

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1140 GMT, 27 June 2011)

- Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i said on Monday [27 June] that media are not allowed to publicize charges against individuals before being convicted.
- The Supreme Leader made the remarks in a meeting with senior judiciary officials. He said that the charges being brought against individuals does not necessary mean the occurrence of an offence and it requires proceedings by judiciary officials. The Supreme Leader said that prestige of the individuals must be respected and that defendants may be cleared of the charges by the court of justice. Elsewhere in his address, the Supreme Leader said that public trust in the Islamic Republic requires respecting prestige of chiefs of the three branches of government -- the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary.
- Ayatollah Khamene'i said that it is illogical to cast doubt on the reports being delivered by the chiefs of three branches of government. The Supreme Leader acknowledged the services of the three branches of government and said that challenging the reports about the services and activities and statistical figures for political rivalry would damage the public trust and it is harmful to the national interest.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1015 GMT, 27 June 2011)

- The Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i's addressed a gathering of judicial officials on the occasion of the anniversary of 28 June 1981, when the then Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti and several other Iranian officials were killed in an explosion.
- Khamene'i recounted the events of 28 June 1981 and the ominous incident of 1981. Khamene'i stressed that the Iranian nation and the Islamic system had proudly resisted the Western arrogance since the revolution.
- The leader stressed the importance of judicial officials performing their duties and said the judiciary needed power and the trust of the people in order to perfume its duties.
- The leader warned against those who constantly criticized the system, and urged the media not to call into question the conduct of the judiciary for baseless claims. He said such behavior would undermine the trust of the people. He said criticism should be considered but biased publicity and unreal statistics should be avoided.
- Khamene'i asked judicial officials to avoid publicizing court cases before they went to trial to safeguard the accused and their families.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0705 GMT, 26 June 2011)

- Iran's Judiciary Spokesman Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohseni-Ezhe'i stressed that there is a possibility that other arrests in connection with the violations at the Supreme Council for Expatriates Iranians and the Free Economic Zone Organization would be made. Speaking at the national judicial conference Ezhae'i confirmed that "as the Tehran prosecutor has said, Malekzadeh's [secretary of the Supreme Council for Expatriate Iranians and dismissed deputy foreign minister for financial corruption charges] case is going through its preliminary stages and has no connection with the other two cases [arrests of heads of Arvan and Aras free economic zones on corruption charges] even though they [free economic zones] are subsidiaries of the former organization."
- Mohseni-Ezhe'i added: "There is a possibility that other people will be arrested at this or other organizations in connection with these cases."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1354 GMT, 23 June 2011)

- Managing director of the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism [Ruhollah Rostami] has said that an internet television network will be launched dedicated to victims of terrorism.
- According to the political correspondent of IRNA, Ruhollah Rostami who was speaking at the third gathering of the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism at Jamaran prayer house [in Tehran], added: This is the largest association for defending victims of terrorism throughout the world.
- He said 17,000 people have become victims of terrorism in Iran, and added: This association began its work formally in 1387 [2008] and has been pursuing the rights of such victims.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 1133 GMT, 23 June 2011)

- Deputy Chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Esma'il Kowsari confirmed that the Secretary of the Supreme Council of Iranian Expatriates Mohammad Sharif Malekzadeh was arrested on financial corruption charges and numerous other cases with the Judiciary.
- In an interview with a Mehr reporter, Kowsari said: Malekzadeh was arrested this morning for certain charges.
- He added: Before this the National Security Committee had warned the minister of foreign affairs and other government institutes on numerous charges against Malekzadeh.

(Source: Keyhan website, Tehran, in Persian 23 June 2011)

- The deviant current's foreman in IRNA [Islamic Republic News Agency] and in Iran newspaper [reference to Ali Akbar Javanfekr] resorted to "moving from the second step" in order to defend a dismissed agent of this current.
- Following the dismissal of Mohammad Sharif Malekzadeh from the Foreign Ministry's administrative and financial department, Ali Akbar Javanfekr attacked Tehran prosecutor and Intelligence Ministry in an editorial, in which he

questioned the release of Malekzadeh's criminal records to the foreign minister, causing his dismissal. He said: "The Tehran prosecutor told the foreign minister that Malekzadeh is on the verge of being arrested on various financial and non-financial charges." He added: "If the Intelligence Ministry's letter concerning Mr Malekzadeh's incompetence had an external existence, according to the current protocols, it was a confidential inquiry. So the question is how did it reach the MPs?"

