

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report  
March 1 – 7, 2010  
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March 1, 2010

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1730 GMT, 1 March 2010)*

- Internal issues of the IAEA were discussed at the current meeting; IAEA's new secretary-general presented a report of nuclear performance of the member states.
- [Soltaniyeh speaking to reporters] "He [Amano], in his speech, openly reiterated that the IAEA is allowed to continue verifying Iran's non-deviation in its nuclear [programme]. This is the same message that is being repeated for the past six years and the world should pay attention to the fact that all the negative propaganda against Iran are completely baseless, that all of Iran's activities are peaceful and that no deviation has been monitored."
- "As for the nuclear substances, he [Amano] tried, to some extent, to fix the mistake in his written report and said that because Iran does not implement the Additional Protocol, the IAEA could not investigate some of the substances. However, he confirmed that all of the substances announced by Iran were used for peaceful purposes."

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1520 GMT, 1 March 2010)*

- Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said on Monday [1 March] the "US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton should be concerned about violation of international law and diplomatic norms by US envoys in various parts of the world".
- On critical remarks made by the US secretary of state on Iran's justice system, he said that it seems "her knowledge is based on wrong information irrespective of the charges brought against specific individuals at the court of justice."
- "Introducing a terrorist group as a political entity is considered as blatant interference in domestic affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is against international norms and is totally out of question", Mehmanparast said.
- "The US secretary of state has expressed concerns over various issues but we advise her to mind their own activities which run counter to international norms and judicial proceedings by US envoys in various parts of the world," he said.
- "She should try to put an end to blatant and systematic violation of human rights in Guantanamo Bay detention camp by the year-end."

*(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1314 GMT, 1 March 2010)*

- In an interview with ILNA, Behruz Behzadi, editor-in-chief of E'temad, confirmed the report that the newspaper has been banned, adding: "Based on a letter sent from the Press Supervisory Board, the board held a meeting on 10/12/88 [1 March 2010] to review a report on E'temad newspaper's violations. It announced that the paper has violated Article 6 of the press law. The board banned the paper and has referred the case to the authorities i.e. Tehran's deputy prosecutor-general."

### March 2, 2010

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1254 GMT, 2 March 2010)*

- The deputy for minister of culture and Islamic guidance said that the reason for the suspension of E'temad newspaper and the revoking of Irandokht weekly was "their insistence on violating regulations and acting against the law."
- He said: "If newspapers violate the law they will be given a notice but if they insist on violations and fighting the law, the law will not tolerate it."
- He continued: "The press is created by law and will survive as long as it accepts the law and act based on regulations. Whenever they violate the law they will get a notice but if they insist on violating the law and follow the line of fighting the law, it will not tolerate it."

*(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1151 GMT, 2 March 2010)*

- A Judicial official in Tehran has said the arrest of the prominent Iranian film-maker Ja'far Panahi was not political.
- Panahi, his wife and daughter were arrested on 1 March at their home in Tehran.
- According to Iran's Labour News Agency, ILNA, Tehran's prosecutor, Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi said: "His [Panahi's] arrest was not due to the fact that he is an artist [film-maker] and it was not political. He is under suspicion of carrying out certain offences and was arrested along with someone else upon the order of the judge of the case. Investigations about them [Panahi and the other suspect] are under way."

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 2 March 2010)*

- GVF: Journalist and Karrubi campaigner in the northern province of Gilan has been arrested.
- Ali Anjamruz was arrested on Saturday [27 February] morning after intelligence agents of the province went to his house and took him away after confiscating his computer and a number of his personal belongings.
- The reasons for his arrest are still not clear.
- It should be noted that previously, Anjamruz had been convicted in court after provincial officials made a complaint against him following material he had posted on his weblog.

### March 3, 2010

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1406 GMT, 3 March 2010)*

- Principlist lawmaker Ali Motahhari underlined the importance of justice, freedom and cultural independence in helping Iran's Islamic Revolution to thread its path.
- "We must put emphasis on justice, freedom and cultural independence for the Islamic Revolution in Iran to thread its path," Ali Motahhari, son of martyred and widely-popular Iranian cleric Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, said on Tuesday [2 February].

