

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
JANUARY 10 – 16, 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

16 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1335 GMT, 16 January 2011)

- First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi proclaimed the Islamic Republic News Agency the mainstream media of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Addressing the media managers and officials of IRNA, Rahimi said that "you are in charge of a difficult job and you have managed to do well in achieving your goal by adhering to faith and sincerity."
- "The enemies of Iran and Islam are even present inside the country. They pretend that they are believer of Islam, but in fact they are enemy of the government and the supreme jurisprudence," he added. Rahimi said that they are sponsored by the main enemies of Islam and they do not want any trace of Islam to remain.

15 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in Persian 1451 GMT, 15 January 2011)

- A Kurdish political activist was hanged in Iran's West Azarbayjan Province on 15 January, the Human Rights News Agency of Iran (RAHANA) reported.
- Hoseyn Khezri was executed in Orumiyeh prison on the morning of 15 January. He was detained in Kermanshah Province on 1 August 2008 and then transferred to Orumiyeh prison.
- He was charged with propaganda against the Islamic system and collaboration with a party which opposed the system, RAHANA added.

14 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1734 GMT, 14 January 2011)

- Iranian lawmakers describe the upcoming round of multifaceted talks with world powers as the West's last chance, threatening to block further negotiations if they fail.
- The P5+1 must beware of the fact that the Iranian parliament will be closely monitoring the talks scheduled to be held in Istanbul, spokesman of the Majlis Presiding Board Mohsen Kuhkan told IRNA on Friday [14 January].
- "After years of Iranian honesty, many international, impartial experts now insist that the West, the US in particular, has to take into account the logical aspects of the issue and recognize Iran's activities," Kuhkan noted.
- "Western [countries], despite their past record, must display goodwill in the upcoming negotiations so that this issue can be put to rest," he urged.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran External Service, Mashhad in Dari 1330 GMT, 14 January 2011)

- The ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghanistan called on the Afghan government to bring to trial those involved in leading the protest against Iran to violence. The ambassador rejected reports of Iran halting fuel tankers travelling to Afghanistan and said secret hands are trying to harm friendly relations between Iran and Afghanistan.

- Fadahoseyn Malaki, Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan, asked Afghan government officials to identify and arrest the key elements involved in the recent protest, which led to violence and is considered an attack against Iran's embassy in Kabul.
- Hamidi: I urge both Afghans and Iranians to be vigilant and not to be influenced by the enemies' plot, which comes in different forms. You know that Iran and Afghanistan enjoy long-term relations. Officials from both countries are trying to boost these ties, and the Muslim people of Iran and Afghanistan have helped each other throughout their history, which goes back hundreds of years.

13 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1927 GMT, 13 January 2011)

- Iran's ambassador in Afghanistan asked senior Afghan officials to identify and arrest "the key elements" involved in what he said was an "invasion" against Iran's embassy in Kabul, IRNA reported on 13 January.
- According to IRNA, Iran's envoy added: "Meanwhile the Afghan officials asked Iran not to let Afghan immigrants in Iran face problems and not to stop fuel transit from Iran to Afghanistan simply because of the suspicious and spiteful act of a group against our embassy in Kabul."
- Maleki also said: "If the key elements of the suspicious act on Thursday are identified or arrested, the Islamic Republic of Iran might reconsider the fuel transit or certain other issues."

12 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1005 GMT, 12 January 2011)

- Vice President and Head of Iran's National Elites Foundation Nasrin Soltankhah confirmed that special teams will protect Iranian scientists against any attack.
- Soltankhah made the remarks while talking to reporters at the sidelines of the Wednesday [12 January] government session.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0530 GMT, 12 January 2011)

- The head of the Voice and Vision Organization [Radio and Television] sent a letter to the UN secretary-general, criticizing the discriminatory attitude towards satellite channels and unfair conditions for broadcasting in the international media community.
- Zarghami reminded Ban Ki-moon that although the Geneva declaration put an emphasis on the importance of morality, protection of family, respect for cultural diversity, prevention of violence and immoral films, this principle is not only not being observed, but is also being violated in numerous cases.
- He noted some obstacles standing in the way of society's access to free information and reminded Ban Ki-moon that in this situation and in violation of international legal agreements, the broadcasting of Iranian international channels like Al-Alam and Sahar is being halted by the Nilesat and Hotbird satellites, he said.

11 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0517 GMT, 12 January 2011)

- Mohammad-Reza Bahonar, a prominent conservative member of the Majlis, has said that the Expediency Council can take decisions that are not in line with the constitution and Shari'ah law, the Iranian pro-government Mehr news agency reported on 12 January.

- Bahonar, who is himself a member of the Expediency Council, told Mehr that the Council can "in special cases, on the basis of Article 112 of the constitution, give permission to act against the Shari'ah law and the constitution if this is expedient for the system [of the Islamic Republic of Iran]".
- To demonstrate his view, Bahonar gave an example of an issue discussed by the Expediency Council the day before on the use of foreign resources by governmental bodies

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1035 GMT, 11 January 2011)

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that Tehran will use "every single tool" to "condemn" and "punish" Israel for its role in the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mas'ud Ali Mohammadi.
- "We will seriously pursue the issue of the condemnation and punishment of this illegal regime [referring to Israel] as culprit in crimes committed against humanity and against the scholars of the great Iranian nation. We definitely will use every single tool in order to pursue the issue through legal ways and at the international organizations," Ramin Mehmanparast said at his weekly news conference in Tehran on 11 January broadcast live by the Iranian news channel IRINN.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0932 GMT, 11 January 2011)

- Iran is to start mass production of the third generation of Qased smart bombs soon, Fars news agency reported on 11 January.
- According to Fars, quoting General Mohammad Reza Kareshki, the deputy head of the Iranian air force's self-sufficiency jihad the smart and precision-guided Qased bombs, with 2,000-pound war heads are some of the world's "strongest" bombs. He added: "We were able to build these bombs during the last years of the war [Iran-Iraq war] and now that they have reached the mass production level we will have no restrictions in using them."

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in English 11 January 2011)

- Mohammad Darvishi, a nursing student at Shahr-e Kord Open University, was arrested by Shahr-e Kord intelligence office in August for his role in issuing the student announcement condemning the execution of Farzad Kamangar and four other political prisoners in May.
- Behzad Momeni Moqaddam, Darvishi's lawyer has told Zamaneh: "A few days after receiving the verdict of the preliminary court and before the period of appeal was over and while the verdict of the appellate court was not yet issued, my client was once more arrested and transferred to Khorramabad Prison."

10 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0808 GMT, 10 January 2011)

- Iran has approved a ten-year jail sentence for the 2009 post-election detainee, Emad Bahavar, ISNA reported on 10 January.
- In an interview with ISNA, Bahavar's lawyer, Farideh Gheytrat, said that the initial sentence passed by bench 15 of the Revolutionary court was approved by the appeals court.
- Gheytrat added that Bahavar had been charged with "assembly, conspiracy and propaganda against the system and membership in the [reformist] Freedom Movement of Iran."
- Gheytrat who is also the lawyer of the prominent filmmaker, Ja'far Panahi - who was arrested during the unrest that followed the 2009 presidential election - expressed hope that Panahi's 6-year jail term and 20-year ban from social activities would be changed by the appeals court.