

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
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STACY TOPOUZOVA

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- Iran's Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani says the country will never back down in the face of enemy conspiracies.
- "Iran has found its path, and is moving toward perfection and progress, and, thank God, serves as a role model for all popular and Islamic movements in and outside the (Middle East) region," Larijani said on Sunday [27 February].
- He described the recent uprisings in Muslim countries as a storm "sweeping across the Middle East, North Africa and the Persian Gulf."
- "Muslim nations have, all of a sudden, initiated a great movement which was probably unpredictable for everybody," said the top judge.
- He underlined the dictatorship and totalitarianism gripping "these countries" definitely contributed to the revolutions there.
- Another reason behind the uprisings, he said, was that the rulers humiliated their people.
- Religion was yet another contributor to the recent events, Larijani underlined.
- "Because of their beliefs and faith, Muslims have a strong motive to stand up to oppression and those who want to destroy the effects of faith," Larijani said.
- "There is no ambiguity in these movements. These movements are definitely popular and undoubtedly driven by divine and anti-oppression motives," said the Judiciary chief.
- He then warned against Western plots to cash in on these revolutions.
- "The big danger today is that the US and Western countries are seeking to hijack these mass movements in their own favour," he underlined.
- He then blasted Western-style human rights, and criticized the US and other Western countries for not adopting a firm stance vis-a-vis the "genocide" in Libya.

Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1818 gmt 27 Feb 11

- According to Fars News Agency, Chief of the General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces Maj-Gen Dr Hasan Firuzabadi has said that "the Americans are the flag-bearers of neo-racism".
- The commander, who was talking on discrimination said: "The US is the symbol of contradiction and deception in the fight against discrimination. They [the Americans] want to represent themselves as supporters of democracy and human rights, but the realities which dominate the American society and also the use of policies accompanied by violence and atrocities against nations and oppressed ethnic groups in most parts of the world proves the opposite."
- Firuzabadi added that if international organizations and independent international institutions, the media and open-minded individuals in the world remind the westerners about their "crimes", the spread of discrimination can be prevented.
- Referring to the recent events in the Middle East, Firuzabadi claimed: "The policies and objective of the hegemonic system have gone beyond imposing discrimination based on race, and reached discrimination based on ethnic groups, nations and various schools of

thought. What can be observed in the current developments in the region at present, and the atrocities, violations and the cruel murder of the Muslim and revolutionary nations in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen [as published] by the dictator and autocrat leaders indicates the bitter reality that the US and West are partners in committing these crimes."

Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1054 gmt 27 Feb 11

- The Green Voice of Freedom: Abdollah Ramezanzadeh, a prominent member of the Islamic Iran Participation Front, has once again been arrested by Iranian security forces.
- According to GVF correspondents, the former spokesman and secretary of the government during Mohammad Khatami's presidency was arrested by security forces on Saturday [27 February] afternoon. Reportedly, there was also a scuffle between security forces and Ramezanzadeh's brother who were only attempting to take pictures with their sibling before he was taken away.
- The security forces' use of violence was then followed by the arrest of Ramezanzadeh's brothers who were released on bail after a few hours. It should be noted that the physical confrontation caused serious damages to the eardrum of one of the Ramezanzadeh brothers, Nasrollah.
- Ramezanzadeh who had endured six months of imprisonment following the fraudulent 2009 presidential election, had been in a state of legal uncertainty since his release in December 2009. Shortly after the election, he was paraded along with other reformists in televised show trials organized by the Iranian judiciary, yet judicial authorities have until now kept him in a state of limbo as no decision has been made regarding his case.
- Ramezanzadeh was initially arrested on 13 June 2009, but was released more than six months later on 23 December on a staggering bail of 8 billion Rials (\$778,740). During his time in prison, the veteran reformer endured 116 days of solitary confinement.
- An Iranian Kurd, Ramezanzadeh is also considered to have been among the most successful governors of Kurdistan Province.
- In August 2010, Ramezanzadeh and six other leading Reformist political figures filed a lawsuit against several commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for their intervention in Iran's rigged presidential election and its aftermath.
- The seven plaintiffs included four members of the Organization of Islamic Revolution Mojahedin (OIRM) - Behzad Nabavi, Mostafa Tajzadeh, Mohsen Aminzadeh, and Feyzollah Arabsorkhi-and three members of the Islamic Iran Participation Front (IIPF)-Mohsen Mirdamadi, Abdollah Ramezanzadeh, and Mohsen Safa'i-Farahani. They described in their lawsuit how the Guard commanders planned the election "victory" of Mahmud Ahmadinezhad long in advance and what they did in order to realize their goal.
- Ramezanzadeh is an assistant professor at the faculty of Law and Political Science of Tehran University. He received his PhD from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium in 1996. The title of his thesis was "Iran; Ethnic relations; Minorities; Culture conflict; Conflict management; Political activity."

Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 27 Feb 11

25 FEBRUARY 2011

- [Newscaster] The Tehran Friday prayer leader [Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani] said that the roots of the present Islamic awakening in the regional countries must be sought in the thoughts of deceased Imam [Khomeyni].
- In his Friday prayer address, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani added that the West had undermined Islamic identity within the Muslim world thanks to its exploitation of technology.
- But, with the development of the wave of Islamic awakening, whose roots can be found in the thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, it saved itself from nothingness and lack of identity.
- The Friday prayer leader stressed the importance of explaining the wave of Islamic awakening by the thinkers in the world of Islam.
- He then said that, domestically too, religious scholars must explain the significance, standing and influence of the Islamic Revolution throughout the world to the younger generations and those who come in the future.

Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1030 gmt 25 Feb 11

- Iranian university students gathered in front of the UN office in Tehran on 24 February to protest against international organizations' silence about "crimes of dictators" in Arab countries, Iranian news channel, IRINN, has reported.
- "The students condemned the international community for keeping silence and urged the UN to condemn the violation of human rights and brutal crimes of despotic governments of the region," the TV said.
- It said that the protesters had also demanded an investigation into the case of Lebanese Shi'i leader Imam Musa Sadr.
- In remarks to IRINN, one of the protesters spoke about the recent developments in Libya, Egypt and other Arab countries and said "We called on the UN to release a statement against the criminal officials of these countries".
- The TV showed the demonstrators who were chanting "Down with Al-Qadhafi", "Down with Israel" and "Down with America".

Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0534 gmt 25 Feb 11

23 FEBRUARY 2011

- A top German foreign ministry official here Wednesday stressed Iran's serious role in Middle East region, according to a fax sent to IRNA by Iranian Embassy in Berlin.
- Meeting with the Spokesperson of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament Kazem Jalali, Deputy German Foreign Minister Wolf-Ruthart Born said that Iran can play a serious role in regional developments. Jalali voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with Germany on regional issues, including Iraq, Afghanistan, fighting narcotics, organized crime and combating terrorism. The Iranian MP arrived in Berlin on Monday and held talks with the head of the Iran Group in the European Parliament Barbara Lochbihler and the co-leader of Germany's opposition Green Party Claudia Roth.

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1820 gmt 23 Feb 11

- North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Pak Kil Yon has met with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi in Tehran.
- Pak arrived in Tehran on Monday to attend the meeting of political consultative committee of Iran and North Korea which opened on 21 February and runs until 24 February.
- During the meeting, Salehi appreciated the resistance of the North Korean nation against the US pressure and expressed hope that the relations between the two countries would expand in the future.
- Pak also announced his country's readiness to expand cooperation with the Islamic Republic, particularly in the area of economics.

Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1730 gmt 23 Feb 1

- 191 Iranian lawmakers have issued a statement condemning the merciless massacre of Muslim people in Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Morocco.
- The statement says, "The sorrowful incidents which have occurred in Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Morocco and merciless killing of people by the despotic rulers are reminiscent of the crimes perpetrated by all the dictators who tried to remain in power throughout the history... [as published]"
- "We, the representatives of the great Iranian nation, condemn these crimes and once again announce that we strongly back the Islamic nations' campaigns."
- The MPs also criticized the US government for remaining silent or taking equivocal stances towards the autocratic rulers' criminal actions.
- They called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference to take immediate action and pressure the "criminal rulers of these countries" to stop killing innocent people with heavy weapons and warplanes.

Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1325 gmt 23 Feb 11

- *Text of unattributed report headlined "The reason the leaders of the sedition are belligerent from the perspective of Ayatollah Khatami" published by Iranian newspaper Resalat on 23 February*
- The day after the Israeli [as published] riots of 25 Bahman [14 February 2011], Ayatollah Khatami, in his speech among the people of Qom, emphasized that the leaders of the sedition are rebels and belligerent.
- In this connection, in order to obtain further clarification and interpretation, we asked Ayatollah Khatami personally for an explanation. In an interview with Alef, he emphasized that even though he believes that the leaders of the sedition are belligerent, he is saying this in terms of religious jurisprudence and its discernment is within the authority of the judge:
- "In my opinion, the words rebel, belligerent and corrupt of the earth are three terms that, in my opinion, can be applied to the leaders of the sedition. Of course, I emphasize that in this arena, the criterion for discernment is not my opinion and that of those like me but the opinion of the judge."
- In continuation, Ayatollah Khatami emphasized: "In the Islamic Republic, no one on his own has the right to implement a verdict and punishment and for someone to decide autonomously to implement a verdict or something and implement is prohibited."

