

**IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**  
**16 – 22 MAY 2011**  
**STACY TOPOUZOVA**

**22 MAY 2011**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Iranian news website Radio Zamaneh, in English 1916 GMT, 22 May 2011)*

- Former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami marked Iranian Women's Day [22 May] by calling for the release of all political prisoners. The Kaleme opposition website quoted the former president proposing that all women political prisoners be set free as a step toward "an end to all arrests and incarcerations and the establishment of all fundamental and civil liberties".
- He added that military and police forces must be kept out of elections, and candidates' scrutinizers must be present during every step of the vote count. Khatami recently called for reconciliation between Iran's establishment and its people, calling for both sides to forgive each other for the sake of the country's future.
- The government crushed the protests and refused to accept allegations that the vote was rigged. Over the past two years, numerous reformists as well as student, human rights and political activists have been arrested and sentenced to harsh prison terms in connection with the 2009 protests, which the establishment has come to refer to as "sedition."
- In the meantime, a group of senior clergy members has once more called for the release of the two opposition leaders Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi, who challenged the victory of Mahmud Ahmadinezhad in 2009 and have been under house arrest since February for rallying people to march in support of recent Arab uprisings.
- "By insisting on the use of force when confronting protests and government critics of the government, and by fostering an atmosphere of insults and accusations through the media and the public sphere, the country is being pushed toward extremism by those who wish it ill."
- Iranian opposition leaders have been held under house arrest and cut off from the outside world since February, even though no official charges have been brought against them.

*(Source: Iranian news website HRANA, in English 1749 GMT, 22 May 2011)*

- Iran's Intelligence Agency raided the houses of at least 15 Baha'i citizens, detained some of them, and seized their personal properties.
- According to a report by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), the majority of those detained are students attending a provisional university established for Baha'i citizens who are denied the opportunity to study at Iran's higher education institutes.
- The names of nine detainees are as follows: Kamran Morteza'I, Vahid Mokhtari, Mahmud Badavam, Aminollah Mostaqim, Favod Moqaddam, Shahin Negari, Afruz Farmanbardari, Soheyl Fanbari. Ramin Ziba'i
- Additionally, Mehran Behmardi and Mr [Amin] Tale'i have been summoned to report to the Intelligence Agency in Shiraz by Tuesday 24 May 2011.

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1706 GMT, 22 May 2011)*

- Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution criticized the West for its lack of respect for women's rights and for "humiliating, and "degrading" women.
- In his meeting with female intellectuals and academics on 22 May, on the occasion of women's day in Iran, the supreme leader said: "They [Westerners] are the ones who are being cruel towards women, humiliating women and degrading women. In the name of freedom, employment and giving responsibilities they impose mental, psychological and emotional pressure on them [women], and insult their personalities. They are the ones who should be questioned."
- Talking about domestic violence against women in the West, Khamene'i said: "Western families' domestic situation with regards to violating women's rights and victimizing them is definitely worse than Islamic, Iranian and Asian families. It is not better if not worse."

*(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0549 GMT, 22 May 2011)*

- Iran's minister of culture and Islamic guidance appointed Pedram Pak-A'in as the head of domestic press and news agencies, the Iranian Labour News Agency reported on 22 May.
- According to Fars, Culture Minister Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyni in a decree appointed Pedram Pak-A'in as the director-general of domestic press and news agencies and thanked his predecessor Seyyed Ehsan Qazizadeh for his services.
- The report said: "Pak-A'in is a journalist and educated in law, who has previously served as the head of the presidential office's press group, member of Iran newspaper's council of chief editors, chief editor of the Ketab-e Hafteh [this week's book] publication and caretaker of the Ketab (Ibna) news agency.
- "Pak-A'in's track record also includes managing the culture and literature group of the Farhang radio network as well as various positions at the Jam-e Jam and Abrar newspapers.
- "He has also been responsible for organizing several festivals including the Qalam Zarrin [Golden Pen] festival, has taken part at the Press and Book of the Year Festival as a member of the panel, and received awards such as the Khademan-e Ketab [servants of literature] and Adabiyat Ashura'i [Ashura literature]."

