

Taliban leader says women will be stoned to death in public

The Taliban's Supreme Leader has vowed to start stoning women to death in public as [he declared the fight](#) against Western democracy will continue.

"You say it's a violation of women's rights when we stone them to death," said Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada in a voice message, aired on state television over the weekend, addressing Western officials. "But we will soon implement the punishment for adultery. We will flog women in public. We will stone them to death in public," he declared...

"These are all against your democracy but we will continue doing it. We both say we defend human rights – we do it as God's representative and you as the devil's."



Akhundzada has never been seen in public | CREDIT: Xinhua/Shutterstock

Afghanistan's state TV, now under Taliban control, broadcasts voice messages purporting to be from Akhundzada, who has never been seen in public aside from a few old portraits. He is believed to be based in southern Kandahar, the

stronghold of the Taliban.

In his voice message, Akhundzada said that the women's rights that the international community had been advocating for were against the Taliban's harsh interpretation of Islamic Sharia.

"Do women want the rights that Westerners are talking about? They are against Sharia and clerics' opinions, the clerics who toppled Western democracy," he said. "I told the Mujahedin that we tell the Westerners that we fought against you for 20 years and we will fight 20 and even more years against you," he said, emphasising the need for resilience in opposing women's rights among Taliban foot soldiers.

"It did not finish [when you left]. It does not mean we would now just sit and drink tea. We will bring Sharia to this land," he added. "It did finish after we took over Kabul. No, we will now bring Sharia into action."

His remarks have incited outrage among Afghans, with some calling on the international community to increase pressure on the Taliban.

"The money that they receive from the international community as humanitarian aid is just feeding them against women," Tala, a former civil servant, told [The Telegraph](#) from the capital Kabul. "We, the women, are living in prison, and the Taliban are making it smaller for us every passing day."