

## **IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**

**21 – 27 MARCH 2011**

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**26 MARCH 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1415 GMT, 26 March 2011)*

- Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi criticized foreign meddling in Bahrain.
- The Iranian foreign minister alleged that the presence of foreign forces in Bahrain “under illusionary pretext would not be helpful”, but it would instead only complicate the situation
- Salehi called on the demands of the Bahraini people to be met, calling for avoidance of violence

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1356 GMT, 26 March 2011)*

- The head of Majlis' Human Rights Committee [Zohreh Elahian] referred to the rallies of British people against the policies of the country's officials to argue that the British royal regime's officials needs to respond to the protesters' demands.
- In an interview with Fars, Zohreh Elahian, the head of Majlis' Human Rights Committee, reacted to the way the British government dealt with the peaceful protest of the British people. She said: "The British [government] attacked Libya under the pretext of supporting democracy while they do not tolerate popular protest [in the UK]."
- She added: "The British government should respond to the demands of its own people because the economic situation created by the British government is not acceptable for the people of this country. The British government spends a lot to interfere in other countries' affairs but it is not willing to accept economic reforms in its own country."

**25 MARCH 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0330 GMT, 25 March 2011)*

- The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry [Ramin Mehmanparast] described the anti-Iranian resolution issued by the UN Human Rights Council as totally unjust and politically-motivated. He added that the resolution was passed as a result of pressure from the USA.
- Referring to the recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa, the spokesman said that the anti-Iranian resolution also pursued political ambitions and interests like diverting public opinion from America's conflicting and double standard approach to the air strikes [on Libya] towards Iran.

**24 MARCH 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran External Service, Mashhad in Dari 1330 GMT, 24 March 2011)*

- [Presenter] You have heard about the publication of photographs by the German news magazine Der Spiegel showing American soldiers posing next to the bloody corpses of Afghan civilians said to have been killed. It is just one example from thousands of atrocities committed by US soldiers against civilians in Afghanistan.
- This is not the first time US soldiers have committed such crimes. The massacre of people in Vietnam is a clear example showing that the US forces are used to committing such atrocities. These acts will hamper the efforts against terrorism and more Afghans will go to the Taliban and voice support for them. Very recently, Gen Petraeus, the US commander in Afghanistan, said that with the change in climate they expect an upsurge in Taliban attacks in Afghanistan.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0726 GMT, 24 March 2011)*

- "According to Fars News Agency, citing Foreign Ministry's Information and Press General Office, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast reacted to the Zionist regime's crazy move of attacking the Gaza Strip. He regarded this move by the criminal Zionist regime as the repetition of this regime's brutal aggression and condemned it."
- He added: "The illegal Zionist regime has used the military situation in the region as a pretext to reach its evil goals. It has smeared its hands with the innocent people's blood again."
- Foreign Ministry spokesman added: "The respectable Iranian nation supports the resisting Palestinian nation like before, and highlights the will and determination of the world's freedom-seeking people who fight against the enemy, in defending Palestine's holy ideal."

## **22 MARCH 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1003 GMT, 22 March 2011)*

- Iran's Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani alleged that the US has played a trick on regional countries that are involved in the suppression of protests in Bahrain.
- Larijani made the above comment in an interview with the state-run Islamic Republic of Iran's News Network television, IRINN, on 22 March.
- "In the international and regional spheres, our Nowruz this year has coincided with important revolutions in the region. We have possibly not seen such great events in the past few centuries, such impressive examples of people's presence to restore their rights; in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Bahrain and Libya and some other countries."
- "These countries due to the cruelty they have suffered in the past - mostly imposed on them by the US and the West - have been under the rule of dictators and subjected to colonialism. Their resources are looted and some dynasties are imposed on them. This is an age of awakening for them as they want to restore their rights."

## **21 MARCH 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Khorasan Provincial TV, Mashhad, in Persian 1258 GMT, 21 March 2011)*

- Iran's Supreme Leader warned national officials that they should keep any internal disputes out of public view.
- Addressing people at Imam Reza Mosque in Mashhad in a speech carried live by Khorasan-e Razavi Province TV on 21 March, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i said: "I seriously warn the country's officials about this. Maybe there is discontent," he said, adding:
- "This discontent might be just, but it must not be brought to the attention of the public so as not to make people worry and disappoint them. Let them [officials] solve these problems among themselves."

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Khorasan Provincial TV, Mashhad, in Persian 1258 GMT, 21 March 2011)*

- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i condemned the USA's approach to military intervention in Libya, saying its actions to support anti-Muammar Al-Qadhafi rebels were belated and driven by hegemonic interests.
- "If you [USA] wanted to help the Libyan people, you would have given them weapons, facilities, anti-missile air-defence systems. Instead of this, you sat for a month and watched the slaughter of the

Libyan people," Khamene'i said in the holy city of Mashhad on 21 March in a speech carried live by Khorasan-e Razavi provincial TV.

- "You have not come to defend the Libyan people; you are after Libya's oil. You want to use Libya as a platform to keep under control the future revolutionary governments of Egypt and Tunisia, which are located on either side of Libya," Khamene'i said.
- "If they [USA] want to help Libyan people, they can help them, and arm them, so that people themselves solve their problems with Al-Qadhafi," Khamene'i added.

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 2336 GMT, 20 March 2011)*

- The Islamic Republic of Iran's state-run TV channel broadcast President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad's New Year address on 20 March.
- The president spoke about the importance of culture for nations and of Nowruz as one of the main aspects of the Iranian nation's cultural and historical heritage.
- "All of these showed that the Iranian nation has the capacity for even greater works. It is possible to achieve great things with the people's support."
- The president went on to touch upon the recent international developments and the ones in the Middle East. He said: "The enemies of humanity and the arrogant [the West] try to deviate this popular uprising and harness it to their interests by gathering all their allies and all their capabilities. However, they are unable to do so. They think they can, but they cannot. Certainly this is the beginning of the path and greater and graver changes lie ahead."
- He said: "Our nation wishes peace, friendship and welfare for all nations, along with monotheism, justice and brotherhood."

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1008 GMT, 20 March 2011)*

- Ebrahim Yazdi, the head of the Freedom Movement of Iran has been released from prison, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on 20 March.
- According to IRNA, "Ebrahim Yazdi, the head of the illegal Freedom Movement group was freed this morning [20 March] after issuing a short statement."
- The statement read: "I hereby announce my resignation as the secretary-general of the Freedom Movement of Iran party."