- "The Revolution will face defeat if we do not pay attention to justice," he went on to say. "The Islamic Revolution in Iran is not comparable with the revolutions in Russia and France. "Freedom in Islam might have a different meaning than freedom in the West. They talk about animal freedom while we talk about human freedom," he concluded.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 3 March 2010)*

- "Security forces entered the house of Mahbubeh Karami and took her to an unknown location after inspecting her house as well as her brother."
- This is the fifth time that Karami is being arrested by authorities. She was once arrested in June 2008 and held in prison for seventy days for allegedly acting against national security. In all the previous cases against her, she had been acquitted of the charges.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 3 March 2010)*

- Ali Reza Abofazeli was arrested on 8 February and taken to Evin prison after being summoned to the Intelligence Ministry.
- Two other student activists from IUST, Ruhollah Sahra'i and Yaser Khosravizadeh were released on 20 and 21 of February.
- However, the pressure on student activists from IUST still remains, although students choose not to speak out and usually remain anonymous.

#### March 4, 2010

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1632 GMT 4 March 2010)*

*The following is the text of the president's speech, broadcast by Iranian TV Channel One on 4 March; subheadings inserted editorially:*

- As long as justice does not prevail and people do not enjoy a happy life, the prophets' mission is not complete. Mankind's eternal happiness has been promised by all. This is a goal that should be achieved otherwise all prophets' efforts would go wasted.
- Whoever believes in one prophet should believe in his succeeding prophets as well; and whoever believes in one prophet should believe in the mission of the final prophet too.
- Currently all nations live under threat and in an insecure climate. No one feel secure. They decide at the drop of a hat to invade a country and kill hundreds of people. There is no respect left for man. Today, the arrogant powers [west] commit crimes that are unprecedented in history.
- You realized last year that during the Gaza [war] when defenceless women and children were being slaughtered, that lady who is empty of all human dignities [reference to Tzipi Livni] said that we are killing these people to defend the values of the free world.

- During history, the arrogant rebelled against prophets. We believe that the arrogant world today is the greatest impediment to the fulfilment of prophets' missions. The uncultured Zionists are the root cause of such arrogance and crimes.
- The existence of the Zionist regime is the basis of oppression, sedition and aggression in the world. Today, the most important means of the arrogant for implementing their satanic plans is the Zionist regime.
- You are aware what the main goals of the arrogant were by the occupation of Palestine and the establishment of this illegitimate regime. You know that in order for the arrogant to dominate the world, they need to dominate our region. Our region enjoys certain capabilities enabling those who dominate this region to dominate the world.
- In order to dominate the world, they established the Zionist regime. They wanted to dominate the world by dominating our region. Today, the Zionists have enslaved all nations. Have a look at America and Europe. Nations [in those areas] all lead a miserable life. They are not independent. All of them are enslaved by the Zionists
- The final move has begun. God willing, with the destruction of the Zionist regime, the prophets' mission will be fulfilled. Today, the settings of the stage for the resurrection of Jesus and endeavours to prepare the ground for the re-appearance of Imam Mahdi, are factors which make up the axis of unity of all those who have faith in the holy prophets. Promoting monotheism and the belief in the 12th Shi'i imam, is an axis which unites all monotheists. This is an axis which unites all of the followers of the holy prophets.

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1111 GMT, 4 March 2010)*

- Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i has alleged that "the British and Americans are trying to create differences amongst the world Muslims."
- "Today, the enemies of Islam are creating [unnecessary] uproar about differences. Today, the British and Americans talk about differences between Shi'is and Sunnis. This is a disgrace for us. One of the issues which US, British and Western analysts mention and do research on is how to try to separate Shi'i Islam from Sunni Islam and create disputes between them. The enemy wants to do this. This has always been the case. The enemies of the Islamic world have always tried to exploit religious, ethnic and geographical differences as much as possible. Today, they are using modern tools to that end."

