

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

2 – 8 MAY 2011

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8 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 2, Tehran, in Persian 1600 GMT, 8 May 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad stressed support for Guardianship of Jurisconsult (rule of clergy), the state-run Iranian TV channel two (IRTV2) reported on 8 May.
- Speaking at the cabinet meeting on the same day, the president said: "The issue of Guardianship of Jurisconsult is a very valuable issue and it is in line with the path of the Imam of the Age [12th Shi'i Imam Mahdi]. It is a great heritage left for us through hundreds of years of endeavour. The incumbent government has devoted itself to promoting the Islamic Republic system and it is serving. However for two reasons, or it is better to say due to the performance of two groups, I feel that we need to come forward again and support the Guardianship of Jurisconsult and discuss this issue in society. The first group are those who think that the Guardianship of Jurisconsult is a means to adjust political arrangements and debates among various tribes, groups and parties. They want to use it as a label to use against their rivals. The second group [is comprised of] those who defend [the Guardianship of Jurisconsult] badly. They depict an image which is terribly unrealistic and far from the reality and philosophy of the main issue. Moreover, rather than being attractive, their arguments are repulsive. But the fact is that the Guardianship [of Jurisconsult] is only about attracting and being kind towards others, with the exception of those who like to fall outside the circle of this divine attraction."
- The president said that the government worked based on "expertise and rationality" rejecting that his administration had resorted to "fortunetelling and exorcism" for carrying out its tasks

7 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1026 GMT, 7 May 2011)

- Iranian Friday imam and Seminary Lecturer, Hojjat ol-Eslam Kazem Seddiqi, announced his support for the supreme leader at a gathering of mourners on 7 May, noting that: "If the supreme leader of the revolution oversees the work of the president it is because he knows what is best for the nation and government and as a guardian he controls the situation so that no one will be deviated. If the leader does not control such behavior and does not speak out, he would be betraying the nation."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0841 GMT, 7 May 2011)

- Senior conservative cleric and member of Iran's Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Abolqasem Khazali, has said that everyone and all sources of emulation must submit to the order of the expert cleric (Vali-Faqih), Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i.
- Speaking at a ceremony on 7 May, Ayatollah Khazali said: "Even if someone wins 40m votes, let alone 20m votes, he would have no credit without the endorsement of the leader."
- Khazali continued: "The current head and the Imam of the Islamic society [Ayatollah Khamene'i] is a character about whose personality the late Imam [Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni] said: 'you will not find anyone whose sense of responsibility towards the Islamic revolution is greater than Mr Khamene'i's. The late Imam emphasized that 'as long as Mr Khamene'i is alive you do not need to worry [about the Islamic Republic].'"

- According to Fars, Ayatollah Khazali then addressed the government and said: "It will be very good for the government to identify and stop certain people who want to infiltrate the government's body."

5 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1029 GMT, 6 May 2011)

- Iran plans to look into the "crimes" committed by the Riyadh and Manama regimes in the crackdown on anti-government protests in Bahrain, a senior Iranian lawmaker says.
- Iranian officials will "thoroughly review the massacre of Bahraini people by the Al Saud and Al Khalifah [regimes]" at a two-day meeting named the "Persian Gulf," which is scheduled to be held on May 12 and May 13 in the southern Iranian city of Bandar Abbas, Mostafa Kavakebian said on Friday [6 May].
- At the meeting, members of Iran's Parliament (Majlis) National Security and Foreign Policy Commission and Iranian Foreign Ministry officials will further examine the recent developments in the Middle East, Fars News Agency reported.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1107 GMT, 5 May 2011)

- Commenting on latest developments in Libya, Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad alleged that: "Using the war in Libya as an excuse, they [presumably referring to the West] have blocked assets, and now they are selling their stored weapons. These weapons' money is taken from the accounts of those who are killed," Fars new agency reported on 5 May.
- According to Fars, the president made the remarks at a ceremony held to commemorate exemplary scientific boards' members on 5 May.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0638 GMT, 5 May 2011)

- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i's Basij Organization Representative Hojjat ol-Eslam Kadkhoda'i criticized Law Enforcement Force for battering a number of young people for protesting against Saudi Arabia at Azadi stadium on 3 May during a football match, Fars news agency reported on 5 May.
- According to Fars, Kadkhoda'i said: "Extremism by certain police officers in battering a number of young hezbollahis [referring to religious supporters of the system], who were supporting the innocent Bahraini people during a match between Tehran Piruzi team and Saudi's Al-Ittihad team, could have been managed in a better way by the Law Enforcement Force to avoid certain negative impressions and misunderstandings."

