

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING
24 – 30 JANUARY 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

30 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1530 GMT, 31 January 2011)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that it goes without saying that Iran's Islamic Revolution is the history's biggest event after the movement of divine prophets.
- 'We are in the middle of a great event of the contemporary history,' he added.
- 'When we speak about revolution, we do not mean merely political or economic independence, or republicanism and materialistic progress, but the main topic is human being,' he said.
- He noted that the revolution does not only belong to Muslims or followers of divine religions. 'Revolution goes beyond all this and it belongs to all humanity. Revolution does not know any limit or border,' President Ahmadinezhad further said.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1711 GMT, 30 January 2011)

- Iran's minister of intelligence, Heydar Moslehi, has said a large number of individuals who have been in contact with the website of "an espionage fund" have been identified, IRNA reported on 30 January.
- The report maintained: "Moslehi hinted at the activity of the website of the Zionist don Ara [as published] fund which had succeeded by deceit to attract young people to carry out espionage acts, and said a large number of individuals who have been in contact with this website have been identified."
- Further in his remarks, Moslehi said: "All those who cooperated with this website were deceived and they have been identified."
- He then urged young people who "have been influenced by the deceitful inculcations of this website to take care not to be cheated."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1445 GMT, 30 January 2011)

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani cabled a message to parliament speakers as well as heads of international organizations to condemn assassination of two Iranian nuclear scientists. In the message, Larijani said such terrorist moves once again unveiled the role and interference of the Zionist regime as a staunch supporter of state terrorism.
- The message reads: "As you are fully aware, the Iranian nation and government from since early stages of the Islamic Revolution in Iran have faced the severest terrorist acts perpetrated with support of certain foreign states," Larijani said. Over 16,000 innocent civilians from various walks of life have been assassinated, he added. Last year we witnessed three separates assassination attempts on Iranian university professors claiming the lives of two of them, he said.
- "Based on confessions made by one of the culprits named Majid Jamali, he was trained in military camps run by the Zionist regime and received instructions and ds [as published] by Zionist officials. This indicates the role of the Zionist regime in such crimes and its pursuance of state terrorism", he underlined.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1218 GMT, 30 January 2011)

- Tehran Prosecutor Abbas Ja'fari-Dolatabadi confirmed that: "Two administrators of obscene sites have been sentenced to death. The verdicts were issued by two different [court] branches and have

been sent to the Supreme Court for confirmation," Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on 30 January.

28 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1900 GMT, 28 January 2011)

- Iran's Foreign Ministry says Egypt's popular uprising is based on the religious teachings and vigilance of the Muslims in the Middle East region.
- This uprising aims to return Egypt to its original place in the regional and international political scene, an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement quoted an informed source as saying.
- "The Egyptian people deserve higher and more influential status" in the Middle East and the Muslim world, the source added.
- "It seems more appropriate that Egyptian officials fulfill the people's demands and avoid violence caused by military and security officials against this popular uprising."

EXTERNAL MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 28 January 2011)

- Women's rights activist Somayyeh Farid has been sentenced to two years in prison.
- According to opposition website Kalemeh, Somayyeh Farid, a member of Iran's prominent student organisation Advar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat, was sentenced to two years in prison by branch 28 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court.
- She was arrested in March 2010 after referring to Tehran's Evin prison to follow-up on the case of her imprisoned husband, Hojjat (Siavash) Montazeri. She was released on a heavy bail a few weeks later.

27 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0810 GMT, 27 January 2011)

- Iran's new Ambassador to Algiers Mahmud Mohammadi reviewed issues of mutual interest with Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci on Thursday [27 January].
- The two officials underlined the need for further expansion of all-out ties between the two nations. The Algerian FM voiced his country's readiness to help implement all agreements already reached between the two sides.
- He further announced Algeria's support for Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Mohammadi reiterated that Tehran is interested in further promotion of bilateral cooperation with Algiers in all areas.

(Source: Keyhan website, Tehran, in Persian 27 January 2011)

Direct Excerpts:

- "The BBC Persian website dedicated a significant portion of its Iran page in defense of a person who is accused of defending homosexuality in Iran."
- "This internet website is facing a severe crisis of topics in the area of so-called human rights. In its latest effort, it has attempted to defend a dismissed IRNA [Islamic Republic News Agency] reporter, Siamak Ghaderi, with the main charges against him that he defended homosexuality and interviewed a group of homosexuals."
- "This is the mode of BBC reporting. It seems the emotional bond between seditionists and morally perverted is deep-rooted."

