plans, and allow her to apply for international protection. Türkiye must fulfill its obligations under human rights treaties it has signed, including the Refugee Convention and the Convention Against Torture. International partners and human rights organizations should also increase pressure on Türkiye to end its practice of quietly complying with repressive regimes like Turkmenistan’s.

In essence, Bekchanova’s case is a test of Türkiye’s commitment to human rights. Deporting her would mean knowingly exposing her to possible torture, imprisonment, and silencing. Upholding her right to asylum is not just a legal responsibility; it is a moral one.



*Photo by Kenny on Unsplash*

## **Drone Strikes in Pakistan: A Growing Threat to Civilian Life, Safety, and Rights**

The ongoing series of drone strikes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan, has once again brought to light the grave threat they pose to human life, safety, and dignity. These attacks, often labeled as part of “counterterrorism” efforts, have increasingly resulted in the deaths and injuries of civilians, including children, sparking urgent concerns over their

legality and humanitarian implications. Since March 2025, KP has witnessed multiple drone attacks. The most recent occurred on June 20 in Dashka, South Waziristan, where a child was killed and five others were injured. Previous strikes this year include a March 29 attack in Katlang, Mardan, that killed at least 11 people, and a May 19 strike in North Waziristan that killed four children and injured five others. Another, on May 28, hit a volleyball game, injuring 22 people, including seven children. These incidents show a disturbing pattern of civilian targets being hit, homes, public gatherings, and recreation spaces, clearly violating international laws that protect non-combatants during conflict. The use of drones in Pakistan dates back to the early 2000s during the global war on terror, with the U.S. conducting covert strikes mainly in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). While initially aimed at militants, the lack of transparency and accountability meant many innocent lives were lost with no justice or compensation. In recent years, the use of drone technology by Pakistani forces or possibly neighboring state actors has continued under vague justifications of national security, often without any public disclosure or independent investigation. What makes the current situation particularly concerning is the denial of responsibility by authorities and the absence of accountability. Victims are left without justice, families without answers, and entire communities in fear. These attacks not only strip civilians of their right to life but also erode public trust in state institutions and destroy any sense of safety.



*Photo by Matias Luge on Unsplash*

The right to life is the most fundamental of all human rights, protected under Pakistan's constitution and international human rights law. When drones indiscriminately hit civilian spaces, they undermine this right and violate Pakistan's obligations under international humanitarian law, which demands distinction, necessity, proportionality, and precaution in the conduct of hostilities. The way forward must begin with immediate and transparent investigations into all drone strikes that have resulted in civilian harm. Whether state-led or otherwise, the parties responsible must be held accountable through fair legal processes. Victims and their families deserve reparations, both financial and symbolic, and long-term psychological and medical support.

More broadly, Pakistan must review and reform its counterterrorism

strategies to ensure they are compliant with international law and focused on protecting, not endangering, its citizens. The unchecked use of drones must end, and mechanisms must be put in place to ensure oversight, transparency, and public accountability for any military or intelligence operations that affect civilians.

If left unaddressed, these strikes will continue to foster fear, trauma, and resentment in affected communities, further destabilizing the region. A rights-respecting approach is not just a legal obligation; it is a moral and political necessity for lasting peace and security.



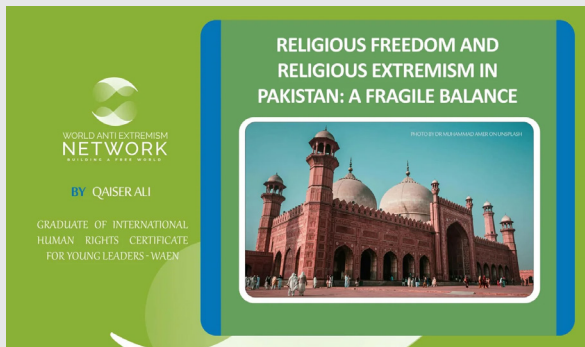
## **SECTION - 3:**

Multimedia Update: Voices Against Authoritarianism

## Write-ups by International Human Rights Certificate Program Participants

This June, we're excited to share the powerful reflections and insights of our International Human Rights Certificate graduates. Their write-ups shed light on the injustices and authoritarianism they've witnessed in their communities, voices that deserve to be heard.

