

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
28 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH 2011
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6 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1453 GMT, 6 March 2011)

- Iran's former President Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke at a meeting on recent developments in the Mideast region and said that: "The entire world of Islam and the third world is facing heavy storms and people have shown that the common ruling systems in the region were no longer competent."
- He added: "In today's world, it is no longer possible to rule people through intimidation and threatening. Such movements that we see today were caused because of information explosion and expansion of information means."
- "For this reason and in order to protect the state and its interests, we should enhance unity and consolidation in the country and overlook personal interests," he was quoted as saying.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1046 GMT, 6 March 2011)

- Head of the Judiciary and member of the Assembly of Experts Sadeq Amoli-Lariajnai asked the media to refrain from propaganda about the Assembly of Experts elections.
- Ayatollah Amoli-Larijani referred to certain media's attempt to impose their opinion on the public by taking advantage of the Assembly of Experts internal elections and said that "Certain media are creating an adverse atmosphere regarding the internal Assembly of Experts elections. In fact they are writing issues which reflect their own will and broadcast them as news. At the Assembly of Experts, a number of the country's Ulemas who are trusted by the people have come together based on elections which have taken place. These distinguished figures are not led by media propaganda. They act based on what they regard as facts and perform according to the interest of the society and the system. Therefore, one should warn certain media, which destruct personalities and try to impose their will on people."

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0702 GMT, 6 March 2011)

- Senior cleric Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili expressed concern over the prevailing trend of slander and defamation in the country against individuals and groups in the name of defending Islam and the Islamic system
- He added: "What causes concern is the type of behavior which harms the image of Islam and its teachings in the eyes of others and creates doubts about its symbolic status. It is much regrettable to witness the behavior of some individuals in violation of the law, the religious law, ethics and human dignity in the name of defending Islam and the Islamic government, which threaten the spirit of justice-seeking, freedom-seeking and truth-seeking in any system based on Islamic teachings."
- Ardabili warned that the continuation of this trend would shake the foundations of the system and create social chaos. He reminded the officials and the nation of the precious

values of Islam and urged compassion and respect for the law and attention to the legal and religious rights of individuals.

5 MARCH 2011

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 5 March 2011)

- Fereydun Seydi, a member of the youth branch of the IIPF's Arak branch, was arrested during demonstrations in support of detained Green Movement leaders Mahdi Karrubi and Mirhoseyn Musavi on 1 March.
- Seydi was a member of Mahdi Karrubi's campaign team during the 2009 presidential election and was arrested for a short period following the electoral coup.

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 5 March 2011)

- The Islamic Iran Participation Front (IIPF), the largest - and currently outlawed - reformist political group, issued a statement regarding the arrest of Fakhrossadat Mohtashamipur, member of the group's central committee.
- Mohtashamipur is the wife of outspoken reformist Mostafa Tajzadeh, also a member of the committee, has been imprisoned for the past 18 months.

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, www.irangreenvoice.com, in Persian 0421 GMT, 5 March 2011)

- Sam Mahmudi Sara'i, the editor of Book Service [column] of Sharq Newspaper, was summoned on 10 Esfand [1 March] by the Intelligence Ministry's summon office. He was then arrested and transferred to Evin prison.
- Heavy pressure has been exerted on the journalists working for Sharq Newspaper. Security officers raided the newspaper's office on one occasion and arrested several journalists.
- Reyhaneh Tabataba'i, Farzaneh Rusta'i, Maziar Khosravi, Nozhat Amirabadi and Ahmad Gholami were among the arrested journalists.

4 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0659 GMT, 4 March 2011)

- A senior provincial Guards commander has predicted a "bloody year" ahead after the next Majlis election in Iran.
- According to Fars News Agency, Salar Abnush, a senior provincial commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, warned that the period between 2012 and 2013 may turn out to be a "bloody" year in the country if the next Majlis is not a "healthy" one.
- The commander strongly criticized the opposition leaders, Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi, warning that more unrest might be in the offing if the next Majlis result is not in favor of the political system.
- "If the election results of the Majlis [which will be held in 2012] are not in line with our values, 91 [the year starting on 21 March 2012] will be a very dangerous and even bloody year.

- The commander cautioned that "It is necessary to be more vigilant and accurate documents, evidence and information should be gathered in this regard. If someone [the qualification of a candidate] deserves to be rejected, it should be done and if someone needs to receive a caution, it should also be done."

3 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0858 GMT, 3 March 2011)

- Iran Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani cautioned that: "USA should not dare to disrupt Iran's internal atmosphere. The Iranian people are united and they have a leader like Ayatollah Khomeini and they will give the USA a bloody nose for its mistake," Mehr news agency reported on 3 March.
- Commenting on recent political developments in Libya, Larijani said: "This country's people say they do not want to surrender to the US dictatorship and humiliation. And they have had more than 1,000 martyrs in the past few days. The Westerners are very worried and they voice their concern, saying the regional changes are in a direction similar to what led to Iran's Islamic Revolution 32 years ago."

1 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1445 GMT, 1 March 2011)

- Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast rejected the US officials discussion on human rights, saying that: "The US officials' apparent defense of human rights has made a mockery of this issue. The US officials should account for the situation of human rights and harsh treatment of prisoners and minority groups in the US," Mehmanparast said at his weekly press briefing on Tuesday [1 March].
- "Unfortunately, the US double standard towards the issue of human rights has greatly undermined the principle of human rights," he said.

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1103 GMT, 1 March 2011)

- Spokesman of the Judiciary Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i denied reports of the reformist leaders Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi's detention at Tehran's Heshmatiyeh detention centre.
- In an interview with ISNA, Ezhe'i said that the "reports published by certain opposition media regarding the transfer of Messrs Musavi and Karrubi to Heshmatiyeh detention centre are not true."

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

- S Q, one of IRNA's journalists, who was sentenced to four years imprisonment by the Revolution Court for actions against the national security and for committing special crimes, has been dismissed from IRNA in an action by Ahmadinezhad's Media Advisor Akbar Jawanfekar.

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 1 March 2011)

- Students at Tehran University have cancelled their classes to take part in opposition rallies in Tehran.
- Students at Tehran University's Faculty of Engineering have already begun preparing for today's demonstrations in support of jailed opposition leaders Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mahdi Karrubi who are currently being held at Tehran's Heshmatiyeh military prison.
- The Coordination Council of the Green Path of Hope has announced its backing for demonstrations on 1 March to protests the continued arrest of Green Movement leaders.

28 FEBRUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1050 GMT, 28 February 2011)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most successful pattern for respecting human rights.
- He stressed that such gatherings can take a big stride towards a society in which the legitimate rights of the people are observed. President Ahmadinezhad further condemned the approach of the so-called advocates of human rights and democracy towards their own peoples as well as other nations.