

**IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
SEPTEMBER 20th-SEPTEMBER 26th
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The main story of the week is the arrest of several BBC Persian reporters, suspected by the Iranian intelligence of spying on the country and thus undermining the national security of the Islamic regime
- The inflammatory and hate-filled rhetoric used by Iranian media against the West and Israel has increased this week, mainly because of the recent General Assembly held in New York



Ahmadinezhad at the U.N. last week.

Image Source: <http://www.france24.com/en/20110925-irans-ahmadinejad-slammed-over-talk-us-ties>

PRESS FREEDOM

Fars News Agency: privately owned, affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, in Persian, Tehran, September 25th, 2011

- Deputy head of the Majlis Judiciary Commission issued a statement stressing that “cooperation with and helping the media which is connected with the British royal regime, that is the BBC, is against the national security due to this media’s hostile and anti-revolution approach”
- A number of BBC reporters have been arrested and will be prosecuted for cooperation with aiding British media, in accordance with the Islamic Penal Code.

Fars News Agency: privately owned, affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, in Persian, Tehran, September 25th, 2011

- Iranian Intelligence Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Heydar Moslehi called BBC Persia “an intelligence institution” actively engaged in political “anti-Iran” activities to undermine the current regime

HATE PROPAGANDA

Mehr News Agency: affiliated with Islamic Propagation Organization, in English, Tehran, September 25th, 2011

- Secretary General of Iran’s High Council for Human Rights, Mohammad Javad Larijani criticized reformists for claiming to abide by Islam while advocating for a more secular system
- Secretary General Larijani identified the reformists as “sworn enemies of democracy” and argued that the reformists were not qualified to run in elections

Mehr News Agency: affiliated with Islamic Propagation Organization, in English, Tehran, September 25th, 2011

- The public relations department of the Expediency Council dismissed allegations that EC Chairman Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is “engaged in electoral affairs” (*i.e. trying to influence the outcome of the upcoming parliamentary elections*).

HUMAN RIGHTS

Fars News Agency: privately owned, affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, in Persian, Tehran, September 25th, 2011

- The Islamic Students’ Societies of Tehran’s universities condemned the members of the House of Cinema (a professional film network) for their collusion with the “secessionists” (a term used to describe the 2009-post election protests) and for their alleged cooperation with British and American media and government forces.
- In the issued statement, Mr. Asgarpur, the managing director of the House of Cinema, is singled out in particular and identified as a puppet of Western regimes. He is also singled out because of the apparent unpatriotic comments he has made in the past, which include criticisms of the “lawlessness and injustice” of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- The Islamic Students Societies’ of Tehran called on the judiciary “to deal decisively with the elements of the BBC in Iran and to prevent a deviant cinema current, who are in the minority of course and are afflicted with wretchedness, from continuing to beat their chests under America’s flag”

Mehr News Agency: affiliated with Islamic Propagation Organization, in English, Tehran, September 26th, 2011

- The commander of National Border Police said that the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan has ceased conducting terrorist activities in northwest Iran

Tabnak News Website: in Persian, September 26th 2011

- Tabnak has issued a statement condemning the release of two American hikers convicted of spying
- The website stated that the hikers created an “anti-Iran atmosphere” at a news conference in New York by saying that they were mistreated in Iranian custody.
- The website also dismissed international media for not mentioning Iran’s “goodwill and humanistic” release of the hikers.

Islamic Republic News Agency: State-owned, in English, Tehran, September 25th 2011

- The Iranian Foreign Minister, Akbar Salehi lauded the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which celebrated its 10th anniversary at the recent General Assembly
- Durban III was mandated in 2009 by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to commemorate the World Conference against Racism 2001 (also known as Durban I). In 2009, the United Nations held the World Conference against Racism, which focused on 'Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: recognition, justice and development,' and most of the 193 member-states of the UN attended the conference.

OTHER

Mehr News Agency: affiliated with Islamic Propagation Organization, in Persian, Tehran, September 25th, 2011

- Over 400 students participated in a rally supporting the “Islamic Awakening” at Iran’s University of Science and Technology
- Students chanted “death to America,” “death to Israel,” and “death to Al-Sa’ud.”

Suna News Agency: website, in English, Khartoum September 26, 2011

- Islamic Republic President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad arrived in Khartoum for bilateral talks with Sudan President, Umar al-Bashir
- Amadinezhad and Bashir will discuss bilateral issues, with a special emphasis on deepening their economic ties.

Islamic Republic News Agency: State-owned, in English, Tehran, September 25th 2011

- Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyni warned Iranians at the Third Muslim Film Market that Western Media vilifies Islam
- He argued that Muslims have a duty to show “the true nature of the West, especially the U.S.”
- The “West” is repeatedly referred to as the “enemy.”