

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
APRIL 18-24, 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

24 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1652 GMT, 24 April 2011)

- The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i, cautioned Iranian officials and media outlets against "disseminating information that would provide the enemies with pretexts to create a commotion about the country". The Leader made the remarks in reference to "the commotion created by certain media outlets about Iranian Intelligence Minister Heydar Moslehi's resignation", which was accepted by President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad but was rejected by the Leader.
- The Leader said that Iranian officials, the intelligentsia, and media outlets should not speak in a way or write something that would undermine peace in the country and create discord, since that would not be in the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran at this juncture.

23 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: The official website of Iran's leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, in Persian 0934 GMT, 23 April 2011)

- Following the incomplete report, numbered 30351618 by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) at 12:14 [0744 gmt] on the Supreme Leader's [Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i] address to the people of Shiraz, the Public Relations Department of the Supreme Leader's Office expressed regret and considered IRNA's act irresponsible. The department called on all agencies and websites not to use the above mentioned report under any circumstances.
- The complete report on the meeting will be as usual made available to news agencies and news websites by the Public Relations Department.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0820 GMT, 23 April 2011)

- Director of the Foreign Ministry department for Iranian expatriates affairs Hamid Reza Shakeri-Niasar alleged that under the Geneva Convention, Shahrzad Mirqolikhan, an Iranian national incarcerated in the United States, had been denied the right to consular access.
- He pointed out that "staff members of the Iranian Interests Section in Washington have called for a meeting with Mirqolikhan several times, but the US government has refused to allow such a meeting, indicating the United States' blatant violation of human rights."

22 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0709 GMT, 22 April 2011)

- An Iranian official has said that Esfandiyar Rahim-Masha'i will succeed Mahmud Ahmadinezhad, if the former decides to run president next two years.
- "In my view, if Ahmadinezhad supports Mr Masha'i as a candidate, he will be definitely Iran's next president," Abbas Amirifar, the head of the Cultural Council of the Presidential Office, said in an interview with Fars News Agency on 22 April.
- "Masha'i is backed by Ahmadinezhad and the main reason behind the insult and opposition of the Amirifar, who is also the chief of the Pro-Leader Preachers Society (PLPS), referred to the importance of the March 2012 Majlis elections for pro-Masha'i groups and said: "This issue is

absolutely important. If the ninth Majlis [next parliament] supports the government, the 10th president will be the one who is advocated by Ahmadinezhad."

- He added: "The government, i.e. the president and his friends including Mr Masha'i, have a comprehensive plan for the next elections and they will definitely defeat the Principle-ist current in the elections."

21 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0430 GMT, 21 April 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad praised the determination of the Iranian people to continue their path of resistance and self-sacrifice, saying that self-sacrificing people have become "an eternal example to humanity", Iran's state news channel (IRINN) has reported.
- "If nations resist today and stand up to aggression and plundering by the arrogant ones [referring to the West], this is because they have learnt a lesson from the school of self-sacrifice".

20 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0944 GMT, 20 April 2011)

- Ayatollah Amoli-Larijani stressed that the move by the Iraqi government against the Monafeqin [MKO] terrorist group was a late but appropriate move which will result in the continuation of good neighborly relation between the two countries.
- [Larijani] "We would like to thank the Iraqi government and army for finally expelling the Monafeqin from Iraq, although late. Expelling the Monafeqin from Iraq has always been Iran's minimum wish but we expect that the Monafeqin will be put on trial for killing the pure youths of country and martyring our distinguished figures and be punished justly."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0658 GMT, 20 April 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad accused the US and Israel of violating the rights of regional states while addressing a rally in Sanandaj, capital of the Iranian province of Kordestan on 20 April.
- "In recent years, the nations of the region have understood that their main enemies are America and the Zionist regime. Committing fraud, they want to violate the rights of the nations of the region to administer justice, their right to have honor and their right to self-determination. They want to undermine nations' will to fight against criminal America and the Zionist regime," the president said in the speech, broadcast live by Iran's state news network IRINN and the provincial Kordestan TV.

19 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1930 GMT, 19 April 2011)

- Iran's state radio reported that some members of the opposition group, Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) fled the Ashraf camp in Iraq and appeared in a press conference where they reported on "the deplorable situation in the Ashraf camp"
- The Iranian radio's correspondent in Iraq said that these members "succeeded to escape the camp" to appear in front of the cameras of the Iraqi and foreign reporters who were deployed in Iraq and they "revealed the real face of the grouplet".

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1835 GMT, 19 April 2011)

- Deputy Foreign Minister in American Affairs described calamities happening in Bahrain 'painful' and criticized silence of countries which assert to defend human rights, especially the US.
- According to the report of Foreign Ministry Media Department on Tuesday [19 April], Behruz Kamalvandi in a meeting with a group of Brazilian journalists in Tehran underlined that human rights is being violated severely. He continued that the way western countries deal with developments in the Arab countries of the Middle East shows their dual standard in facing similar development.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1430 GMT, 19 April 2011)

- A Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) official has voiced opposition against imposing a ban on British publishers in retaliation for Britain's refusal to issue visas for several Iranian publishers who planned to participate in the London Book Fair.
- "Taking such an action is a self-sanction," TIBF international section director Mohammad Reza Vasfi told the Persian service of the Fars News Agency on Tuesday [19 April].

(Source: Iranian newspaper Javan, in Persian 19 April 2011, p 2)

Text of report headlined "Spokesman of Majlis's Islamic Revolution faction: Reviewing changing Ministry of Intelligence into agency in Majlis", published by Iranian newspaper Javan on 19 April

- Spokesman of the Majlis Islamic Revolution faction stressed that "biased changes and developments with regard to the officials of the Ministry of Intelligence can bring about grave consequences for the system [of the Islamic Republic of Iran]. "
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hamid Rasa'i told Fars [news agency] that: "In view of the importance of the Ministry of Intelligence and its influence on all domestic and foreign affairs, the changes and developments related to the authorities of the Ministry of Intelligence at this sensitive juncture is of great significance".
- He noted that on these grounds, his faction examined the issue of change of the minister of intelligence and reached the conclusion that the change of the minister of intelligence at this point can result in grave consequences for the whole system and therefore, prominent members of the faction held consultations to ensure the stability of the existing situation.
- Representative of Tehran and the spokesman of the Islamic Revolution faction of the Majlis said: "The president should be guided by insight and patience in running the country's affairs and should refrain from any hasty action, especially regarding the significant and influential Intelligence Ministry".
- He mentioned: "Ahmadinezhad should definitely follow the commanding order of the Supreme Leader on no change of [Intelligence Minister] Mr Moslehi and we hope that he will not make the public opinion recall the bitter memories of Masha'i's first vice-presidency".