

**IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**  
**14 – 20 FEBRUARY 2011**  
**STACY TOPOUZOVA**

**20 FEBRUARY 2011**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1301 GMT, 20 February 2011)*

- According to a report by Fars news agency, police and security forces are on standby to confront with protestors in case of any clashes.
- Fars wrote: "Following the orders by agents of sedition and anti-revolution groups to carry out terrorist acts and kill, the Law Enforcement and Security forces are on standby and fully prepared to confront any sedition and clear the atmosphere in case of any clash or disorder. The Law Enforcement Forces have total control over the situation by their visible and undercover presence and so far there has been no report of any incidents."

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0508 GMT, 20 February 2011)*

- Fars news agency in a report on 20 February reported that the opposition groups are aiming to use arms against the civilians and kill many people.
- Fars said: "After the failure of the scenario orchestrated by America and Israel to create disorder last week, and following the call by the seditionists residing abroad, the terrorist group, Monafqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], is intending to use arms against the Islamic system today."

**19 FEBRUARY 2011**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2055 GMT, 19 February 2011)*

- In a meeting with participants of the 24th International Conference of Islamic Unity in Tehran on Saturday [19 February] evening, President Ahmadinezhad said that world arrogant powers are at their end, and that they are the biggest obstacle against human perfection and establishment of justice and monotheism in the world.
- He reminded that the world is on the verge of a big development, adding that a large amount of energy which has been reserved in nations is for achieving justice and human magnanimity.
- "God willing, in a near future we will witness a world free of Zionists and hegemonic powers," the president concluded.

**PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 19 February 2011)*

- Green Voice of Movement: A "reliable source" has told the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran that more than 200 people were arrested in the eastern

city of Mashhad following opposition protests on 14 February, many of whom were later released.

- According to the source, between 200 and 300 people were violently arrested near the Rahnama'i three-way crossing and the city's Mellat Park.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 19 February 2011)*

- "Using tall iron walls, they are turning the house of Musavi and Rahnavard into a prison." According to the official website of Green Movement Mirhoseyn Musavi Kaleme.com, this is how "employees of the Office of the President as well as doctors and patients at the [nearby] Shahid Shurideh Hospital who were close to the Akhtari alley" are describing the latest developments outside the residence of the former prime minister.
- "A group of honorable employees at the Office of the President have contacted Kalemeh and informed us that at the moment, [security] agents are briskly erecting a tall metallic wall at the entrance of Musavi's home."
- Following the huge turn-out during Green Movement protests on 14 February, Musavi and Rahnavard were placed under full house arrest.

#### **18 FEBRUARY 2011**

##### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 18 February 2011)*

- [Reporter] In today's Friday sermons, Ayatollah Jannati referred to the 25 Bahman sedition [protests] and addressing the seditionists said: You have no place among the nation.
- [Jannati] I would like to say to these seditionists: Your time has expired. Those who say the seditionists should be executed, should bear in mind that they [reformist leaders] are already executed. They have fallen in the society and lost credibility and dignity.

#### **17 FEBRUARY 2011**

##### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 2023 GMT, 17 February 2011)*

- A pro-government rally in Iran's East Azarbayjan Province called for the execution of opposition leaders Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi, Fars news agency has reported.
- Protesters "from all walks of life" marched towards the main square in the provincial capital Tabriz after Friday prayers on 18 February, chanting anti-opposition slogans, the agency said.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1009 GMT, 18 February 2011)*

- A large group of Shi'i and Sunni scholars in Iran has issued a statement condemning the opposition and urging the country's judiciary to take action against "secessionists", the Iranian official news agency IRNA reported on 17 February.
- "The actions of some agents of secession and illegal gatherings are doomed and the calculations of its agents are separate from the great nation of Iran," IRNA quoted the statement adopted at the 22nd scientific-research conference on Islamic denominations.

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0755 GMT, 17 February 2011)*

- Mohammad Hoseyn Khoshvaght and Gholamali Dehghan, managing editors of the news-analysis websites of "Fararu" and "Aftab" were released this morning. The two individuals were arrested on 25 Bahman [14 February].
- According to Tabnak, a report was published in these two websites indicating that "the licence for Green Movement demonstrations was approved by the mediation of Turkish president" and accordingly the managing editors of the two websites of "Fararu" and "Aftabnews" as well as their technical managers were arrested.

*(Source: Iran, Tehran, in Persian 17 February 2011)*

- A funeral procession will be arranged in Paveh township in Iran's Kermanshah Province on 17 February for the student killed in Tehran opposition protests on 14 February, Iran's Channel One TV reported.

