

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
JANUARY 17 – 23, 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

23 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0434 GMT, 23 January 2011)

- The mother of an Iranian scientist held in a US prison said that her son has been subjected to several incidents of physical abuse.
- Physicist Amir Hushang Sanjari was found guilty of failing to support his children following his divorce 10 years ago and has been in jail for two years.
- Fatemeh Naqipur told Press TV that she received a call from her son on 4 January, and the news was that her son was physically abused in jail, making life miserable for him.
- "He said I don't want to upset you, but I was beaten so badly that they took me to the hospital unconsciously," Naqipur said.

20 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1042 GMT, 20 January 2011)

- Istanbul negotiations will be held tomorrow though there is no sign of the commitment of the western members of the 5+1 group to the Geneva-3 agreements.
- The new threats by Obama and Clinton against Iran and China in the visit by the Chinese president to Washington show the continuation of the White House's pressure policy.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0750 GMT, 20 January 2011)

- Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Khaza'i outlined Iran's views on a number of the Middle East issues including situation in Lebanon and Palestine in the United Nations Security Council meeting on Wednesday.
- Talking to IRNA, Khaza'i underlined that the majority of the member states taking part in the Security Council meeting were strongly apposed to the catastrophic situation in Palestine and the ongoing settlement projects by the Zionist regime.
- He said a draft resolution, signed by 120 countries including the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Conference was also prepared which stresses the need for restoring the right of the Palestinian nation and stopping of the settlement activities.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0530 GMT, 20 January 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad praised the role of war veterans and their families in resisting the West.
- Speaking at a meeting with war veterans and their families in Yazd Province on 19 January, Ahmadinezhad said that "although more than 21 years have passed since the Iran-Iraq war, the families of war veterans and martyrs are standing up to you in an even more revolutionary, resistant and self-sacrificing manner", Iran's state news channel (IRINN) said.

- "The enemies of the Iranian nation are not afraid of the atomic bomb and our weapons, they are afraid of our spirit of self-sacrifice and faith," IRINN quoted him as saying. He added that self-sacrifice and martyrdom were God's gift to special people.

19 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0818 GMT, 19 January 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that the Lebanese people are capable of determining their own faith and called for the Lebanese nation to be allowed to resolve its own problems.
- Addressing residents of the city of Yazd during the Iranian cabinet's 84th provincial visit to Yazd Province, the president said: "The Zionist regime is trying to harm Lebanon. The Lebanese nation's steadfastness and resistance has destroyed the criminal Zionists' awe. They are trying to hatch plots I would like to give a peace of advice to both the Lebanese people and others. The dear Lebanese people must know that they are going through an important juncture. The hands of sedition have emerged to undermine the Lebanese nation's solidarity, security and dignity. The usurpers and colonialists have mobilized themselves..."

(Source: Jam-e Jam website, Tehran, in Persian 19 January 2011)

Text of commentary headlined "End of government by a person who heard the voice of the people too late; probe of Tunisian popular movement that toppled Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's government" published by Iranian newspaper Jaam-e Jam on 19 January

- The beginning of the public's anger went back to the self-immolation of an educated youth; this incident was followed by a relentless wave of protests.
- In the last moments in office, Ben Ali tried in every way to prevent the fall of this government but was unable to do so and his deceptive facade of promises made the people even angrier.
- Islamic groups say they did everything to be able to become a lawful political party but Ben Ali repeatedly prevented them from being present in political affairs and this created conditions for severe and bloody clashes between them and the government.
- In this period, more than 10,000 people from Islamic political parties were arrested and imprisoned. Like many oppressive regimes, the Ben Ali government became paranoid. Every criticism of the government was seen as instigation by the Islamic groups.
- The access of newspapers to paper was quite limited or they were closed down because of crossing government's red lines. A merchant could not get a business license or work permit because of insufficient loyalty to the president of the republic.
- Some of the instruments of suppression were also violent and harsh. The military and the police became the nation's principal powers, who served directly under the president of the republic's control. On the other hand, the army was professional but weak and this is a fact that undoubtedly affects this nation's political future.
- The application of pressure against the Islamic political parties in the 90s, their expulsion from the country and the prohibition on the creation of a specific political party, along with

many other things, caused the Tunisians to lose patience with Ben Ali's quest for power and despotism.

