

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
NOVEMBER 22 – 28, 2010
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NOVEMBER 29, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1237 GMT, 29 November 2010)

- Commenting on assassination attempt on two of the Shahid Beheshti University's lecturers on 29 November and the alleged remarks associated with the British government with regards to security and intelligence measures against Iran, President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said: "I do not have any judgment regarding the second part, that is if the UK wishes to drive the talks [between Iran and 5+1] to a dead-end or not. But with regards to the unfortunate assassination, undoubtedly, the western governments and the Zionist regime were involved. I hope the country's security officials will find out about these [presumably individuals involved] and introduce them to people. As I said, we have to pay attention to the words they use. When they say: We have to start security measures; it means such incidents [assassination] which take place. But they should know that they are making a mistake."
- He made the above remarks in response to a question asked by Islamic Republic News Agency's correspondent in a presser held on 29 November, broadcast live by the state-run news network, IRINN, at 1227 gmt. The correspondent asked for his comment on alleged reports saying the UK had asked for security and intelligence measures to be taken in line with discontinuation of Iran's nuclear activities and if there was a connection between these remarks and the assassination attempt on the two lecturers, and if the UK wished to drive the future talks between Iran and the 5+1 group to a dead-end.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1227 GMT, 29 November 2010)

- At 1227 gmt, Iranian TV's news channel started to broadcast a news conference held by president Ahmadinezhad in Tehran. More than 250 domestic and foreign reporters attended the press conference:
- Ahmadinezhad claimed that "many countries that would like to have political and economic ties with Iran. He said no one could deny Iran's role in the world". He advised world powers to "join the queue of countries which have trade exchange with Iran."
- He said the new report was "one step closer to reality but still did not reflect the whole truth." He criticized the agency for "disclosing Iran's confidential information". He said the disclosed Wikileaks documents were "worthless" and aimed at creating "mischief" in the Middle East. He said Iran did not pay attention to such documents.
- He said: "Iran has always cooperated with the IAEA in a positive and constructive way. However, the agency has been under the political pressure of the lords of power and wealth in various periods and it has wrongly and unlawfully taken [certain] stances."
- He added: "Now, compared with previous reports, the present report is better. In other words, it has taken a step closer towards the truth; however all the facts have not been expressed. We are thankful for the very one step [they took] and we hope that the IAEA can rid itself from the illegal pressure - the political pressures - imposed by some countries so that it can judge everybody fairly and in accordance with the law."
- On Wikileaks documents he said: "In my opinion, the documents that they have released are a mischief. We do not consider any value for these documents and they are legally unfounded. Iran

and other countries in the region are friends and brothers. Such mischief will have no effect on the ties between the nations."

- He said: "I want to correct your comments. This information has not leaked. They are being released on a regular and pre-planned basis. They are in line with political aims. In our opinion they are legally unfounded, because some part of the US government are producing and releasing documents, then they make judgments based on the same documents. This is more like an intelligence game and psychological warfare and has no legal value. It will definitely not have the political impact they are after. The nations are aware now and such games have no effect on relations. They [documents] are so worthless that it is not even worth referring to them and wasting time on studying them."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1227 GMT, 29 November 2010)

- Answering a question on new sites for nuclear facilities and "sabotage" by the country's "enemies" against Iran's nuclear program, President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said: "They carried out some sabotage activities in the past, fortunately, they were discovered, the cause has been resolved and we have tried to close ways so that there would be no more sabotage. They were able to cause minor problems with some of our centrifuges by installing some software in electronic parts. They did wrong. They misbehaved but fortunately, our experts discovered it." He said allocating locations for new nuclear sites was going through its process."

NOVEMBER 27, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1919 GMT, 27 November 2010)

- "By removing the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) from its list of terrorist organizations and requesting the same from the United States again, the European Union seeks to get concessions from Iran in future talks," Javad Karimi Qodusi said 27 November.
- "This indicates that the Western world, Europe and America are the source of all terrorisms," Mehr News Agency quoted Qodusi as saying.
- Qodusi was referring to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's admission that the US had help creating the Taleban in Afghanistan.
- "The people we are fighting today (the Taleban) we funded them twenty years ago," Clinton had said in 2009.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1645 GMT, 27 November 2010)

- Managing Director of Islamic Republic News Agency Ali Akbar Javanfekr alleged that western media present an untrue image of Islam in line with their strategy to spread Islamophobia.
- Addressing the conference of 'World News Agencies in Europe Cultural Capital', he said that following the September 11 terror attack, the western governments embarked on promoting Islamophobia.
- Referring to the western media's efforts to present an untrue image of Islam, Javanfekr also said that they make false claims such as 'Muslims consider themselves superior to the others', 'Islam seeks to govern the entire world' and 'Islam considers terrorism sacred'. 'These are desecration of the Islamic values.' Following September 11 terror attacks,

Islamophobia took on new dimensions as George W. Bush divided the countries into friends and enemies of the US, he said. Therefore, he spoke of the 'axis of evil' and described Iran, North Korea and Syria as the advocates of terrorism, he noted. Javanfekr said that then, the West tried to attribute all the explosions, terror acts and economic crises to the Muslims.