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1111 GMT, 4 March 2010)*

- Iran Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i criticized Israel for oppressing Muslims and said that Islamic nations should unite against this "dangerous and fatal cancer".
- "A dangerous and fatal cancer entitled the fake Israeli government has been set up in this region by enemies of Islam and Islamic nations. Its [Israel's] supporters which share its oppression and grave sins are still supporting it, and the Islamic nation cannot defend itself. This is our weakness. We should compensate this weakness by returning to Islam and following the teaching of the prophet of Islam. The Islamic ummah, more than anything else, needs unity today."

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 4 March 2010)*

- "Contrary to reports in the past few days that suggested Keyvan Samimi had been released from prison, we have learned that this is not the case and the veteran journalist is still in prison."
- "Nevertheless his release in the near future is highly probable", sources have told GVF.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 4 March 2010)*

- Reporters Without Borders says that "although a number of journalists and netizens have been freed in the past few days, the crackdown on media and journalists is continuing."
- "The daily E'temad was suspended on 1 March and the weekly Iran Dokht's licence has been cancelled. At the same time, journalists continue to be arrested in Tehran and many others throughout the country have received summonses," the group adds.
- "Journalists held by the intelligence ministry are being subjected to considerable pressure to publicly ask the Revolution's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, for forgiveness."
- "Why must these journalists offer apologies when all they did was informing their fellow citizens?" the press freedom organization added. "After arresting 110 journalists and censoring at least 20 media in the past eight months, it is the government that should request the forgiveness of its victims when it releases them."

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 4 March 2010)*

- Dr Hesam Firuzi, a human rights activist and physician who has many political prisoners among his patients, was arrested by intelligence agents who took him to an undisclosed location.
- According to a RAHANA reporter, Dr Firuzi was arrested at his home by 15 agents who were waiting for him after he returned from a visit to the house of Alireza Firuzi, his detained nephew. Dr Firuzi's wife and his son/daughter were still at Alireza Firuzi's house at the time of the arrest.

March 5, 2010

*(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1620 GMT, 5 March 2010)*

- The Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has examined a film showing attack on Tehran University dormitories which has been broadcast by the BBC Persian and found nothing new in it, MP Kazem Jalali said.
- "After watching the video in the committee session, nothing new was seen that the public had not been previously informed about, the committee spokesman said.
- He said "after enemies were disappointed by the massive 11 February rallies (marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution), and back-to-back nuclear, aerospace, and scientific achievements as well as the capture of terrorist leader Rigi

they resorted to attempts to negatively influence the public opinion by airing such a film.”

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1029 GMT, 5 March 2010)*

- “The capture and confessions of terrorist Abdolmalek Rigi showed that the advocates of 'war on terror' are in fact engaged in training terrorists rather than combating them”, says a senior Iranian official.
- "The terrorist Abdolmalek Rigi received funding and intelligence support from the United States, Britain, the Zionists and some Arab states of the region, due to his own characteristics," said Gholam-Hoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i, Iran's Chief Prosecutor and the previous intelligence minister, late Wednesday [3 March].
- "Fomenting seeds of discord among Sunni and Shi'i Muslims was Rigi's main objective. They (Jondollah terrorists) assassinated Sunni brothers and then tried to pretend that the act had been committed by Shi'i Muslims," he added.
- "The result of (foreign support for Jondollah group) was that the Iranian security forces captured Abdolmalek Rigi alive, inside Iran's soil and without paying any high price for his arrest," the chief prosecutor emphasized.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 5 March 2010)*

- Fourteen of those, arrested along with well-known Iranian filmmaker Ja'far Panahi, were released from Evin prison [in Tehran] on Wednesday night [4 March].

#### March 6, 2010

*(Source: Al-Alam TV, Tehran, in Arabic 1740 GMT, 6 March 2010)*

- Al-Tamimi criticized regional and international reactions to the Israeli measures as "weak". Sha'th expected "violent" Palestinian reaction to any future Israeli plans to annex Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- On the expected visit by US envoy George Mitchell to the region, Sha'th said "I did not expect anything to come out of this visit".