- It is reminded that during the developments of the deviant current against the Intelligence Minister [Heydar Moslehi] too, Javanfekr had demonstrated a lot of sycophancy, which caused the success of his coup-d' etat against the Iran newspaper management and him taking over the management of this newspaper along with the management of Islamic Republic News Agency [IRNA].

(Source: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty website, Washington DC, in English 22 June 2011)

- A female sports photojournalist who had campaigned for Iranian women to be allowed to attend men's soccer games is missing. Reports speculate that she has been taken into custody in Tehran, RFE/RL's Radio Farda reports.
- Maryam Majd, 24, was supposed to go to Dusseldorf on June 17 to prepare for the women's soccer World Cup in Germany and to work on a photo project with Petra Landers, a former German soccer player.
- Meanwhile, an Iran-based source close to Majd told Radio Farda on June 21 that "four men, most likely from the Intelligence Ministry, went to Majd's father's house on June 16 and arrested her after searching her room."
- The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran said Majd's family has so far refrained from talking to the media about their daughter's situation.
- Majd is a member of a campaign that supports Iranian women being allowed to attend men's soccer matches, which is currently forbidden in Iran.

(Source: Iranian news website Ayandeh news, <http://www.ayandenews.com>, in Persian 1720 GMT, 21 June 2011)

- Abbas Amirifar, the secretary of the State Cultural Committee, has been freed.
- According to an Ayandeh correspondent, based on people close to Amirifar, he was released from Evin prison today [21 June] after 50 days of detention.
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Amirifar, who is the secretary of the Pro-Leader Preachers Society, the prayer leader of the president's office as well as the secretary of the State Cultural Committee, had been arrested on charges of taking part in the preparation of the [blasphemous] CD "Appearance [of the 12th occulted Imam Mahdi] is very close".

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0622 GMT, 25 June 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad accused the United States and other Western countries of "economic terrorism".

- "Another form of terrorism is economic terrorism. The takeover of the world's economic centres and the domination of the dollar have created grounds for unprecedented plunder," Ahmadinezhad said in his opening speech at the International Conference on Global Fight Against Terrorism in Tehran on 25 June.

(Source: Keyhan website, Tehran, in Persian 25 June 2011)

- To restrict the coverage of news related to British policy by the Press TV network, in addition to increasing its pressures on the network, London has even blocked the Press TV Ltd's assets.
- The British National Westminster Bank has blocked the accounts of the independent Press TV production company located in London.
- The Westminster Bank, which is a part of the Scotland group's Royal Banks, has blocked 200,000 pounds of the Press TV Ltd's revenues without giving any explanations. This is at a time when, in accordance with the British law, blocking a client's account in the banks of the country requires a court order or request by the British Bank.
- While condemning this act by the British government, Press TV has also said that it has received no court orders regarding the violation of laws of the country by the programs produced by the Press TV Ltd.
- In fact, this measure is another step of the systematic approach towards stopping the activities of Press TV in London. This action is obviously against freedom of speech and media principles, while the British government always pretends to be supporting them.
- These events have taken place at a time when the institution monitoring British media called AFCOM (communications agency) has announced that while presenting a claim regarding "violation of broadcasting laws of AFCOM", it is trying to issue legal sanctions against Press TV. AFCOM has talked about this claim after an individual complained against Press TV.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0546 GMT, 23 June 2011)

- Iran's Judiciary has dismissed accusations about alleged rights violations in Iran, rejecting UN's appointment of a special human rights rapporteur for the country.
- In a move spearheaded by the United States, the UN Human Rights Council on Friday [17 June] named former Maldivian Foreign Minister Ahmed Shaheed as its human rights investigator on the Islamic Republic.
- "On the issue of human rights, we will cooperate with the United Nations, but within a rational framework and not as an instrument against our country," said Iran's Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, quoted in an IRNA report Wednesday
- "The US [is the one] that invaded Afghanistan and Iraq and massacred many people while proclaiming [support for] human rights. However, we have not forgotten [what went on at] Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib prisons," he added, referring to notorious US-run detention centres in Cuba and Iraq respectively.

- "We cannot agree with the human rights that they are pushing on us from their collection of Liberalist culture, since our own religious establishment can have a [comprehensive] rights system based on its own tenets," he said.