- Opposition human rights' activists and journalists protested with louder voices and the government resisted even more harshly. Police beatings of people, violent arrests and torture had lately become commonplace.
- Tunisian opposition parties are small organizations with little popular backing and little government experience or coalition activity. Moreover, they did not play an important role in the formation of the recent marches and demonstrations that could give them a new chance.

(Source: Jomhuri-ye Eslami website, Tehran, in Persian 19 January 2011)

Text of unattributed report headlined "Majlis Education Committee spokesperson: Consultations between Majlis and Cultural Revolution Council for changing education system of [Ministry of] Education " published by Iranian newspaper Jomhuri-ye Eslami on 19 January

- The spokesperson of the Education and Research Committee of the Majlis [parliament], pointing to the Majlis deputies' plan for changing the education system, said that: "In the recent meeting of the Education Committee, it was decided that the Majlis presidium would informally hold consultations with the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution on this matter, and inform this committee of the results."
- Nurollah Heydari, in an interview with Tavana, pointed to the results of the recent meeting of the Majlis Education and Research Committee, and noted: "With regards to the 'Plan To Reform the Education System,' which was brought up in the committee, finally, after several weeks of discussions, it was decided that the Education and Research Committee would prepare a report on this topic and present it to the Majlis presidium."

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in English 19 January 2011)

- Judge Salavati, the presiding judge of the 15th branch of the Revolutionary Court, has sentenced Arabgol to six years in prison.
- He has been sentenced to six years in prison for assembly and collusion and one year in prison for rebellion which adds up to six years of imprisonment.
- He had been imprisoned for six months, 50 days of which were spent in solitary confinement. He is a construction worker and has two children who are 2.5 and five years old

18 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1625 GMT, 18 January 2011)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said on Tuesday, 18 January that the main problem of the human society today is the way a few governments manage the world.
- President Ahmadinezhad made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Uruguayan Parliament Speaker Ivonne Pasada. "The era in the global management characterized by monopoly and expansionism has come to an end," the president said.
- Ahmadinezhad noted that adhering to principles such as justice, freedom and mutual respect can bring nations closer to one another. "Iran and Uruguay can step towards further

boosting of ties by knowing each other and relying on their commonalities," he added.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1500 GMT, 18 January 2011)

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani called on the leaders of Islamic countries to fully back the people of Tunisia.
- Speaking to reporters prior to leaving Tehran for Abu Dhabi, he said recent developments in Tunisia indicated that people were dissatisfied with dictatorship as well as political pressures in the country.
- Under the current sensitive circumstances the world is now witnessing various events and the meeting is to study them, he said. The US and the Zionist regime could not tolerate the security and tranquility provided by Lebanese resistance groups and thus there are trying to disrupt the calm through a childish plot but to no avail, Larijani said.
- They will pay for their misdeeds, he said, adding that the leaders of Lebanese resistance groups are broad minded and vigilant and will show that are able to handle the situation with success.
- Referring to recent developments in Tunisia, he said the people in the country are now crying out against dictatorship and world Muslims should hear them. Ignoring the issue would not help resolve any problem, Larijani said.
- The issue of Palestine is to be discussed in the upcoming meeting in Abu Dhabi, he said adding that the US president has only spoken about Palestine and actually backed the Zionist regime. He expressed the hope that the Islamic countries would take timely action to solve problems facing the world of Islam.

17 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in Persian 2031 GMT, 17 January 2011)

- A member of the pro-reform Islamic Iran Participation Front has been detained, the Human Rights News Agency of Iran (RAHANA) reported on 17 January.
- Student activist Puria Musavi, who heads the public relations department of A'in magazine, was detained by security officers at his father's flat on 17 January, the report said. Musavi is also a member of Mirhoseyn Musavi's headquarters, RAHANA added.
- It is not known yet where Puria Musavi is being held, the report said.

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in English 17 January 2011)

- The appeals court has sentenced four [Mirhoseyn] Musavi Campaign student activists to prison and payment of fine.
- The appeals court of the Province of Golestan has issued its decision on the prison sentence of four student activists.
- Mobin Mirarab has received a two-year prison sentence and Alireza Rahnama'i and Hoseyn Matlubi have each received a four-month prison term. They have also been fined. Moreover, Saman Bozorgi has been sentenced to 91 days in prison.
- They had previously been detained for 10 days and have been convicted of acting against national security and anti-regime propaganda.