4 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian news website Roozonline, in Persian 4 May 2011)

Text of report by Iranian news website Roozonline on 4 May headlined "A project to remove Ahmadinezhad's right-hand man kicks off"

- The Alef website reported yesterday [3 May] that [the Iranian president's top advisor] Esfandiyar Rahim-Masha'i and [Vice-President for Executive Affairs and Head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization] Hamid Baqa'i hold the shares of a company called Semga. The website claimed that it was established with an initial investment of 20bn tomans [20m dollars] and its managing director was Mehdi Jahangiri, Rahim Masha'i's former deputy in the Cultural Heritage Organization.

3 MAY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1443 GMT, 3 May 2011)

- A number of students who have been chanting slogans against the family of Sa'ud in Azadi Stadium in Tehran have been arrested, Fars reported on 3 May.
- According to the report the slogans were chanted while a football game between an Iranian and a Saudi team was in progress in Azadi Stadium.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1415 GMT, 3 May 2011)

- On Tuesday [3 May], a large crowd of Iranian physicians staged a demonstration outside the Bahraini Embassy in Tehran condemning the bloody massacres of protesters in the island kingdom. A number of lawmakers of the Majlis Health Committee, together with representatives from the Health Ministry, Red Crescent Society, and the Welfare Organization also attended the demonstration.
- The demonstrators chanted slogans in support of the Bahraini protesters and in condemnation of the bloody massacre of the civilians and Saudi Arabia's military intervention in the tiny Arab state.
- "USA, Israel frightened by Islamic awakening"
- "Today we are witnessing that the culture of resistance... has spread across other countries."
- Elahian went on to say that "the deployment of Saudi troops (in Bahrain) have discredited the Al-Khalifa regime."
- "Human rights organizations and the United States have kept silence about the desecration of sanctities (in Bahrain) while they used to create a commotion about a small incident."
- A number of female university students also staged a similar demonstration outside the United Nations office in Tehran and expressed their solidarity with the Bahraini nation.

(Source: Iranian newspaper Keyhan, in Persian 3 May 2011, p.2)

Direct Excerpts:

- The scandal that rippled in the media spider-network has made Gooya News confess to its disgraceful lie and apologize to its fellow agencies over involving them in this scandal.
- Lately the Gooya News website - a website affiliated to the CIA - published an item headlined "Sa'id Qasemi's speech against government and Ahmadinezhad", containing a number of offensive phrases. This sheer fabricated story was immediately welcomed by the other members of the spider-network like Saham News, Balatarin and tens of other counter-revolutionary websites and channels and they all set to copying and reflecting the Gooya News item as a rare treasure! The scale of reflection of this absurd item was so wide that the stupid reporter of Gooya News with the fictitious name F M Sokhan was obliged to apologize to his colleagues and noted that his item was a joke, which unfortunately was re-published by other websites as real news.
- He also said: "I do not wish to harm the authority of the websites that published the item. On the other hand, I believe that after finding their mistake, they will point a finger and blame me. I will be chided for writing a baseless, weak, distasteful and repulsive joke."

2 MAY 2011

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

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

- Reformist activist Asal Esmailzadeh has been arrested, according to reports.
- According to the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, Asal Esmailzadeh was arrested on Sunday night while returning home.

- After inspecting her residence and confiscating a number of her personal possessions, security forces took the activist to an unknown location. The forces said the reason for her arrest was her "taking part in illegal assemblies."
- During 2009 presidential race, Esmailzadeh was a campaigner for opposition candidate Mirhoseyn Musavi in Tehran's northern Tajrish district.