

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

APRIL 25 – MAY 1, 2011

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MAY 1, 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 2, Tehran, in Persian 1600 GMT, 1 May 2011)

- Important domestic and foreign issues were examined at the cabinet meeting presided by Mr [Mahmud] Ahmadinezhad. At the meeting, the cabinet members discussed and examined various bills and plans, particularly in reference to Economic Jihad Year.
- Speaking at the meeting, the president wholeheartedly appreciated the continuous support of the supreme leader [Ayatollah Khamene'i] for the government, and said that the 10th government [the incumbent administration] was committed to the Guardianship of Jurisconsult [supreme leader; rule of clerics] adding that all cabinet members pledged themselves to follow the Guardianship of Jurisconsult. He added that the belief in the Guardianship of Jurisconsult was the key ideological principle of the government.
- [Ahmadinezhad]: The Guardianship of Jurisconsult theory is the key principle in the Imam's [the late Ayatollah Khomeyni] thought who started the movement. He introduced a new method of statecraft in the face of capitalism and Marxism. This method is rooted in our beliefs, and in fact is a link connecting us to all divine thoughts granted by God's prophets to mankind.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0235 GMT, 1 May 2011)

- Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparst, in a press conference in Havana, rejected US assertions on human rights.
- He told reporters that US claims on human rights is politically motivated and cautioned that the US has not explained about its inhuman behavior and torture in Guantanamo and Abu-Guerin prisons yet.
- He said how the Americans and their media express concern over human rights situation in certain countries, but they do not pay attention to news on fate of people of Bahrain and Yemen. He added that the US officials supported Egypt and Tunisia dictators until the end, but as soon as their fall became evident, they changed their stances promptly.

APRIL 30, 2011

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 30 April 2011)

- In a newly published interview, one of Iran's most influential politicians Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, accused Ahmadinezhad of basing his 2009 election campaign on "lies," saying he had expected Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i to react to Ahmadinezhad's brazen allegations during the televised election debates in June 2009.
- On Saturday [30 April], Rafsanjani's official website published an interview between the Expediency Council Chairman and the Communications Management monthly. During the interview, conducted almost a year ago, Rafsanjani, a pillar of the establishment since Iran's 1979 Revolution, said that he had no regret over any of the letters he had written during his long political career.

- Rafsanjani's letter comes amidst growing rifts within Iran's conservative factions over Khamene'i's decision to reinstate the intelligence minister Heydar Moslehi after he was forced by Ahmadinezhad to resign on 17 April.

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1545 GMT, 30 April 2011)

- Expediency Council Secretary Mohsen Reza'i has said that officials should follow the Supreme Leaders directives and avoid political disagreements because internal disputes could negatively affect important national missions.
- "Economic jihad and supporting the Islamic awakening in the region are two important missions in the current year (which started on 21 March), so there is no reason for engaging in internal disagreements or following the paths parallel with that of the Iranian nation, which has been delineated by the Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i)," Reza'i told reporters on Saturday [30 April].
- "All people are obligated to follow this path, because taking parallel paths will pose a threat to these two ideological goals of the Iranian nation in the current year," he said.
- He went on to say that "obstacles in the way of our nations' progress can be removed if all political groups support the velayat-e faqih (rule of the supreme jurisprudent)."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1500 GMT, 30 April 2011)

- Majlis Commission on National Security and Foreign Policy on Saturday [30 April] condemned death sentences against four young Bahraini protesters and called for revoking the unjust verdicts against innocent people.
- The parliament's commission said in a statement that sentencing four young Bahrainis to death and three others to life in prison must be revoked because the human rights of the defendants have not been taken into account in the process of so-called legal proceedings. "Massacre of the innocent Bahrainis by the security forces in cooperation with the occupiers will mark dark pages for Al-Khalifah and Saudi households in the history," the statement said.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 0930 GMT, 30 April 2011)

- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i called on the country's officials to avoid any action which would please Iran's enemies.
- Khamene'i said: "The least bit of discord [among the country's officials] would harm the country. If such discord becomes more extensive and the enemies become aware of it, they would make ballyhoo and celebrate when they see any signs of tension or discord among us. We must avoid such actions."

APRIL 29, 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1719 GMT, 29 April 2011)

- A senior Iranian official criticized the international human rights organizations for remaining silent in the face of brutal crackdowns on protesters in the Middle East and North Africa.
- "The silence of the international organizations vis-a-vis human rights violations in the Middle East and North Africa is scandalous," Mohammad-Javad Larijani, head of the Judiciary's Human Rights Headquarters said.

