

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
APRIL 11 – 17, 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

17 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1944 GMT, 16 April 2011)

- Iran's president alleged that "the deep unity between Iran and Lebanon has nullified the enemies' plots against the two nations."
- According to IRNA's report on Saturday [16 April] quoting information from the website of the presidential office, Mahmud Ahmadinezhad carried out a telephone conversation with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Birri.
- The president said that "despite all plots and conspiracies of the enemies, the bright future and victory belong to the independent nations."
- "Lebanon is faithfully and courageously looking forward to strengthening unity with the Iranian nation and it pursues this goal seriously."
- He added: "We believe that both nations are in the front of right and as Imam Husayn (peace be upon him) [the third Shi'i imam] has said right is victorious."

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1330 GMT, 16 April 2011)

- MP Hoseyn Ebrahimi called on the Foreign Ministry to draw up a list of the European and US officials who have violated human rights around the world and file lawsuits against them at the International Court of Justice.
- "The Islamic Republic of Iran should take reciprocal action and the Foreign Ministry should prepare a list of the European and US human rights violators and lodge complaints against them at the International Court of Justice in The Hague," Ebrahimi, the deputy head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, told the Mehr News Agency on Saturday.
- "Those who are killing people in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Bahrain, Tunisia, and Palestine are real violators of human rights in the world, not Iran which is only blamed for supporting the oppressed in the world," he said.

(Source: Iranian news website HRANA, in English 0448 GMT, 16 April 2011)

- Several activists who were arrested recently in Salmas County (West Azarbayjan Province of Iran) have been released on bail.
- According to a report by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), following the recent arrests in Salmas, the bail for Saleh Jahangiri and Mostafa Jahangiri was set at approximately 20,000 dollar each. Farzandeh Panirak's bail was about 40,000 dollars. The bail for Mohammad Atmani-Bahik and Amir Shahrvand-Tehrani was around 10,000 dollars apiece. Three members of the Christian community in Karaj, Saleh Jahangirzadeh, Hamid Najafi and his wife, Mahzr [as given] Najafi, were also released temporarily after each posted a 15,000 dollars bail.

15 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Esfahan Provincial TV, Esfahan, in Persian 1615 GMT, 15 April 2011)

- "Enemies intend to misrepresent Iran's image through propaganda and the media," said the governor-general [of Esfahan, Zaker Esfahani] in a meeting with eight Brazilian reporters.
- "During the years after the victory of the glorious Islamic Revolution we made efforts to turn all threats into opportunities."

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1532 GMT, 15 April 2011)

- Iranian Television's Network One (IRTV1) broadcast a recording of Tehran Friday prayer led by the secretary of Iran's Guardian Council, Ahmad Jannati, earlier in the day.
- He cautioned that "they [the seditionists] should think about who they are fighting. They should have thought about who they were fighting when they came to the streets, rioted and started fires here and there, killed people and destroyed things [public property]. On one side was leader of the world Muslims [Khamene'i] who is the successor of Imam Khomeyni who is the lord of the Age's [reference to the twelfth Shi'i imam] successor now that the fire has died down they should sit at home and think about what they did to themselves."
- During the second sermon, Jannati talked developments in the Middle East and North Africa, and alleged that "Americans and the West are struggling for no reason. The people have awoken and their awakening is an Islamic awakening. It's most clear manifestation is the Friday prayers. It is here where one realizes the miracle of the Friday prayer. On Fridays, people line up to perform Friday prayer. So they are showing that they are Muslims, desire Islam, won't accept oppression, dictators and non-Islamic ruling systems and will not give in to US oppression. This awakening has happened and they [the US and West] are struggling for no reason. They can't suppress it. The people have come to the streets. They are not political parties, individuals or politicians. They are the masses."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0534 GMT, 15 April 2011)

- The deputy first vice-president for supervision and coordination of economic policies confirmed that: "the first halal internet network that has been removed from immoral websites will be launched in Iran for the first time."
- Ali Aqamohammadi said that the preparatory measures for launching the network have been completed and that they "can expand the halal network and connect it to other Islamic and neighboring countries."
- He referred to the registration of 'Iranian Net' Consortium and said: "The consortium is due to be active in expanding fibre-optic network and once this is achieved, we will have an increase in the internet speed in the country."

