

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
27 DECEMBER 2010 - 2 JANUARY 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

2 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Tabnak news website, in Persian 1454 GMT, 2 January 2011)

- Mehdi Kalhor, the former presidential adviser for media affairs, has said that he and 13 other presidential advisers were given their end of service notice and appreciation letter for their services on 1 January, Tabnak reported on 2 January, quoting Mehr news agency.
- Kalhor added said he had given his retirement request to the president three months ago and his end of services notice as the former presidential adviser was issued 1 January.

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 2 January 2011)

- In an interview with RASA television, Zahra Rahnavard called the current political establishment in Iran "a very oppressive" one, while maintaining once more that she has no fear of being jailed and is even prepared to face the death penalty for "freedom."
- The wife of opposition leader Mirhoseyn Musavi said that Green Movement was still alive, but it would not achieve success without the integration of "theoretical and organizational" aspects within the movement.
- She explained that "a portion of the suppressions" had been effective in deterring the people from pouring onto the streets, but the crackdowns had also provided the Green Movement with an "opportunity to become more rational and to go underground."
- "The Green Movement has deepened, become more rational, reasonable and organized, and when necessary it will see street protests and it [the Green Movement] is not afraid of suppression. So many of our women and men are in prison, and no one is afraid this."

1 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 01 January 2011)

- On the request of the Tax Department, Shirin Ebadi has been barred from leaving the country.
- According to a report by Asr-e Iran [website], following the case of non-payment of taxes by Shirin Ebadi and her sentencing to pay a sum of 3,626,790,040 rials [approximately 349,772 US dollars] (actual tax) by the Tax Dispute Resolution Board including the penalty of a sum of 8,689,847,706 rials [approximately 837,207 US dollars], is now obliged to pay a sum of 12,613,538,647 rials [approximately 1,217,533 US dollars] (actual and penalty).

(Source: Hasht-e Sobh, Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif, Herat and Jalalabad in Dari 1 January 2011)

Direct Excerpts:

- "In a situation where many citizens are obliged to live in asylum abroad because of security difficulties, unfortunately, they are living in very miserable conditions. It is worth pointing out that lack of security, job opportunities in the country, lack of attention by officials who are responsible for providing essential and vital needs are the main reasons behind mass migration and people are losing hope in this country."
- Politicians and government officials in neighboring countries treat Afghans on the basis of the current political situation on the ground. They do not only take advantage of our people for economic ends but also use them for political ends in pursuit of their own interests.

- “According to fresh reports, provincial officials in [western] Farah Province have claimed that Iran is involved in causing the recent security problems in the province, saying that country has set up a base to train armed groups opposing the Afghan government or any other group which want to disrupt security situation in Afghanistan.”
- “By using the groups, the Iranian government wants to put pressure on the Afghan government and foreign forces deployed in Afghanistan...Apparently, Iran is trying to support terrorists who are opposed to Afghans to placate the said terrorists in order to avert pressure against it [Iran] by the USA.”

31 DECEMBER 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0805 GMT, 31 December 2010)

- Tehran Prosecutor Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi has said that opposition leaders will definitely be tried in court, Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, reported on 31 December.
- Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi: "As the esteemed head of the Judiciary Branch and other judiciary officials have stressed, the sedition leaders [reference to leaders of the post-election unrest] will most definitely be tried in court."
- "The people of the country must know that the US and Zionist regime are behind this major act of sedition and our actions should not encourage further acts of mischief." He said: "The trial of the sedition leaders would be their coup de grace."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0530 GMT, 31 December 2010)

- Iran's Intelligence Minister Heydar Moslehi accused Britain of encouraging "sedition" and conspiring to overthrow the Islamic government in Iran.
- "Since the beginning of the revolution, intelligence services have been trying to overthrow this system. According to accurate information, one of these intelligence services is the British intelligence service. They know our culture very well," Hojjat ol-Eslam Moslehi said at a meeting in the city of Rey.

29 JANUARY 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in Persian 1910 GMT, 29 December 2010)

- Iran detained a poet and a political activist in western Kordestan Province on 28 December, the Human Rights News Agency of Iran (RAHANA) has reported.
- Iranian intelligence forces detained the Saqqez residents, Rahim Loqmani and Naseh Naqshbandi, in the city of Sanandaj in Kordestan Province. Rahim Loqmani is a poet, and Naseh Naqshbandi is a political activist, the report said.
- RAHANA added that there was no information as to the reason for their detention.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 29 December 2010)

- In an address to a group of people from Gilan Province visiting to renew their allegiance with the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i on the anniversary of the pro-government rallies on 30 December 2009 in the aftermath of the post-election unrests, Khamene'i said that: "Last year's sedition was a manifestation of the enemies' plot. It was sedition. Sediton means that certain people chant rightful slogans with a 100 per cent wrong content in order to deceive people, but they failed. The purpose behind this sedition was to mislead people. You can see that people rose in order to confront this sedition, and the 9 Dey [30 December 2009] rallies, which were held across the country, inflicted a heavy blow on the seditionists."

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 29 December 2010)

- After twenty days of detention, the editor-in-chief of Sharq newspaper has been released from prison on bail.
- According to the opposition website Kalemeh, last week, more than 150 interpreters, journalists and authors wrote a letter to the head of Iran's judiciary, Sadeq Larijani, calling for the release of Ahmad Gholami, editor-in-chief of the reformist Sharq newspaper.
- He was released on Wednesday [29 December] on a bail of more than 9,630 dollars. Ali Khodabakhsh, the newspaper's financial investor, had been released earlier on an equal bail.
- Mehrgan, Tabataba'i and Rusta'i are still being held in detention.

28 DECEMBER 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1647 GMT, 28 December 2010)

- Deputy Foreign Minister for Middle East and Commonwealth Countries Mohammad Ra'uf Sheybani expressed concern over reports published on the death of Ali Reza Asgari, former deputy minister of defence of our country in Zionist regime's prisons.
- According to the Directorate General of Information and Press of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheybani on Tuesday [28 December] announced that the measures taken by the Zionist regime with the cooperation of America in abducting Asgari and the recent claim by the Zionist regime's propaganda machine are evident proof of state terrorism; and this announcement only adds to their responsibility towards Asgari's life and health.
- "This measure by the Zionist regime is taking place at a time when in a similar move, this regime had abducted four Iranian diplomats in Lebanon and transferred them to the prisons inside the regime's occupied territories."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0510 GMT, 28 December 2010)

Direct Excerpts:

- "Terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) member Ali Saremi and racist Zionist regime agent Ali-Akbar Siadat were hanged at Tehran's Evin Prison at dawn, Tuesday [28 December]."
- According to IRNA, the information website of Tehran Prosecutor's Office reported Tuesday that Ali Saremi's crimes included fighting against the sacred Islamic Republic of Iran system and launching antagonist propagations.
- According to his dossier, Saremi was arrested in the winter of 1983 accused of cooperation with the MKO and sentenced to three years imprisonment by Bench Three of the Central Revolutionary Court for relations and cooperation with that terrorist grouplet, but his sentence was then suspended for a period of five years. He was once again arrested in the summer of 1989 on the same crimes and sentenced to death, but after filing an appeals request his sentence was reduced to ten years behind the bars by Qom Supreme Court.
- According to the report, the other executed criminal, Ali-Akbar Siadat, had established relations with the espionage agency of the racist Zionist regime in the year 2005. Siadat had been commissioned to dispatch the top secret, classified information of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tel Aviv for sixty thousand US dollars. He was arrested in the fall of 2008 when he was trying to escape Iran along with his wife and it was revealed that he had contacts with his Israeli master through his prepaid mobile phone.