

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
23 – 29 MAY 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

29 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0240 GMT 29 May 2011)

- "A senior Iranian lawmaker dismissed recent illegal claims by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) against Tehran's civilian nuclear program, saying the body lacks independence." [Direct excerpt]
- "Arrogant powers use legal, political, economic and media means to condemn Iran in international circles. So, it is not surprising that the IAEA violate the (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) NPT regulations," Deputy Head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Hoseyn Ebrahimi said.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0151 GMT, 29 May 2011)

- The family of an innocent Iranian woman imprisoned in the US alleged that American authorities have agreed to allow them to visit her.
- Shahrzad Mir-Qolikhani's father told Press TV that the supposed agreement will allow four family members, Shahrzad's twin daughters and her parents, to visit her in the US prison where she is being held. However, he noted that visas have not yet been issued.
- The mother of twin daughters was arrested in the US in December 2007, after being forced to return to the States from a vacation in Cyprus. She has been permitted brief phone calls to her family in Iran during her three-year imprisonment.

28 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian news website HRANA, in English 1719 GMT, 28 May 2011)

- Reports from Raja'i-Shahr prison indicate that the physical condition of political prisoners, who are currently on hunger strike, has worsened while their health is deteriorating fast.
- According to a report by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), a number of political prisoners in Section 12 of Ward 4 in Karaj's Raja'i-Shahr prison began their hunger strike on 22 May 2011. On the seventh day of this hunger strike, prisoners' physical condition is reported to be critical.
- The website of Human Rights and Democracy Activists in Iran has reported that the political prisoners have become physically weak and suffer from headaches, fatigue and a number of other symptoms. Keyvan Samimi, Mehdi Mahmudian and Essa Sahar are amongst the prisoners whose health condition is critical.

27 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0727 GMT, 27 May 2011)

- Iran's intelligence minister alleged that the West supports counter-revolutionary and opposition groups in Iran in order to undermine the Islamic system.

- "Global arrogance [referring to the West] supports all counter-revolutionary movements, including the monafeqin group [referring to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization opposition group], and has launched a heavy attack on the revolution and Islamic Iran, which requires special vigilance from the people," Heydar Moslehi said at a meeting in Karaj on 26 May.

26 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0940 GMT, 26 May 2011)

- Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry alleged that placing the names of Iran's foreign minister and some other Iranian officials on the sanctions list was an unreasonable and illegal action.
- Ramin Mehmanparast alleged that anti-Iran measures were made by the US due to Tehran's peaceful nuclear activities. Mehmanparast further stressed that Iran's efforts to gain nuclear energy were among the nation's absolute rights. He said that imposing those sanctions, the US and some of the Western states were to put further pressure on the Iranian nation.
- 'According to the international regulations, foreign minister of any world country is free to travel through the world states in order to confer [with] his/her counterparts on intended issues,' Mehmanparast said.

25 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0850 GMT, 25 May 2011)

- Minister of Information (Intelligence) Heydar Moslehi announced Wednesday [25 May] that parts of confessions made by members of the busted espionage network would be broadcast soon.
- "Their fates will become clear soon," Moslehi told reporters on the sidelines of today's cabinet session. Members of the network "were to sabotage activities in the fields of Iran's peaceful nuclear programs, gas and oil industries and the country's Ministry of Energy," Moslehi said.

24 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1739 GMT, 24 May 2011)

- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i has said that the country's 1979 Islamic revolution and the nation's steadfastness has planted the seeds of hope in the hearts of nations and were watered, grew, and blossomed in recent time.
- Addressing hundreds of eulogists and preachers on 24 May, the leader added: "If the Iranian nation had retreated, if we had abandoned our slogans, if our knees had bent and trembled in the face of global arrogance's hot air and arrogance's threats and pressure, then, the flowers of hope that had grown in the hearts of nations would have wilted."

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1450 GMT, 24 May 2011)

- Supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i claimed that the resistance of the Iranian nation (against tyranny and hegemonic powers) planted the seeds of hope in the hearts of the nations which have risen up against their dictatorial governments.
- "We do not want to be proud of ourselves and say that these nations learned from us. This is not the case. No country learned from us, but it was the resistance of our nation which planted the seeds of hope in the hearts of the nations," the Leader observed.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1630 GMT, 24 May 2011)

- A gathering of students in support of the Islamic awakening took place on the third day of Khordad [24 May] marking the liberation of Khoramshahr [from Iraqi forces' occupation during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war]. At the meeting, the chief of the Supreme National Security Council [Sa'id Jalili] alleged that the people of the region associate the USA with dictatorship, suppression and support for the killings of Palestinians and regional executioners.
- [Jalili] The main ability of the [1979] Islamic Revolution was the fact that it defined a model for social, political and ruling principles, a model which was not inspired by foreign ideas and was rather based on the pure Mohammadian [Islamic] school of thought. The USA should know that it cannot uphold the fake identity of the Zionist regime and the reality of invasion and occupation by its supports [for Israel]. America should know that thanks to the Islamic awakening, today more than any other time, the people of Palestine consider the entire land of Palestine as their own, and no one can deprive them of this right.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1610 GMT, 24 May 2011)

