

## **IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**

**3 – 9 JANUARY 2011**

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### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1301 GMT, 9 January 2011)*

- The head of Iran's presidential office issued a decree appointing Mohammad Hasan Salehi-Maram the new deputy head of the State Information Dissemination Council, the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) reported on 9 January.
- The head of presidential office, Esfandiar Rahim-Masha'i outlined Salehi-Maram's main duties as: "Having comprehensive supervision over the performance of the State Information Dissemination Council's secretariat, obtaining and coordinating the views of the president and ministers on the policies and stances of the cabinet, making the necessary planning and coordination for the announcement of cabinet decisions, explaining the general contents of ratifications and centralizing the management of the state information dissemination activities."

**8 JANUARY 2011**

### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 8 January 2011)*

- Deputy Commander of state border police of the Law Enforcement Force [Brig-Gen Ahmad Geravand] confirmed the arrest of a foreign female spy who is said to be an American national.
- Explaining the details of the news to my colleague, [Ms] Ali-Mardani, Brig-Gen Geravand said that:
- [Voice of Brig-Gen Geravand] a foreign-national woman while filming Jolfa border strip, border posts and all border traffic zones of the Islamic Republic of Iran with advanced cameras was arrested by Jolfa border police.

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0749 GMT, 8 January 2011)*

- A top Iranian judiciary official alleged that the methods used in assassinating Iranian scientists bear the hallmarks of operations by Israeli spy agency, Mossad.
- "Zionists cannot stop Iran's progress by killing Iranian scientists," Iranian Deputy Judiciary Chief Seyyed Ebrahim Ra'isi was quoted by Mehr news agency as saying.
- "The two scientists were assassinated Israeli-style," said Ra'isi.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0719 GMT, 8 January 2011)*

- Iran banned political parties from using social networks such as Twitter and Facebook, Fars News Agency reported on 8 January.
- In an interview with Fars, Hamid Reza Fuladgar, an interior ministry official, referred to recent changes in the party laws and said that: "According to the new changes, political parties cannot use social networks such as Facebook and Twitter. Considering the soft war conditions, political parties cannot use these networks for their activities or to recruit new members. Therefore, using these networks by the officially authorized parties will be a kind of offence."
- The official added that in the new law, "more careful and useful supervision methods" over political parties have been drafted.

### **PRIVATE MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English, 8 January 2011)*

- Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court had previously sentenced Nazar-Ahari to six years in prison plus 74 lashes.
- According to opposition website Kalemeh, branch 34 of Tehran's Appeals Court acquitted Nazar-Ahari of the charge of "assembly and collusion against the regime," and sentenced her to four years in prison in Karaj city plus 74 lashes.
- The prominent human rights activist had been convicted of gathering and plotting to commit crimes against the state, propaganda against the "Islamic establishment" and Moharebeh (waging war against God), a crime punishable by death.
- The 26-year-old is a founder of the Committee of Human Rights Reporters in Tehran and was arrested in December 2009 on her way to the funeral of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, considered by many to be the spiritual leader of the Green movement. She was released on bail of after nine months on 12 September.

### **7 JANUARY 2011**

#### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1526 GMT, 7 January 2011)*

- An MP for Tehran has said that documents on links between reformist leader Mir Hoseyn Musavi and the armed opposition group Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO, based in Iraq) will be disclosed in the second edition of the weekly publication 9 Day (30 December) on 8 January, Fars news agency reported on 7 January.
- The MP for Tehran and the managing editor of the weekly 9 Day (the day of pro-government rallies following presidential elections), Hojjat ol-Eslam Hamid Rasa'i said the weekly will be published in 16 pages and its most important section is an interview with a security and intelligence official, who talks for the first time about "some documents on links between Mir Hoseyn Musavi and MKO."
- Rasa'i said: "In this interview other documents which point to the mental deviation of Musavi and Rahnavard (Musavi's wife) as well as some other information indicating plans to topple the government during the 2009 elections will be disclosed for the first time."

### **6 JANUARY 2011**

#### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 6 January 2011)*

- The Revolutionary Court has sentenced Reza Sharifi-Bukani to 3.5 years in prison. Two of his court sessions were held in the past week.
- According to RAHANA, he has been convicted of membership in the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan and acting against national security.
- He has been deprived of having a lawyer and has only been present during the second court hearing.
- Bukani was in solitary confinement of Ward 209 of Evin Prison since May. He was transferred to the Karaj Raja'i Shahr Prison and is in currently held in Ward 2 of the Prison.

### **5 JANUARY 2011**

#### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran West Azarbayjan Provincial TV, Orumiyeh, in Persian 1545 GMT, 5 January 2011)*

- The chief of the Law Enforcement Force in Iran's West Azarbayjan Province accused Western intelligence services of using drugs in Afghanistan to wage soft warfare against Iran and undermine the youth's belief in the Islamic Revolution.

