

Iran Domestic Media Monitoring Report
July 26 – August 1, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

August 1, 2010

State-Operated Media Source

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1530 GMT, 1 August 2010)

- “Iran's defensive measures against any possible attack will not be limited to the country's geographical boundary”; an IRGC official said on Sunday.
- Yadollah Javani, the chief of the political department of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, pointed to “a statement issued by the US Congress in support of an Israeli plan to attack Iran” and threatened that “any military action against Iran will disrupt global peace.”
- Resolution 1553 provides explicit support for military strikes against Iran, stating that Congress backs Israel's use of all means necessary against Iran, including the use of military force, according to Press TV.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1225 GMT, 1 August 2010)

- Deputy Secretary-General of the Islamic Coalition Party [Hezb-e Mo'talefe-ye Eslami] for International Affairs, Hamid Reza Taraghi, threatened that “an Israeli attempt on Iran will drive the Zionist regime to annihilation.”
- "If the fabricated regime dares to target the Islamic Republic of Iran, it will put itself at risk of total destruction and annihilation," Mr Taraghi said.
- “To find a way out of the current deadlock, the Zionist regime is obliged to shift its exacerbated situation to other countries in the region but they should consider that any probable threats to the Islamic Republic of Iran will bring them destruction”, he said.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0811 GMT, 1 August 2010)

- Mohammad Ali Ramin [deputy culture minister] described the atmosphere of the [upcoming] 17th Media and Press Exhibition as “a bit different from the past” and confirmed that: “This year, in a calculated and logical move, we banned Western media from participating in the exhibition.”
- "Previously, a number of Western media representatives have participated in the foreign section of the exhibition which used to attract our attention. This year, in a calculated and logical move, we banned Western media from participating in the exhibition. We will not allow the boastful, lying, cheating Western media - which consider themselves as unrivalled kings of the world of media – to participate [in the exhibition].”
- He added; “We are accustomed to using major Western media as a criterion for our viewpoint and when we talk about independent media, you (reporters) might argue that they lack any brand name and no one knows them. This would be true if we did not wish to save them and ourselves from the domination of a few Western journalists.”

July 31, 2010

State-Operated Media Source

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0255 GMT, 31 July 2010)

- According to IRNA, the information website of the Presidential Office, President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad stressed that "the cultural and political atmosphere of the universities must be dynamic, happy, and hope generating, just as the cultural atmosphere of the Iranian Revolution is full of joy, jubilation, love, hope, cooperation, and logical reasoning."
- "The intimate and pure atmosphere ruling at the universities has always turned the student activities into effective and influential acts."
- "If criticism and protests are made on the part of the student movement it should be towards negating the status quo and stabilizing the ideal status."
- "The major objective of the cultural revolution was setting the foundations of sciences based on the fundamentals of the Islamic Revolution, since if the scientific activities would not be harmonized with exalted ideals, they would be harmful."
- "In the culture of Iran democracy differs with what is understood of it in the West. Our people are noble and they are responsible towards their society, but in the West the nations are merely tools in the hand of the governments, used for pursuing their policies."

July 30, 2010

State-Operated Media Source

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0330 GMT, 30 July 2010)

- At a meeting with members of the Iranian student organization Office for Strengthening Unity [Daftar-e tahkim-e vahdat], the Iranian president said that enemies have been trying to frustrate the universities of Iran and these enemies are worried about a good atmosphere and optimism at the universities.
- Ahmadinezhad noted the importance of cultural and political activities at universities and said that; "Universities' activities in the spheres of policy and culture should be hopeful and optimistic."

Privately-Operated Media Source

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 30 July 2010)

- An appeals court in Tehran has upheld the death sentence of a post-election protester, Ja'far Kazemi. Mr Kazemi, 46, a lithographer of textbooks at Amir Kabir University Press, was arrested on September 18, 2009 in Tehran.
- Mr Kazemi's lawyer, Nasim Ghanavi, told the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran that Branch 31 of the Supreme Court has also rejected the request for a re-trial.
- Ms Ghanavi said, "Ja'far Kazemi is accused of moharebeh, enmity with God, through his alleged support for the Mojahedin-E Khalq Organization (MKO), even though he has not accepted these charges during any of his interrogation sessions." Regarding the defense presented for Mr. Kazemi in court, Ghanavi said; "Unfortunately, our

defense was ignored in the lower court, in the appeals court, and at the Supreme Court. They all confirmed the moharebeh charge against him."

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 30 July 2010)

- A court has sentenced reformist journalist Isa Saharkhiz to fifteen months in prison and has barred him from journalism.
- According to the Green Prisoners website, word of his sentence has not yet reached Saharkhiz. In spite of this, certain sources from within the revolutionary court confirm his sentence.
- Saharkhiz was arrested last year, shortly after the rigged presidential election of 12 June 2009. It took more than a year for the judicial authorities to issue the fifteen-month prison sentence. The charges against Saharkhiz include insulting the leader, acting against national security and propagating against the establishment.