- Larijani noted that the West, particularly the US, considers itself the advocate of human rights and issues resolutions against Iran for alleged rights abuse.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Esfahan Provincial TV, Esfahan, in Persian 1615 GMT, 29 April 2011)

- People in Iran's Esfahan Province have staged marches to condemn the killing of civilians in Bahrain, the provincial TV channel reported. The marches were staged after the Friday sermons in Esfahan and other cities of the province on 29 April.
- During the marches people chanted slogans objecting to "the cruel crimes against the defenceless people of Bahrain" and in support for their uprising. The marchers urged the unity of Muslims in order to stop those who are against Islam and the Koran.
- People chanted "Down with the USA", "Down with Israel", "God is Great" and others.

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 29 April 2011)

- Fatemeh Karrubi, spouse of Mahdi Karrubi who spearheads Iran's opposition Green Movement, has said that her husband is in good spirits despite having been under house arrest and he is prepared to pay any price for defending the rights of the people and reforming the derailed 1979 Islamic Revolution.
- Karrubi and his wife were placed under house arrest on 10 February after he and fellow 2009 presidential candidate Mirhoseyn Musavi called for rallies in solidarity with the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt. A few days later and at the same time as the 14 February
- During the interview, Fatemeh Karrubi said that following the 14 February anti-government demonstrations, state-sponsored thugs, gathered outside their home in Tehran for six consecutive nights, creating havoc, mayhem and terrorizing the neighborhood by stealing property such as closed-circuit cameras, throwing sound bombs inside the house and vandalizing the residence.
- "Resorting to thugs and hooligans is a simple measure adopted by dictatorships, and today these measures are being enforced in other countries in the region too. But let us not forget that the establishment's stain of shame will remain," she added. "Those who have a role in these oppressions or pave the way for these people to gain ground should know ... that sooner or later, this will include them too."

APRIL 28, 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 28 April 2011)

- According to Fars news agency, in an announcement, the office of Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, the secretary-general of the Assembly of Experts of the Supreme Leader, denied the rumors published by foreign and anti-revolutionary media regarding a meeting with Ahmadinezhad and called on media to avoid publishing of any news about the secretary-general of the Assembly of Experts of the Supreme Leader without the confirmation from his office.
- "During the last days, some websites have published invalid news on the meeting of the secretary-general of the Assembly of Experts of the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, which are being denied as His Eminence [Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani] has had no meeting with the respected president. Therefore, all the media sources and especially websites are required to avoid publishing of any report regarding the respected secretary-general of the Assembly of Experts of the Supreme Leader without the confirmation from his office."

APRIL 27, 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 2049 GMT, 27 April 2011)

- Commenting on the agreement between Palestinian groups Fatah and Hamas, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi has called it "a positive and blessed step in line with reaching the historic goals of the innocent Palestinian people, and thanked the new Egyptian government with this regard," Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on 27 April.
- According to IRNA, quoting the Foreign Ministry's information and media affairs department, Salehi said unity between the Palestinian groups and resistant against "the Zionist occupiers" were the two factors required by the Palestinian people to achieve their rights.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1729 GMT, 27 April 2011)

- At 1729 gmt, the state-run TV Channel One (IRTV1) started broadcasting a recording of a speech made by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i addressing a large gathering of labourers and officials on 27 April on the occasion of the Workers Day.
- Commenting on "enemies" efforts against Iran, he said: "The enemy has mostly focused its campaign against Islam and the Islamic Republic on the economy. It's not like they have forgotten other fields. No! We know that. They are pushing ahead with their efforts against the Islamic Republic's system in the cultural, security, and political spheres, and other areas in order to create a rift between the people and the [Islamic] establishment but their main focus is on economic affairs. They are trying to cause problems in the country's economy in a bid to create a gap between the people and the government, the system. So we need an economic jihad."

APRIL 26, 2011

STATE-FACILITATED

MEDIA

SOURCES

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1821 GMT, 26 April 2011)

- Iran has criticized the West's support for the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) despite the group's deadly attacks and crimes against thousands of Iranians.
- At a meeting with the head of South Korean Supreme Court in Tehran on Tuesday [26 April], Iranian Justice Minister Morteza Bakhtiari said "12,000 Iranians have fallen victim to MKO's acts of terror but the US and Europe keep supporting the terrorist group," Fars news agency reported.
- "Two-hundred revolutionary and significant figures have been martyred by the MKO members," Bakhtiari added, singling out slain head of Iran's Judiciary Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyni Beheshti.
- The Iranian minister further highlighted the contradiction between the statistics and US accusations of human rights violation against the Islamic Republic.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0821 GMT, 26 April 2011)

- According to Fars, members of "Global Students Movement" held a rally in front of the UN office in Tehran condemning the attacks on Bahraini protesters.
- They issued a statement which was handed over to the UN office, addressing UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to voice their concern.

APRIL 25, 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 1218 GMT, 25 April 2011)

- Mehr News Agency has reported that students of Tehran's universities started a rally in front of former US embassy in Tehran, on the occasion of the anniversary of US forces' "failure" in Tabas desert in 1980 in an attempt to free the US citizens held hostage in Iran, and in support of "Islamic awareness" in the region.