### ● Religious Freedom and Religious Extremism in Pakistan: A Fragile Balance by Qaiser Ali



Pakistan claims to uphold religious freedom through its Constitution, but the ground realities paint a starkly different picture. Discriminatory laws, like the blasphemy laws and Article 260(3) declaring Ahmadis non-Muslim, have enabled systemic persecution, often used for personal vendettas and

suppression. These legal contradictions have turned constitutional protections into hollow promises. To know more about this issue in depth, read our latest publication on our website by Qaiser Ali, one of the graduates of the International Human Rights Certificate Program.

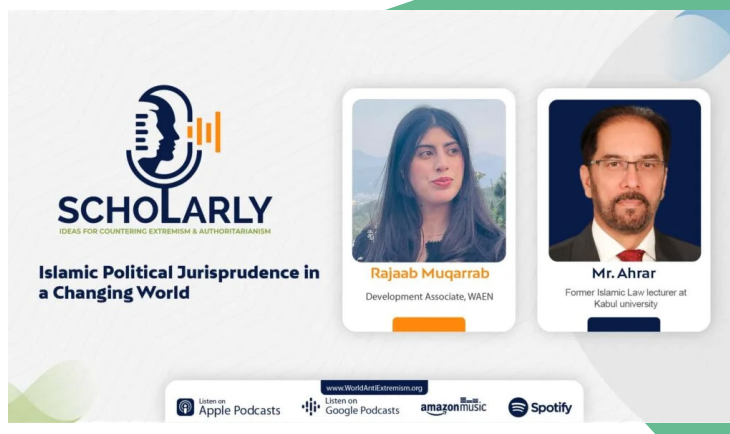
### ● Advancing Human Rights in Afghanistan: Challenges and Opportunities by Madina Jalal



Human rights are under siege in Afghanistan, especially for women and girls. Since the Taliban's return in 2021, the right to education, freedom of speech, and basic civil liberties have all suffered devastating blows. Women and girls, in particular, face a harsh reality of discrimination, violence, and lost

opportunities. What else are they going through? Learn about it by heading to [our website](#) and reading the latest published article by Madina Jalal, a graduate of the International Human Rights Certificate program.

## Scholarly Podcast: New Episode is Live



### Islamic Political Jurisprudence in a Changing World with Abu Ahrar Ramizpoor

What happens when centuries-old interpretations of Islamic political jurisprudence meet the modern demands of democracy, civil liberties, and equal citizenship? Concepts like Bay'ah, Shura, and Sharia-based authority still shape the ideologies of movements and regimes claiming to follow an “ideal” Islamic system.

In our recent discussion with Mr. Ahrar Ramizpoor, President of WAEN and renowned scholar of Islamic & Human Rights Law, we explored the foundations, challenges, and future of Islamic political jurisprudence. [Listen](#) to this insightful conversation now.



### Insights on Afghan [Regional] Extremist Groups

Extremist and radical groups continue to pose a serious threat to stability in Afghanistan and the surrounding areas. Recently, we had a podcast discussion with Imtiaz Ahmad Baloch, a militancy researcher and reporter at the Khorasan Diary, who shared valuable insights into the dynamics of these groups and highlighted the close connections between the Afghan Taliban and other extremist organizations such as Al-Qaeda, Central Asian Islamic groups, and the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), revealing how collaboration among these factions’ fuels ongoing regional instability.

Anyone interested in understanding these issues in depth can listen to the full podcast [available now](#) on our website.

## Exciting Update: Toronto Democracy Forum 2025

It's that time again; Toronto Democracy Forum is back! We're excited about what's coming this year. The Toronto Democracy Forum is coming soon, and we've lined up some truly inspiring speakers you won't want to miss. We're keeping the full details under wraps for now, but trust us, it'll be worth the wait. Stay close, stay connected, and get ready for some exciting updates coming your way very soon! In the meantime, we would appreciate it if you visit the Atlas Network website and read the 2025 Toronto Democracy Forum impact story; just [click here](#) to check it out.





## SECTION - 4:

Contact us:



**instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/waenetwork/>



**facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/WAENetwork>



**twitter**

<https://twitter.com/WorldAEN>



**linkedin**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/waen>



**Web**

[info@worldantiextremism.org](mailto:info@worldantiextremism.org)



**Email**

<https://worldantiextremism.org>



**Sources**

<https://worldantiextremism.org/uw-resources/>



WORLD ANTI EXTREMISM  
**NETWORK**  
BUILDING A FREE WORLD

CONTACT US



World Anti Extremism Network



World Anti Extremism Network



WorldAEN



waenetwork



[www.WorldAntiExtremism.org](http://www.WorldAntiExtremism.org)