July 28, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 28 July 2010)

- Haniyeh Farshi Shotorban, a resident of Tabriz, has been detained for 10 days and there is no information available on her status.
- According to Rahana, security agents investigated her house before arresting her and confiscated her PC, cell phone and other personal belongings.
- She has been charged with "insulting the sacred and having ties with foreigners", accusations which have been said to be related to her activities on Facebook.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0930 GMT, 28 July 2010)

- [Presenter]: After the installation of two petrochemical units in Asaluyeh today, the President, who was talking to the staff involved in the project, said that "the enemies cannot use sanctions to block the Iranian nation move toward development."
- He added; "Iranians have shown that they are always vigilant when tackling sanctions imposed by the enemy and that sanctions have no affect on the Iranian nation's move toward progress".

July 27, 2010

State-Operated Media Sources

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1405 GMT, 27 July 2010)

- A senior Iranian cleric, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, secretary of the Guardian Council, speaking in a mosque in Qom on the anniversary of the birthday of the 12th Imam Mahdi on 27 July, said: "I have acquired documents showing that the Americans paid one billion dollars to the leaders of the sedition [reference to leaders of the post-election unrest in June 2009], through Saudis who are acting as America's agents in the region - and the same Saudi people, who were speaking on behalf of America, promised that they would pay another 50 billion dollars if they [opposition groups]

managed to topple the government. However, God ended the sedition through His pious subjects."

(Source: Iranian news website Hrana, in English 0624 GMT, 27 July 2010)

- Hrana has learned that on Thursday 8 July 2010, a group of fifteen Iranian Christians were arrested by state security and intelligence forces in Mashhad as they were departing for a meeting with Christians from the city of Bojnurd.
- "All fifteen individuals were transferred to the detention centre in the Ministry of Intelligence Headquarters for the Khorasan province in Mashhad where they were subjected to continuous and intensive interrogations."
- Thirteen of the arrested were released after a week of interrogations and after signing commitment letters.

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 27 July 2010)

- Morteza Qolizadeh, who is a member of the Province of Markazi Jebheh Mosharekat (Islamic Iran Participation Front), had been detained following the Ashura events and prior to the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on 11 February.
- According to RAHANA, the Arak Revolutionary Court has sentenced him to one year in prison. He was also a member of Musavi's [reformist candidate in June 2009 presidential election] campaign in the city of Arak.

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 27 July 2010)

- According to a new court ruling issued two years after the trial related to Defending Prisoners' Rights Society, Emadeddin Baghi has been sentenced to one year imprisonment and five years prohibition from political, organizational and media activities.
- He is also awaiting another court hearing related to a complaint from the Ministry of Intelligence regarding his interview with deceased Ayatollah Montazeri, which was aired as a documentary on BBC Persian TV channel.
- According to the new court ruling, he has been charged with acting against national security through propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and disclosing classified documents [about prisoners].
- Part of the indictment mentions that Emadeddin Baghi established the Defending Prisoners' Rights Society in 2003 after his release from prison. Despite the fact that this Society has always claimed to be a human rights NGO and not a political association, the indictment claims that: "This society has had political activities, such as releasing the names of anti-revolutionary prisoners and spies, following up the cases and status of prisoners such as Reza Ameli (a prisoner convicted of assassinating Razini), Heshmat Saran (Secretary general of United Front of Iran Nationalism), Amir Abbas Farkhavar, plane hijackers, agents of bomb attacks in Ahvaz, soft revolution activists, visiting the families of national-religious political prisoners, and collaboration with human rights organizations abroad."

Privately-Operated Media Source

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 27 July 2010)

- The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran has reported that Abdolreza Ghanbari is “accused of heretics (Moharebeh) for participation in 27 December protests (Ashura) and has been sentenced to death by Judge Salavati”
- International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, meanwhile, says that Ghanbari has not had access to a fair trial and has not had the possibility to select and talk to an attorney in compiling his defence.
- The Campaign group notes that the Tehran Prosecutor has also said that the Judiciary had only tried members of "anti-revolutionary groups and organizations," and released individuals "remorseful" about their actions.
- Two Iranian political prisoners were suddenly executed on 28 January 2010 without the knowledge of their lawyers or their families.
- There are serious concerns that other prisoners arrested following the fraudulent 12 June election will also be executed for political reasons and in an attempt to intimidate the opposition in Iran.
- Abbas Ja'fari Dowlatabadi has also said that 250 people detained during the bloody Ashura protests have been issued indictments and many of them have already been tried.
- "He was tried on 30 January 2010 without his family's knowledge and without the right to select an attorney or to meet with his family," said the Campaign. "In his trial court presided by Judge Salavati, he admitted to participating in the Ashura Day protests and other matters. A person who follows Ghanbari's case closely told the Campaign that Ghanbari's confessions have been extracted under pressure and torture. He was denied the right to an attorney and has recently been transferred to Evin Prison's General Ward."

July 26, 2010

State-Operated Media Source

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 0930 GMT, 26 Jul 2010)

- Iran's Intelligence Minister, Heydar Moslehi, has said that "NATO, Mossad, and the CIA" were behind the 15 July suicide bombings in the southeastern city of Zahedan.
- Speaking to reporters present at the cabinet meeting, Moslehi said: "Different organizations such as NATO, Mossad, and the CIA, which are situated around us, support such groups and actions. We have found that they have in some ways supported such actions."