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

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 22 May 2011)*

- An appeals court has approved a five-year jail term for Yaser Ma'sumi, a technical expert for a number of reformist publications, according to opposition websites.
- The Pro-Green Movement website Jaras has reported that a five-year prison sentence has been approved for Ma'sumi by an appeals court. The initial ruling was based on charges of "propagation" as well as "assembly and collusion" against the Islamic Republic.
- Yaser Ma'sumi has worked for a number of reformist newspapers such as Sharq, Sarmayeh and Bahar.

## **21 MAY 2011**

*(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1410 GMT, 21 May 2011)*

- Iranian Intelligence Minister Heydar Moslehi has not confirmed news reports claiming that Mas'ud Rajavi, the ringleader of the [opposition group] terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization, has been killed.
- "We have not yet come to the conclusion that he has been killed," Moslehi told reporters in Tehran on Saturday [21 May].

*(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1340 GMT, 21 May 2011)*

- MP Kazem Jalali of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said that the United States should be held accountable for supporting regional dictators for decades and trying to help them return to power.
- "The Islamic movements in the region are the nations' natural reaction to the US oppressive approach towards them over the past decades and show the intensity of their hatred towards the US policies," he explained.
- "The Islamic awakening was inspired by the Islamic Revolution in 1979, and the lawbreakers' riots and seditious efforts (after the [2009] presidential election) had nothing to do with the revolutions in the region," he said.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1206 GMT, 21 May 2011)*

- Confronting "deviant" groups inside the country is on the agenda of the Intelligence Ministry, Iranian Intelligence Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Heydar Moslehi has said, Fars news agency reported on 21 May.
- The minister who was speaking to reporters on 21 May, said: "One of the most important duties of the Intelligence Ministry is to confront active deviant currents that are known as deviant groups inside the country."
- Conservatives allege that Ahmadinezhad is surrounded by "deviants" in his inner circle, including his controversial chief of staff, Esfandiar Rahim-Masha'i, who is accused of undermining the central role of Shi'i clerics in Iranian politics by touting the nationalist strain of Iranian history and culture.

## **19 MAY 2011**

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1350 GMT, 19 May 2011)*

- Chairman of Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Ala'eddin Borujerdi said on Thursday [19 May] that the Iranian Majlis is to lodge lawsuit against American officials responsible for violation of human rights in that country.
- The Islamic Revolution in the past two decades has successfully demonstrated its capabilities and its great success in various fields. Majlis National Security Commission is now preparing a bill to lodge a lawsuit against US officials who have violated human rights in a bid to introduce them to the world.
- On regional developments, he said it is a reality that wave of Islamic awareness has engulfed the entire region as seen in the revolutionary movements in Egypt, something which would change global equations to the benefit of Islamic Ummah, he said.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran fully backs the Syrian government in its struggles with the Zionist regime. The US seeks to expand civil war in Libya by fanning the flames of sectarian violence in the country, he said. On current development in Bahrain, he said the world is now witnessing a crime being committed against humanity in Bahrain.

**17 MAY 2011**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1732 GMT, 17 May 2011)*

- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene' delivered a speech at the second conference on "Strategic Thoughts" held in Tehran on 17 May, a recording of which was broadcast by state-run Iranian TV channel one (IRTV1) on the same day. He called for maximizing prevalence of justice in the society, and said despite the massive efforts made to prevail justice in the Iranian society after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the country still has a long way to go.

*(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1337 GMT, 17 May 2011)*

- Taqi Rahmani's lawyer confirmed that his client has returned to Evin Prison.
- Speaking to the legal affairs correspondent of Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) on Tuesday morning [17 May], Mohammad Sharif said that his client had been freed on surety.
- On Tuesday afternoon, he confirmed that Taqi Rahmani had returned to Evin Prison and he told ISNA.