14 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0830 GMT, 14 April 2011)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad alleged that enemies are pursuing the divide and rule policy in the region by raising anti-Iran and anti-Shi'i propaganda.
- The President added that one of the major objectives of the enemies in the Middle East was to divide regional states into different sections in order to easily rule them. He added that while the enemies were "encouraging the Muslims to kill their own brothers, they prevent them from taking into consideration the crimes being systematically committed by the Zionist regime against Palestinian Muslims." President Ahmadinezhad stressed the need for vigilance of regional states against the enemies' plots.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0515 GMT, 14 April 2011)

- Head of Iran's Assembly of Experts Ayatollah Mohammad-Reza Mahdavi Kani warned Arab nations to be wary of US and its allies' plans to take control of their recent Islamic movements.
- "The foreigners, especially the US and the Zionist regime (Israel), are trying to usurp these movements and distort their reality," ISNA quoted Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani as saying at the Assembly's board meeting on Wednesday [13 April].

(Source: Keyhan website, Tehran, in Persian 14 April 2011, p 3)

Text of report headlined "Sudden change of managing-editor and board members in Iran [newspaper] organization" published by Iranian newspaper Keyhan on 14 April.

- The board members and the managing-editor of Iran newspaper were replaced in a sudden move.
- The SMS Information Centre of Government's Information Council (PAD) [as published] sent a message to its subscribers on Wednesday morning [13 April] to confirm that Ali Akbar Javanfekr has been appointed as the head of Iran Organization. Few hours later, Kaveh Eshtehardi, the managing-editor of Iran newspaper and executive director of Iran Organization, told Mehr News Agency that he was unaware of his dismissal. He said that he had learned about it via a text message [SMS].
- Kaveh Eshtehardi, in reaction to the news about his own dismissal and appointment of Javanfekr as the head of Iran Organization, said: "I have nothing special to say in this regard. If you ask Mr Javanfekr, he might provide more explanations regarding this decision."

13 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0633 GMT, 13 April 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad accused the West and Israel of trying to partition Jordan and hand over its territories to a new Palestinian state.
- "I said it in Kermanshah as well. The plan is to confuse everyone and then say - very well, two states. Two states where? They want to hand over the occupied territories to the Zionists and then cut part of Jordan and hand it over to the Palestinians," Ahmadinezhad said at a rally in Zahedan, the capital of the Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan.
- "Today, they want to divide Jordan on the pretext that the territory of Palestine is occupied. That's to say they always commit a crime and make the nations of our region pay for this crime," he said.

EXTERNAL MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty website, Washington DC, in English 13 April 2011)

- Prominent Iranian journalist and human rights activist Zhila Baniyaghoub is facing a new criminal charge based on statements written on her blog, RFE/RL's Radio Farda reports.
- Baniyaghoub's trial at a still unspecified date will be her fourth since Iran's controversial June 2009 presidential election.
- Baniyaghoub was arrested in June 2009 during the post-election crackdown along with her husband, fellow journalist Bahman Amouee. She was released on bail after two months in detention.
- More than 2,000 journalists, activists, students, and others were jailed in the crackdown that followed the disputed June 2009 reelection of Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad.

12 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1007 GMT, 12 April 2011)

- Seyyed Sowlat-Mortazavi, the Interior Ministry's deputy head of political affairs rejected reports on Majlis elections to be held on 2 March 2012, Fars news agency reported on 12 April.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0940 GMT, 12 April 2011)

- According to Fars news agency, students, lecturers and employees of Tehran University have started a protest against "murder of Bahrain people by Al-Sa'ud and Al-Khalifa" at the university on 12 April afternoon.
- Fars said the protesters were chanting slogans of "death to the USA", "death to Israel", and "death to Al-Sa'ud" while carrying Palestine, Bahrain, Egypt and Tunisia's flags.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0535 GMT, 12 April 2011)

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman called on Western states to "stop providing shelter to terrorists".
- Ramin Mehmanparast cautioned that "we expect all international organizations, assemblies, and all countries claiming [that they defend] human rights to take measures to condemn terrorist acts, without applying double standards, and [we expect them] to stop providing shelter to terrorists."
- Mehmanparast concluded: "We expect the European Union to take measures to correct its approach towards terrorist groups,"

11 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1530 GMT, 11 April 2011)

On Monday, the merchants of the Tehran Bazaar closed their shops for several hours and staged a demonstration to condemn the bloody massacres of protesters in Bahrain, Libya, and Yemen. Following is an excerpt of the statement which was read out at the end of the demonstration:

- We call on human rights organizations and the international media to exert pressure on Bahraini officials and military forces to stop the violation of the legitimate rights of the people in this country and express their support for the oppressed people of this state.