

# Taliban edict to resume stoning women to death met with horror

**Afghan regime's return to public stoning and flogging is because there is 'no one to hold them accountable' for abuses, say activists**

The Taliban's announcement that it is resuming publicly stoning women to death has been enabled by the international community's silence, human rights groups have said.

Safia Arefi, a lawyer and head of the Afghan human rights organisation Women's Window of Hope, said the announcement had condemned Afghan women to return to the darkest days of Taliban rule in the 1990s.

"With this announcement by the Taliban leader, a new chapter of private punishments has begun and Afghan women are experiencing the depths of loneliness," Arefi said.

"Now, no one is standing beside them to save them from Taliban punishments. The international community has chosen to remain silent in the face of these violations of women's rights."

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