*(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 17 February 2011)*

*Direct Excerpts:*

- Most statesmen deny [political] parties and believe that there is no need of their existence in the country. They even consider their lack of attachment to any political party a source of pride.
- While the reformist parties have also suffered in silence and have been sometimes compelled to just be witnesses of the country's political events and changes, the Rule of the People Party, just like previous years, is holding its annual congress today so that the torch of reforms, despite the wishes of some opponents, remains lit and that they should know that reforms will remain alive.
- The country's political setting is such that some opponents of reforms imagine that there is no place for active participation of [political] parties in the society. Even the principlists, who believe in political parties, think that the era of reform is over and that it is the turn for principlist groups to compete among themselves to start a new chapter in political and electoral competitions.

## **16 FEBRUARY 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1116 GMT, 16 February 2011)*

- The Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamene'i has called the rulers of Egypt "a bunch of traitors" dependent on the USA and Israel. Speaking to the people of West Azarbayjan Province where a recording of his comments were broadcast by the state radio, he said:
- "Take, Egypt which is an ancient nation with a deep civilisation and culture with good youngsters, this very nation was turned into a dependency by a bunch of mercenary traitors to America. They had joined it to the Zionist enemy and people

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 16 February 2011)*

- On the fringes of a meeting between the commanders of the police's Criminal Investigation Department, the country's prosecutor-general [Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i] said that the seditionists [reference to Iranian opposition leaders] will be tried soon and punished for their criminal acts.
- [Mohseni-Ezhe'i - recording]: Once again, some people inside and outside the country joined the ranks of the country's sworn enemies and committed a crime. They should definitely be brought to justice. The main perpetrators, who invited the people to come to the streets to create unrest, insecurity and set public or private property on fire, can not be forgiven.

## **15 FEBRUARY 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1826 GMT, 15 February 2011)*

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that the anti-government demonstration in Tehran on 14 February was orchestrated by "the enemies" and aimed to tarnish the earlier revolution anniversary rallies on 11 February.
- "It is clear that the Iranian nation has enemies. A nation that wants to shine, conquer peaks and change international relations has enemies." Ahmadinezhad said "ill-wishers" did not like the people taking part in the revolution anniversary rallies and the anti-government demonstrators attempted to overshadow them, but "they failed".

*(Source: Reporters Sans Frontieres press release, Paris, in English 15 February 2011)*

- The authorities have increased censorship in a bid to prevent yesterday's anti-government protests, blocking independent or pro-opposition websites and other electronic media. Broadband speed has greatly slowed in major cities as in the run-up to previous anti-regime demonstrations or opposition events.
- Mobile phone and text-message traffic has been badly disrupted and the Persian calendar month "bahman" has been added to blocked keywords in an effort to reduce calls for today's protests (14 February is 25 Bahman).

## **14 FEBRUARY 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1632 GMT, 14 February 2011)*

- "In the unlawful gathering of the agents of sedition, monarchists and thugs in certain streets of Tehran which was held under the pretext of supporting the people of Egypt and Tunisia, no slogan in support of the people of Egypt and Tunisia was chanted."
- Calling the reformist leaders Karrubi and Musavi, agents in the hands of The British and American governments, the semi-official website added: "The internet sites linked to the American and British governments have invited their puppets, Musavi and Karrubi, a few weeks ago to ask the seditionists to take to streets at 1500 [1130 gmt] today under the pretext of supporting the people of Egypt and Tunisia, but this time like the previous times they were unsuccessful."

#### **PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 14 February 2011)*

- Ali Bagheri, a member of the central council of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization has been arrested.
- Bagheri, who held various Interior Ministry positions during the presidency of former president Mohammad Khatami, was summoned to the Intelligence Ministry today [14 February] where he was interrogated for two hours.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 14 February 2011)*

- In an attempt to prevent protesters from reaching the sites of pro-opposition protests, some of the capital's metro stations located in the centre of the city have been shut down.
- Tehran metro officials have closed down the metro stops leading to Tehran's centre, in an effort to prevent demonstrators from reaching the protest route between Imam Hoseyn and Azadi Square.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 14 February 2011)*

- Former head of the Islamic Republic New Agency [IRNA], Abdollah Naseri has been arrested.
- Naseri is also a member of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization, one of Iran's most prominent reformist parties.
- The arrest of Naseri is part of a wider campaign by the authorities to tighten the grip on dissidents and activists ahead of planned pro-opposition rallies on Monday [14 February].