26 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1113 GMT, 26 January 2011)

- In an interview with Mehr news agency on Tuesday, Zarghami addressed the US-backed tribunal probing the assassination of former Lebanese Premier Rafiq al-Hariri, as well as Lebanon's developments, and urged that they constitute a chance for independent media to let the world nations learn the truth behind the fake court.
- "The important point about this tribunal is its discredit among the world nations, and the people do not believe in such Kangaroo courts," the IRIB director reiterated.
- The distrust came after Hezbollah's Secretary General Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah announced in July that he had been informed by the slain leader's son and successor, Sa'd al-Hariri, that the US-sponsored STL is to accuse some Hezbollah members.

25 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 2146 GMT, 25 January 2011)

- Intelligence Minister Heydar Moslehi has told a gathering in the northern city of Amol that post-election "sedition" is continuing. His comments were reported by the Iranian official government news agency IRNA: "The seditions of last year continue to persist", he was quoted as saying.
- He pointed to warnings of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamene'i adding: "The Supreme Leader showed the maximum level of insight and today the nation has vigilantly embarked on the right path we have to realize that the seditions of last year against Islamic Iran are continuing."

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1830 GMT, 25 January 2011)

- Tehran has expressed misgivings over Washington's "interference" in the popular revolution in Tunisia that led to the ouster of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.
- Citing remarks by the White House officials and a trip to Tunisia by a top US diplomat, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast voiced concern over what he described as Washington's "meddling" in the popular movement in the North African country, according to a statement released by the ministry.
- Mehmanparast urged the Tunisian people to remain vigilant and united, expressing hope that the demands of the Muslim Tunisian nation will be fulfilled with the establishment of a fair and democratic system in the country based on Tunisians' "ideological beliefs and values."

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 25 January 2011)

- Reporters Without Borders says that developments in the past two weeks confirm that the Iranian government is "continuing its relentless crackdown on the media".
- "A journalist was arrested for the second time in a year and courts imposed or upheld jail sentences on two women journalists whose journalist husbands are already in prison," said the Paris-based media watchdog.
- The group also recently released its annual press freedom index, in which Iran was ranked 175th out of 178 countries.

24 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran East Azarbayjan Provincial TV, Tabriz, in Persian 1135 GMT, 24 January 2011)

- A senior Iranian cleric has accused "enemies" of spreading the ideology of pan-Turkism in the region.

- Speaking at a meeting with local officials and residents of East Azarbayjan Province in Tabriz, a member of the Assembly of Experts and interim Friday imam of Tehran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Khatami, said "enemies" spread the ideology of pan-Turkism in the region predominantly populated by Azeri speakers, and said that "Israelis are trying to set up cultural, military and other bases in the region".

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1121 GMT, 24 January 2011)

- In a letter to Majlis, President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has referred to the process of the ratification of the fifth five-year development plan and criticized the "illegal and obvious" change of the constitution and "harming the government's authorities" in the recent decisions of the Expediency Council, Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA reported on 24 January.
- In the letter, the president referred to the process of discussion and ratification of the plan, and expressed regret about activities of the Majlis' presidium that "contradicted the guidelines of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i which, in some cases, "even ignored the Majlis' regulations".

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0646 GMT, 24 January 2011)

- Two members of the Monafeqin grouplet [Hypocrites; reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] named as Ja'far Kazemi the son of Sadeq and Mohammad Ali Haj-Aqa'i, the son of Rajab Ali were hanged this morning (Monday).
- According to ILNA, the two Monafeq [hypocrites] were members of an active network of the said grouplet who were involved in the riots [post-election unrest] under the guidance of their main contact in England.
- The trial session for examining the charges of the convicts had been held in the presence of a representative from the prosecutor's office as well as the convicts' lawyers at various benches of the Islamic Revolution courts of Tehran. The sentences were also upheld by the court of appeal.

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 24 January 2011)

- Iranian reporter and blogger Siamak Ghaderi has been sentenced to four years in prison as well as a cash fine.
- The former reporter for the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) has received a four-year jail term for "propaganda against the regime", "disturbing public opinion" and "spreading lies."
- The blogger was jailed in early August [2010] after security forces raided his home.
- Security agents had previously promised to release Ghaderi on the condition that he would agree to write articles in support of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i and the establishment on his personal blog "Our IRNA" which regularly features pro-Green Movement content [sentence as published].