

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
August 9 – 15, 2010
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August 15, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1119 GMT, 15 August 2010)

- Shahr News Agency's website, an affiliate to Tehran municipality, has been blocked.
- According to Fars, the acting head of the Shahr News agency, Hamed Reza'i, said the website of the news agency was blocked "due to the fact that it did not have the permit to operate as a news agency."
- "About two and a half years ago we requested that the office of the deputy culture minister for press affairs issued a permit for Shahr News Agency, however no permit has been issued yet," Reza'i was quoted as saying.
- "Reza'i denied rumors that the website of Tehran Municipality's news agency was blocked due to publishing reports on the cabinet."

(Source: Iranian news website, Parlemannews, in Persian 1110 GMT, 15 August 2010)

- Iran's former president Seyyed Mohammad Khatami met with a group of former members of the Islamic Associations' Union in Europe and emphasized that: "Real seditionists are those individuals and political camps who lie recklessly and attribute their lies to the [Islamic] system. They try to put anyone and any [political] camp they dislike under pressure and to undermine and devalue legal freedoms. They are the ones who want to tarnish the image of the religion and the system, and the outcome of what they do is the decline of people's satisfaction, the loss of people's trust in the system and a way paved for those enemies who want to deal a fatal blow to the system and the country."
- "You and I, and all the vigilant individuals who participated in the [1979] Revolution do not regret what we did and we are not unhappy and we will not give up on the nation's fundamental demands and the values we learnt from the revolution and the Imam [the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Khomeyni]. We will not, even for one moment, neglect the people and their dignity and freedom, and our duty to protect the dignity and glory of the dear Iran and proud Iranians in the world."

August 14, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1435 GMT, 14 August 2010)

- "US troops must leave the region before it is too late", Brigadier General Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri said on Saturday [14 August].
- "It is prudent for the US to acquiesce to the demands of the regional nations and withdraw its troops from the region otherwise Washington will be coerced to do so", Jazayeri told IRNA news agency.
- He also said that "the US and the Zionist regime are not able to control the developments in the region and that the new Middle East belongs to its real owners."
- "We are seeing that whenever they (the Americans) take one step forward...they (will have to) take two steps backward," he stated.

- Elsewhere in his remarks, he played down US military threats against Iran, saying, "attacking Iran is an old and repetitive subject and no new incident takes place these days."
- He said some media outlets highlight these threats in order to intensify psychological warfare against the country.
- Certain European countries and even some of Iran's neighbours have tried too.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 0755 GMT, 14 August 2010)

- MP Ahmad Tavakkoli criticized President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad for "disregarding the laws ratified by the parliament and the Expediency Council."
- Tavakkoli's criticism came in response to the president's recent remarks in which he said that "he does not regard the ratifications of the Majlis or the Expediency Council as law", Mehr News Agency reported on Friday [13 August].
- According to Article 72 of the constitution, the Majlis can pass into law any bill that is in agreement with the provisions of the constitution, the MP said.
- He went on to say that the president does not have the right to disregard the process by which a bill is passed into law.
- Tavakkoli accused the president of intransigence, and said, "I am sorry that the president values his personal interpretation too much."
- MP Parviz Soruri also criticized the president for making remarks that showed no respect for the law.
- "Any law that is ratified should be implemented. The president is not in a position to say whether a particular law is correct or not"; he said.

August 13, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 13 August 2010)

- A number of security agents raided the house of Feyzollah Roshan, a Baha'i citizen of Sari on Tuesday, 10 August, at 10 am [0530 GMT].
- According to RAHANA's reporters, these agents told Mr. Roshan that he had to introduce himself to Sari Intelligence Office, Mazandaran province, on Wednesday 11 August, but made a phone call a few hours later and postponed this meeting.
- Feyzollah Roshan had been previously confined in Sari prison for 18 months in 2007 and 2008 for following Baha'i faith and on charges of "propaganda against the system benefiting the opposition", and his house had been frequently raided by officers of Intelligence Ministry in Sari.

August 12, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1125 GMT, 12 August 2010)

- Iranian Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki threatened that the West will "regret" its decision to impose "illegal" sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program.
- "Like previous years, we will make the West feel sorry for its illegal moves," Mottaki told reporters in Tehran on Thursday [12 August] upon his arrival from an official visit to Syrian capital, Damascus.

- "The US hatched plots in every field over the past 30 years to exert pressure on Iran. The recent ratification by the US Congress of illegal and unfair sanctions against Iran was in line with such plots," he was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.
- He said that imposing sanctions against Iran by the European Union was not a new issue and added that "US hegemony has overshadowed the policies of Europe."

August 10, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Iranian news website www.insideofiran.com, in English 2255 GMT, 10 August 2010)

- Saturday night [7 August], government opponents took to Qazvin Street in Tehran, activists say. Security forces arrived at the scene after the bin was completely burned.
- The same day, activists continued their campaign of writing political graffiti on walls. Slogans included: "Death to Khamene'i" (Iran's Supreme Leader), "death to the principle of the velayat-e faqih", "support international sanctions", "our uprising is alive, Khamene'i is dead", "Khamene'i must know, the uprising is continuing".

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 11 August 2010)

- "A number of Saqez citizens named Loqman Ahmadian, Diako Sattari, Amir Jalalian, Amir Amanian, and Qadir Shiri were arrested, four of whom were transferred to Saqez central prison and Qadir Shiri was transferred to a prison in Sanandaj."
- According to Movakerian news agency, judiciary officials have not announced any reason for arresting these individuals, but it seems that they were accused of "collaboration with a political party".

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1014 GMT, 10 August 2010)

- Iranian Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki believes that "regional convergence has undermined Israel's plans for launching a new war in the Middle East."
- Mottaki said that "support of Iran, Syria and Lebanon for resistance against Israel has been a deterrent to Tel Aviv's threats."

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 10 August 2010)

Text of report headlined "Managing-directors of Afarinesh and Andish-e No convicted" published by Iranian newspaper Mardom Salari on 10 August

- One day after Journalists Day [8 August], the press court jury convicted the managing-editors of Afarinesh and Andish-e No [newspapers].
- According to the public relations of Tehran justice administration province, the hearing of the related indictment against managing-editor of Afarinesh and Andish-e No newspapers was held in 76 bench of the criminal court. The hearing was presided by Judge Modir Khorasani and in the presence of press jury on Sunday [8 August].
- The majority members of the press jury of Tehran Province convicted the managing-editor of Afarinesh on charges of publishing false reports with the intention of disturbing the public opinion and asked for mild punishment against the defendant.
- The press jury also convicted the managing-editor of Andish-e No with majority of votes on charges of publishing false report against Islamic principles and chastity, creating differences in the society and encouraging individuals and groups to act

against security, insulting the authorities and institutions, publication of research and negotiation materials pertaining to the judicial system without permission and publication of articles of news agencies, parties and groups opposed to Islam in violation of paragraph B of Article 7 and paragraph D of Article 2 Note 2 of the press law.