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1650 GMT, 6 March 2010)*

- Chairman of Majlis Commission on National Security and Foreign Policy Ala'eddin Borujerdi talked to IRNA: "The US senior officials, especially the secretary of state, visited many countries to win their support for an anti-Iran consensus," he said, adding that their efforts in this respect were in vain.
- "The sanctions prompted the Iranians achieve various successes in different fields such nuclear energy and missile capabilities."
- “Renewed sanction against Iran is repetition of the past mistakes”, he added.

*(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1610 GMT, 6 March 2010)*

- Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar has said that “confessions of Jondollah terrorist leader Abdolmalek Rigi unveiled the true face of the self-professed supporters of human rights and the fight against terrorism.”

- "Rigi's confessions have shown the widespread and pervasive support of Western intelligence services for terrorist activities in the region", Najjar alleged.
- "Over the last 30 years (following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979) Iran's enemies have sought every opportunity to harm our revolution", Najjar noted.
- "The Islamic Republics system is built based on morality and Islamic values, and the Iranian people have always been present in various scenes to support the revolution", the minister explained.

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1350 GMT, 6 March 2010)*

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad also commented on the Rigi case and said on Saturday [6 March] that "the arrest of terrorist ring leader Abdolmalek Rigi has humiliated the intelligent services of the US, Britain and the Zionist regime."
- "Liberal democracy and global hegemony led by the US are bent on fighting the Islamic "Revolution", he said.
- They have committed the most inhuman crimes and atrocities worldwide under the guise of human rights", he said.
- "US aggression and NATO's military operations in the region are aimed at saving liberal democracy and capitalism school of thought", he said.
- "The 11 September attack on the US and collapse of twin towers were parts of complicated intelligence move to give enough excuses for them to prepare the ground for invasion of Afghanistan under pretext of fighting terrorism", he said.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 6 March 2010)*

- "While most pro-government propaganda tools are doing their best to portray the news of Mohammad Amin Valian's death sentence as nothing but lies and propaganda, in an interview a person close to Mohammad Amin Valian has told The Green Voice of Freedom that: Amin's family are under severe pressure not to conduct any interviews with independent media."
- Mohammad Amin Valian is a twenty-year-old student from the University of Science in Damghan (Semnan province) and has been sentenced to death, with the only evidence against him being an image that showed him throwing stones in self-defence.

March 7, 2010

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0746 GMT, 7 March 2010)*

- Tehran prosecutor Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi has said that the student, against whom a death sentence was issued for taking part in a protest rally, has still an opportunity to appeal the sentence, Fars News Agency reported on 7 March.
- According to Fars, Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi, was talking to reporters on the sidelines of an opening ceremony of district 27 of Tehran's public prosecutor office. He commented on the death sentence issued for Mohammad Amin Valian, who was accused of taking part in a protest rally on Ashura Day (27 December 2009, mourning day for the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shi'i Imam Husayn). Valian has been charged with Moharebeh (fight against God) and was sentenced to

death by the preliminary court. Fars report maintains that Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi "rejected the rumours on Valian's execution" and said: "This report is [hereby] rejected. He [Valian] was among the defendants who appeared at a court session held for the Ashura day detainees. His sentence was issued and is at the stage of being signed into action. The defendant has an opportunity until 22 Esfand [13 March] to object to the sentence. Therefore, the judicial system will investigate his case on the basis of his appeal [against the court's decision]."

- Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi added: "So the convict has a chance to object. It must also be mentioned that firstly when he was being tried, his attorney was present [at the court] and secondly he is entitled to object to the sentence and his objection will be certainly taken into consideration. However a number of people have used the issue as an excuse to spread reports and [hereby] the rumour of his execution is rejected."
- Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi also said: "Definitely, this defendant has objected [to the sentence] and our high-ranking judges at higher levels will reconsider the sentence. We beg domestic media to publish any information [on the issue] through the channel of Tehran's Prosecutor Office."
- He also commented on the number of people who were arrested on the Ashura day. He said: "Indictments have been issued for about 250 cases [related] to Ashura day. Naturally, those whose cases have been fully investigated and those against whom few charges have been raised will be gradually released."