- 'We as an active member of the Asian-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) invite our colleagues to exercise vigilance and not allow the western media to destroy other civilizations.

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 27 November 2010)

- Two political prisoners have been released from Iran's notorious Evin prison.
- According to the Kaleme website, political prisoners Ozra Qazi-Mirsa'id and Mahsa Rahmati were released on 25 November.
- Qazi-Mirsa'id had been accused of Moharebeh (waging war against God) and had thus received a prison sentence of three years. He was granted conditional release after serving more than half of his jail-term.
- In addition, Mahsa Rahmati, had been sentenced to two years in prison after the bloody Ashura protests on 27 December 2009. She was also released on Thursday night.

NOVEMBER 26, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1046 GMT, 26 November 2010)

- "The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has approved a declaration supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program".
- According to a nuclear energy correspondent of Fars, the declaration will be read out by the Egyptian ambassador on behalf of over 100 countries at a session of the Board of Directors of the [International Atomic Energy] Agency [IAEA] next week.
- "Since over seven years ago, the Non-Aligned Movement has issued declarations supporting the Iranian nuclear program without exception, and all those declarations have been registered as historical documents with the IAEA."

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0510 GMT, 26 November 2010)

- "Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and Mehr News Agency have been ranked as number ones for producing the highest number of news at the Organization of the Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA)."
- "According to statistics based upon the number of news items published on the OANA website, the two Iranian news agencies were selected as the most eminent news outlets with the highest number of news as compared to other 41 members of the organization, Mehr news agency reported on Thursday."

NOVEMBER 24, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Iranian news website, in Persian 0934 GMT, 24 November 2010)

- In an interview with Aftab news website (Aftabnews.ir) published on 24 November, MP Ali Motahhari confirmed that enough signatures had been gathered to question the president.
- He said that the number of signatures were enough to question the president and confirmed that the quorum for questioning the president was 71 and so far 50 individuals had signed the motion [as received] and apart from him no-one was aware of the names of the signatories, Aftab reported.
- Asked by Aftab reporter about the time he would present the motion to the Majlis presidium, he said that it depended on the social and political situation in the country, and he did not intend to submit the motion to the Majlis presidium before the implementation of the targeted subsidy plan or determination of the fuel carrier prices.

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0624 GMT, 24 November 2010)

- Commenting on "claims by the US Secretary of Defense about Islamic Republic of Iran supporting the Taleban" Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Majlis Ala'eddin Borujerdi has said: "Americans' support for the Taleban is absolutely clear, and they are pursuing talks and continuing their double-standard policies in Afghanistan."
- He added: "They are accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of such matters which are not true at all to change the public opinion. In fact, the USA is facing confusion in Afghanistan and does not have any logical policy or behavior in Afghanistan."

(Source: Jam-e Jam website, Tehran, in Persian 24 November 2010)

Direct excerpts:

- *Although Sudan's people and national officials are opposed to this referendum and regard it as a factor for dividing their country, studies show that the Western nations and especially America along with the Zionists, have adopted extensive policies in Sudan and in international institutions to conduct this referendum and finalize the division project.*
- *To achieve their interests they have put the project of Balkanizing Sudan or dividing this land into parts at the top of their policy agendas. On the pretext of preparing conditions for holding a referendum in southern Sudan, the European nations and America have put sending of military equipment and educational units on their agenda.*
- *Documents show that most of these weapons were made by the Zionist regime and the education units were also sent to the regions of southern Sudan from this regime. Officials in the southern regions of Sudan have clearly announced that after the referendum they will establish extensive relations with America and Tel Aviv.*
- *Based on reports that have been disclosed, American, British, French and Zionist intelligence organizations have undertaken to build espionage and intelligence bases in Chad and Djibouti based on a confidential project to divide Sudan into three northern, southern and eastern parts.*
- *It is necessary to mention that the West wants to dominate the southern and eastern regions because of their strategic importance, the southern region because of its energy resources and the eastern region because it is beside the Red Sea.*