- The Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee approved the bill which calls for imposition of sanctions on 26 US officials who have been involved in human rights violations, MP Kazem Jalali announced on Tuesday [24 May].
- "All US unilateral policies are scandalous, but some US officials have played a more effective role in violating human rights, perpetrating crimes against humanity, and drug trafficking, so this plan envisages punishing these people," Jalali, the committee spokesman, told reporters.
- "In the next session of the committee the details of the plan will be approved, and then the complete list of the sanctioned US officials will be published," he added.
- The senior lawmaker only identified five US officials who have been involved in human rights violation: Donald Henry Rumsfeld, the former US Secretary of Defense; Thomas J. Pickard, the former acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Jeffrey Harbeson, the commandant of Joint Task Force Guantanamo; Geoffrey D. Miller, the former commandant of the US detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay; and William C. Rogers III, former officer in the United States Navy, most notable as the captain of USS Vincennes, which shot down Iran Air Flight 655 over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 passengers and crew members, including 66 children.
- Mehr News Agency also reported that Tommy Ray Franks, a retired general in the United States Army, Paul Bremer, the US administrator to Iraq charged with overseeing the

country's reconstruction after the 2003 invasion, and Richard Perle, an American political adviser and lobbyist who worked on the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee from 1987 to 2004 are on the list of sanctioned officials.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1515 GMT, 24 May 2011)

- Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast condemned the attack on Muslim prayers in Banya Bashi Mosque in Sofia, Bulgaria, which left several people wounded.
- He urged the European Union to promote the most obvious principle of peaceful coexistence and to create an atmosphere free from racism for citizens. He also called for rapid punishment of the perpetrators of the attack on the mosque. Based on the released reports, the Ataka Coalition attacked Muslims in Banya Bashi Mosque in Sofia.

(Source: Iranian news website Radio Zamaneh, in English 1031 GMT, 24 May 2011)

- Qorban Behzadiannezhad, the chief aide to Iranian opposition leader Mirhoseyn Musavi, was recalled to Evin prison just one day after former president Mohammad Khatami urged the Islamic Republic establishment to move toward a national reconciliation by releasing all political prisoners.
- He was first briefly arrested in July of 2009 during the post-election crackdown on the opposition. Following his release, he was again detained in December of the same year, as protests continued against the disputed victory of Mahmud Ahmadinezhad.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 24 May 2011)

- The [state-run] Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) launched a new satellite channel to provide information on life and reflections of the eighth Shi'i imam, Imam Reza (PBUH).
- The new satellite network, named Imam Reza TV, was officially inaugurated on Tuesday [24 May] on Mother's Day in Iran, ISNA [news agency] reported.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0647 GMT, 24 May 2011)

- A senior Iranian lawmaker has refuted US allegations concerning Iran's role in the September 11 attacks, alleging instead that "Washington is playing a blame game in the Middle East."
- "After the September 11 [incidents], the US accused (slain Al-Qa'idah leader Usamah) Bin-Ladin with playing a role in the events and used the issue as a pretext to attack Afghanistan (in 2001)," said Chairman of Iran's Majlis (parliament) Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Ala'eddin Borujerdi, quoted by IRNA.
- "However, in addition to Washington's false accusations against Iran, evidence indicate that the United States, itself, had been the root cause of the attacks," he added.

23 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1600 GMT, 23 May 2011)

- Iranian state-run TV Channel Two (IRTV2) broadcast an eight-minute report on a dismantled "CIA-linked" "spy network" in Iran.

- "Some time ago, a CIA espionage network formed an expanded network of its intelligence officers and dispatched them to information contaminated locations to attract individuals who were somehow in touch with the country's sensitive organizations to use them as prey for their missions."
- "For this project, they established so-called companies in various countries to expand their destructive traps in the name of studying [providing student visas], providing visas and residency and employment in Western countries."
- The program added: "For the next phase, they invited the individuals they had deceived and who were unaware of the aims hidden behind the CIA's dangerous scenario to these countries to somehow get information from them."
- The report added that the "CIA" wanted to cause problems in the Iranian banking networks, stock market, oil and gas pipelines, electricity and telecommunications to make the system inefficient and make people unhappy with the system.
- It added: "In this regard, 42 of the CIA's operational agents have been identified and 30 of the individuals who were communicating with this network from inside the country have been arrested."

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1535 GMT, 23 May 2011)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that there is no limitation for the progress of women in the Islamic society.
- The president made the remarks during his speech at the Insightful Woman Conference on Monday [23 May] on the occasion of the auspicious birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatima (SA), the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (S), which is Women's Day in Iran.
- Ahmadinezhad said that the high status and dignity of women and mothers in the society should be safeguarded, and highlighted the role of brave and learned women in paving the way for the progress of the country.

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 23 May 2011)

- In a well-coordinated action the security forces arrested high ranking authorities of Baha'is Online university named "BIHI" [as published] and dismantled their network.
- According to a report by "Oruj", the establishment of online universities has been one of the tools used by the defamed faction of Baha'i. In fact, the so-called virtual university has been a cover to propagate the defamed faction of Baha'i as well as to spread spy networks for our compatriots and transferring information outside Iran. It is worth mentioning that many books, computers and CDs for the propagation of this defamed faction have been confiscated.