- Then, regarding the religious jurisprudential sources for his claim, he explained: "From the perspective of religious jurisprudence, the late Fazel Meqdad, a ninth-century [16th century AD] religious jurist, mentions 'a person who rebelled against the just imam [Khomeyni].' He does not say infallible imam but just imam, in the sense that raising the banner of opposition to him and standing against him, with or without weapons, would be an example of a rebel."
- Khatami also added: "Of course, the verdict of infidelity, which he mentions, seems to be in regard to the infallible imam. In other words, the ruling of infidelity is issued when someone stands against the infallible imam but the ruling for someone who stands against the just imam is that he be considered a rebel and according to the clear text of the Koran, the rebel must be fought in order to return to God's command."
- This member of the Assembly of Experts also explained: "We consider the grand leader to be a just imam, in the same way that we consider Imam Khomeyni to be just. Messrs Karrubi and Musavi rebelled against the just imam, issuing false statements in support of the people of Egypt, but in truth, they were supporting Israel and the Zionists, and, moreover, they also insulted the just imam. This is a clear example of a rebel."

Source: Resalat website, Tehran, in Persian 23 Feb 11

22 FEBRUARY 2011

- The state prosecutor-general [Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i] has said: "Naturally, those who have not listened to the advices of the eminent and kind figures or to the righteous call of all people and that of the martyrs' families should be clearly dealt with in accordance with the rules and laws."
- According to the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), speaking to reporters on Tuesday [22 February], Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i said: "The line of distinction between counterrevolutionaries and revolutionaries is clear now". He added: "From now on, whoever wants to move in the counterrevolutionary line, his fate is clear. If he [or she] is a counterrevolutionary, he will be treated as a counterrevolutionary and if he has any connection with counterrevolutionary [groups] he will be treated the same as counterrevolutionaries."
- He added: "Naturally, those who have not listened to the advices and warnings of the eminent and kind figures of the country or to the righteous call of all people and that of the martyrs' families should be clearly dealt with in accordance with the rules and laws and this will be done definitely."
- The judiciary spokesman was asked to comment on the "decisions made about the sedition leaders" [opposition leaders Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi]. He said: "Naturally we will not allow the sedition leaders to provoke people as in the past or have any activities in this regard. This is the least we can do."
- Replying to another question regarding the reoccurrence of some activities [presumably recent opposition rallies], he said: "If man falls in the trap of Satan and moves in his line, he will not listen to advices anymore. I hope that it will not happen. This depends how much influence Satan has on them and the degree of stubbornness they show in continuing their false path."

Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0933 gmt 22 Feb 11

- The state prosecutor-general [Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i] has said that supporters of the sedition leaders [opposition leaders Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi] are counterrevolutionaries, stressing that they will be seriously dealt with.
- According to the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i made the remarks at a two-day gathering of the heads of the armed forces judicial organizations and military prosecutors of the country, which was held at the conference hall of Qom Justice Department. He referred to the role of the Vali Faqih [the Guardian of Jurisconsult; the supreme leader] in preventing the sedition [post-election unrest] and said: "The approach adopted by the Vali Faqih stopped the continuation of the sedition and made the atmosphere clear."
- He highlighted the divine nature of the Islamic Revolution and asked the managers to pay attention to this issue. He added: "The incident of Tabas [Operation Eagle Claw, 1980] and the fact that the Americans had been trapped in the storm is only one of those signs [which show the divine nature of the revolution]. There are more important incidents than Tabas that we are unaware of."
- Mohseni-Ezhe'i said that certain sedition leaders had a long record in the system and added: "Various organizations in the system failed to distinguish between good and evil because of the same reason."
- The state prosecutor-general described the atmosphere of the sedition as a blurred one and said: "We are putting the sedition behind us and are moving towards a clear atmosphere. Now the atmosphere is clear and the main discussion is about a distinction between revolution and counterrevolution."
- He referred to unawareness of some followers of the sedition leaders and said: "If in the past some people followed the sedition leaders and were ignorant and were really not able to distinguish appropriately, they should not be blamed. However, today, the line of distinction between counterrevolutionaries and revolutionaries has become clear."
- The prosecutor-general referred to the difference between the call for 25 Bahman [14 February] and 1 Esfand [20 February; opposition rallies were held on those days] and said: "If someone listens to the call of the seditionists today, he [or she] is counterrevolutionary and should be treated as a counterrevolutionary."
- He said that everyone who supports the sedition leaders is counterrevolutionary and added: "If individuals support the sedition leaders, they will be regarded as the supporters of counterrevolutionaries and it will not be tolerated. We should know that the only righteous path is to follow the Vali Faqih and if we had done so during the sedition [post-election unrest] we would have been successful."

Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0918 gmt 22 Feb 11