- *One can also see this project being applied towards nations such as Somalia and Yemen, where based on the American plan, their coastal regions are being separated from the central government.*
- *The West has begun many lines of propaganda to deceive the public opinion. The publication of reports on undesirable conditions in the southern regions because of the actions of the central government, the repetition of false claims about genocide in Sudan, making the insecurity and crisis conditions in the Darfur area prominent, concealing Sudan's Islamic and Arab essence to oppose the actions of Muslim governments and nations in order to prevent fragmentation of a part of the Muslim world, attributing the clashes in Sudan to war between the Muslims and the Christians and the need for the West to come into this nation to protect the Christians, negative propaganda against Umar al-Bashir and making a case against him in Hague, presenting Sudan as a poor and unimportant nation in the region when this nation has great oil resources and a sensitive position on the shores of the Red Sea are just some of the propaganda activities of the West and the Zionists for justifying military presence in Sudan and implementing the project to divide it.*
- *...concealing the Islamic essence of the nation of Sudan and also paying tribute to some of the Western nations are an effort to reduce the amount of regional and Islamic support for Sudan in order to be able to make use of these circumstances for implementing the project to divide the country. This is a project that has been designed in larger dimensions for the other African nations as well and ultimately for the entire Muslim world.*

(Source: Keyhan website, Tehran, in Persian 24 November 2010)

Text of unattributed report headlined "The opposition should not repeat last year's Ashura day scandal" published by Iranian newspaper Keyhan on 24 November

- *"A year after the idiocy committed by anti-revolutionary movements on the day of Ashura [religious Shi'i mourning ceremony on 10th day of month of Moharram], those remaining in the disbanded groups are criticizing the rioting and the aforementioned scandal."*
- *An article written by Maliheh M (a member of the disbanded Fada'iyān-e Khalq group) on the anti-revolutionary website Rooznet noted: "Last year, from the very beginning, slogans against the rule of the jurisconsult [Velayat-e faqih], changing the constitution and even more radical slogans, pitched at not just the whole of the ruling order but even at a section of society against progressive forces and only served to emphasize the differentiating lines. Slogans by radical organizations and parties may be right in accordance with general principles but fail to attract forces and have no specific executive body - potential or ready - in society. The slogans for the downfall of the Islamic Republic or the removal of the rule of the jurisconsult and the constitution fall into this category. These slogans can only be proposed outside the country or in a limited context or in riot conditions such as during last year's Ashura protests and one then has to leave the scene. This means that the only outlook available is prison and imprisonment and no one can tolerate such costs anymore."*

NOVEMBER 23, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1645 GMT, 23 November 2010)

Grand Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi-Golpayegani issued a message on 23 November:

- "Islam has established the healthiest relations between men and women that have protected women from the immorality and depravity which some Western women are sunk in," the message read.
- "Muslims believe in Islam, peace, and justice and the prevention of violence and immorality", he added.
- "Muslims are committed to follow the highest principles of civilization and progress and the Koran's redemptive verses," the grand ayatollah explained.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, Zanjan provincial TV, Zanjan, in Persian 0902 GMT, 23 November 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that: corruption, oppression, invasion, suppression and humiliation of countries has become legalized in the world.
- "They have legalized corruption, violation and occupation. They have legalized the humiliation, suppression, and damaging the dignity of other nations. They have legalized the violation of other nations' rights. They outrageously intend to impose on other nations the disgraceful aspects of their evil life through force and under the title of international law. You can see how the situation is. Have a look at Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, and other parts of the world."

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 23 November 2010)

- Iranian journalist Zeinab Kazemkhah has been sentenced to four-month prison sentence as well as a suspended five-year jail-term.
- According to Daneshjoo News, Kazemkhah, a literary journalist and former employee of Iran's Student News Agency ISNA, was sentenced on 21 November to four months in prison. Branch 26 of the revolutionary court under Judge Pirabbasi also sentenced her to a five-year suspended prison sentence.
- Kazemkhah had been arrested once more on 7 February 2010, after nine Intelligence Ministry agents entered her home and took her to an unknown location. She was later acquitted of all charges, something that raises further questions about the most recent ruling against her. Kazemkhah had initially been accused of having participated in the street protests that followed Iran's rigged 2009 presidential election.
- Following her release after a month of imprisonment, Zeinabkhah [as given] returned to ISNA only to be told by the agency's head at the time, Sa'id Purali, that she had been a "traitor" to her country and was subsequently fired from her job. Nevertheless, she continued her work in publications such as Nafeh and Name-ye Mehr.

NOVEMBER 22, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1222 GMT, 22 November 2010)

- Iran's Press Supervisory Board has banned a weekly publication, ILNA reported on 22 November.

- According to the report, Chelcheragh magazine was banned by the Press Supervisory Board because of "publishing illicit materials and insisting on irregularities"