IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT 28 MARCH – 3 APRIL 2011 STACY TOPOUZOVA

3 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1540 GMT, 3 April 2011)

- Top legislator Ala'eddin Borujerdi called Saudi Arabia's military involvement in Bahrain an occupation, and urged the country to withdraw its troops as soon as possible.
- "Such measures do not help the promotion of security in the region," Borujerdi, the chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee stated on Sunday [3 April].
- The massacre of the defenceless and unarmed people contravenes the Islamic and international laws, Borujerdi added.
- He also advised the meddlers to allow the Bahraini people to resolve their internal issues themselves.
- Saudi Arabia's policy of keeping silence in the face of main issues of the Islamic world such as the occupation of Palestine and the Zionist regime's brutal aggression against the oppressed people of Gaza is not in the interests of the Islamic world, the lawmaker noted.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0801 GMT, 3 April 2011)

- Deputy interior minister for security affairs alleged that the perpetrators of the recent "terrorist attacks" in the western province of Kordestan are "linked to the American and Israeli intelligence agencies."
- In an attack in an area bordering the Iraqi Kurdistan on 2 April, four Iranian boarder guards
 were killed and three others injured. Ali Abdollahi, deputy interior minister for security
 affairs alleged that the act was most probably the work of the PJAK group and said: "This
 terrorist attack is different from the two recent terrorist attacks which took place in
 Sanandaj [Kordestan Province] but PJAK has not accepted responsibility for this terrorist
 attack yet."
- "The American and Israeli intelligence agencies are active in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and are even officially publishing newspapers with an official Zionist name", Abdollahi said.

2 APRIL 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in English 0950 GMT, 2 April 2011)

- Iran's ambassador to Syria, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Musavi, alleged that the "division of Muslim states is on agenda of global arrogance [Western powers and the USA] and is the priority of enemies of Islam today."
- Musavi told IRNA that to achieve their goals enemies try label their efforts as democracy and that Muslims' states should be aware of the enemy plots.

1 APRIL 2011

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

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

- According to the Daneshjoo News website, since the onset of Arash Sadeqi's hunger strike on 15 March 2010 until the present, his physical condition has severely deteriorated.
- "The effects of torture by government agents has been so severe that the student activist fell into a coma today, forcing the Evin prison officials to transfer him to Modarres Hospital".

30 MARCH 2011

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

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

- The leader of the banned opposition group, the Iran Democratic Front, has been sentenced to eight years in prison, according to reports.
- According to the Human Rights Activists, an Iranian organization, political activist
 Heshmatollah Tabarzadi [secretary-general for the National Democratic Front of Iran and
 spokesperson for the Unity Council for Democracy and Human Rights in Iran] has been
 acquitted of the charge of "disrupting public order," which means that a previous nine-year
 jail-term plus 74 lashes were reduced to eight years in prison following appeal.

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian news website HRANA, in English 1257 GMT, 30 March 2011)

- Ahmad Nur-Mohammadi Abadchi, a blogger and activist, has been arrested.
- According to a report by Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), in March of 2011, a number of security officers entered Ahmad Nur-Mohammadi Abadchi's house and after confiscating some of his personal belongings such as his computer, took him to an unknown location. His family's attempts to contact him have been fruitless.
- According to government officials, he has been charged with having connections with some other political activists and also calls to gather for demonstrations and protests.

(Source: Tabnak news website, in Persian 1253 GMT, 30 March 2011)

- According to Tabnak, Samku Khorshidi was arrested during a wide-scale operation by security and police forces in the suburbs of Tehran on 28 March. The report added that while surrounded by police forces, Samku ignored their warnings and tried to escape but the forces shot him in his right leg and left hand before arresting him.
- An informed official told Tabnak: "During preliminary investigations, Samku Khorshidi confessed that he had committed murder and carried out robbery in coordination with the leaders of Komaleh."