- Speaking at the first congress for the early prevention of drug addiction at Orumiyeh's Payyam-e Nur University on 1 January, Gen Nosrati said that Iran has endured great moral and material damage as it has a long border with Afghanistan, the world largest producer of drugs.
- "Afghanistan is the largest producer of drugs, and unfortunately, following the arrival of arrogant powers, the situation has become even more critical, difficult and dangerous," Nosrati said at the congress which was broadcast on provincial television on 5 January.
- "This shows the bitter reality that the issue of drugs is complex and is a tool in the hands of great powers, and the secret services of the world, including the CIA, support, guide and organize them [drug traffickers]," he said. "They do not shun anything in order to achieve their evil goals and interests. They resort to any mean action, including drugs," Nosrati went on to say.

*(Source: Javan, Tehran in Persian 05 January 2011, p 2)*

*Direct excerpts:*

- Recently an office, which is affiliated with the green faction [Green Movement], has started in the Iraqi city of Irbil. According to "Javan" [newspaper], the goal of creating this office is to guide and help the green faction seditionists who, for whatever reason, intend to run away from the country.
- "This office's other goal is to coordinate with the Monafeqin group's [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] elements who reside in this city. This office creates fake court cases and imprisonment rulings, purportedly issued by the Iranian courts, for people who are inclined to leave the country via the Irbil airport or through the UN office, and conveniently sends them as political refugees to foreign countries. It must be noted that the abovementioned office is supported by some influential anti-Revolution elements living abroad, the hypocrites' group [MKO] and the espionage institution, CIA."

*(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in Persian 5 January 2011)*

- The first branch of the Orumiyeh appeals court (Press Court) convicted the Editor in Chief of Aina-News.
- Hamed Ata'i, the Editor in Chief of Ayna-news, has been convicted by the jury vote for "publishing lies", following the complaint made by the head of the Charity Affairs Department of West Azerbaijan.
- He has been sentenced to 4 months in prison based on Article 30 of the Press Law and articles 47, 48 and 698 of the Islamic Penal Code.

#### **4 JANUARY 2011**

##### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Tabnak news website, in Persian 1258 GMT, 4 January 2011)*

- Iranian authorities have removed the ban on the reformist Chelcheragh weekly, Tabnak news website reported on 4 January.
- Citing Mehr News Agency, Tabnak reported that Chelcheragh that had been banned by Iran's Press Supervisory Board for 44 days will resume publication from 8 January.

*(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0803 GMT, 4 January 2011)*

- Conservative cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati has said Iran's judiciary must make a decision about the "heads of sedition" and put them on trial, ILNA reported on 4 January.
- Jannati who is the secretary of the Guardians Council made the above comment in reply to the reformist leader, Mehdi Karrubi, who in a recent open letter addressed to the nation said that he was ready to be tried in an open court.

- According to ILNA, on the sidelines of a meeting, Jannati said: "The issue is none of my business and it is up to the judicial system. These people are not just a few, and the judiciary system must make a general decision about the heads of sedition [opposition leaders including Karrubi and Mirhoseyn Musavi] and put them on trial."
- "There is no need for their presence. They have some dreams which will not come true. People do not believe in them and as they have already stepped down [from politics], they had better stay on the sidelines and answer for their actions."

### **3 JANUARY 2011**

#### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1311 GMT, 3 January 2011)*

- Iran's Judiciary spokesman, Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i, rejected the possibility of trying the opposition leaders, including Mehdi Karrubi and Mirhoseyn Musavi, in near future.
- According to the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), Ezhe'i who was talking to reporters in a press conference on 3 January, rejected the possibility of "putting the heads of sedition on trial" and said: "Generally speaking, the cases of those who are accused, and especially those who treated the system very unfairly and raised the enemy's hope, must be at any rate investigated. The trial of the heads of sedition requires certain conditions and whenever such conditions are met this will be done."
- Earlier on 31 December 2010, in an address to people at the Friday prayer sermons, Tehran's prosecutor, Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi, had assured the public that the opposition leaders would be "definitely put on trial."

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1232 GMT, 3 January 2011)*

- Commenting on a question asked by Fars news agency's correspondent on the presser held by Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani, the woman sentenced to stoning for adultery, with foreign media on 2 January, Iranian Judiciary Spokesman and Prosecutor-General Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i has said: "The judiciary has not invited anyone [media] but the media sources have applied through the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct some interviews, and talks have been held with the related organization to decide on this request," Fars reported on 3 January.
- "The request by the foreign media was discussed and we accepted it after talking about it with the related bodies. A foreign medium recently requested to have an interview with me, through the Ministry of Culture, and it might be accepted. But I cannot request for the domestic media to take part in that interview, too."

*(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0732 GMT, 3 January 2011)*

- President Ahmadinezhad's press advisor has played down the recent dismissal of 14 presidential advisors as natural wastage, the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) reported on 3 January.
- In an interview with ISNA, Ali Akbar Javanfekr commented on the dismissal of 14 advisors of President Ahmadinezhad saying that some of them had reached the retirement age and therefore asked for their contracts to be terminated.
- He added: "Some of them had executive responsibilities elsewhere and were busy serving in other important posts. They, therefore, were no longer involved and had no time for the advisory role."
- Javanfekr called the dismissals "perfectly natural and normal" and added: "Naturally, the president will replace them with new advisors."