

**IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**  
**MAY 30 – JUNE 5, 2011**  
**STACY TOPOUZOVA**

**5 JUNE 2011**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1615 GMT, 5 June 2011)*

- Davud Ahmadinezhad, Iran's Passive Defense Organization secretary-general, has said that those who "represent the deviant current are serving as the infantry of the hegemonic system". Davud Ahmadinezhad, the brother of President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad, made the remarks on Sunday [5 June] during a speech at a demonstration held in the city of Varamin, Tehran Province.
- Ahmadinezhad alleged that the outsiders are pursuing three goals through provoking sedition and propagating divisive ideas in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- "Their first goal is to divert the attention of the world public opinion from the achievements made by the Iranian nation, he observed. Their second goal is to frustrate those who are seeking freedom in the world through suggesting the idea that the Iranian nation themselves have problems and cannot resolve them. And their third goal is to create sedition greater than the post-election sedition in June 2009, he observed."
- He also noted that the careful measures must be taken regarding the merger of ministries and that officials must be appointed or dismissed from their posts tactfully.

*(Source: Iranian news website Radio Zamaneh, in English 1001 GMT, 5 June 2011)*

- The Baha'i Institute of Higher Education (BIHE) in Iran has been declared an "illegal" organization by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ISNA cites the ministry's announcement that "the online university BIHE has not received any ministry permits for operation, and all its activities are illegal."
- The international Baha'i community reports that at least 30 Baha'is were arrested on 22 May in Tehran, Karaj, Esfahan and Shiraz.
- In March, a number of Iranian Baha'is were arrested in Bam, Kerman and Tehran, charged with "promoting their projects under the guise of educational and cultural programs in daycares."
- Seven Baha'i community leaders, who had already been incarcerated for two years, were recently sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges of espionage.

**4 JUNE 2011**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0835 GMT, 4 June 2011)*

- Hojjatolislam Seyyed Hasan Khomeyni, grandson of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni, addressed current events in the region: "What we are witnessing in the region is in line with the Islamic Republic movement with the motto of: Neither East nor West; Islamic Republic. Millions of Iranians from different walks of life have gathered at Imam Khomeyni Mausoleum in southern Tehran to mark his 22nd departure anniversary."

**3 JUNE 2011**

**PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

*(Sources listed as: reformist websites ad blogs including <http://www.rahesabz.net>; [www.emruznews.com](http://www.emruznews.com); [www.kaleme.com](http://www.kaleme.com); <http://tahavolesabz.net>; <http://donbaleh.com>; and <http://balatarin.com>.)*

- Iranian opposition websites are calling on people to take part in a candlelight vigil in central Tehran on Saturday 4 June to mark the third day after the "martyrdom" of Haleh Sahabi, an Iranian activist who died at her father's funeral procession on 1 June.
- The statements posted on the reformist websites initially said that the venue for the candlelight vigil would be Hoseyniyeh Ershad (a community centre long associated with the late Dr Ali Shariati and other religious intellectuals). But later statements speak of a change of venue: "We would have preferred to see the Hoseyniyeh Ershad - which has, for decades, been a refuge for the national-religious forces and witnessed many speeches by Ezzatollah Sahabi and his martyred daughter - serve as the host for the crowds of young people. But now we will take our mourning to Shariati Avenue and we will hold our gathering in the area between Seyyed Khandan Bridge and Mirdamad Avenue."
- People are invited to gather at 6 p.m. (1330 GMT), carrying candles, to mark "the third night since the martyrdom of Haleh Sahabi".

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

*(Source: Iranian news website Fararu.ir, in Persian 1516 GMT, 3 June 2011)*

- The conservative website Fararu (Fararu.ir) reported that a group of hackers infiltrated Iran's government servers stealing more than 10,000 emails from the Foreign Ministry's computers. Fararu quoted a report in the International Business Times published on the same day.
- According to this report, the files were stolen from the visa section of the Foreign Ministry and were related to visa applications submitted by mostly Chinese applicants in order to attend an oil meeting.
- Fararu added: "In such circumstances it is essential for the Islamic Republic to draw up a security strategy for its cyber space and increase its cyber security by creating a domestic internet system, a retaliatory system for countering hostile countries in the cyber space and also by adopting preventative measures so that incidents such as the Stuxnet virus and similar sabotage activities will not happen again."

#### **2 JUNE 2011**

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

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2005 GMT, 2 June 2011)*

- A group of Iranian protesters gathered in front of the United Nations headquarters in Tehran in support of the innocent people of Libya, Bahrain and Yemen.
- A protester, Nasireddin Ya'qubi, in an interview explained that "the world cannot resist against the power of God and that of Islam".
- "The global arrogance is taking part in genocide in Yemen, Bahrain and Libya to take revenge from Islam. However, the arrogant powers should know that the God will not let the innocent people to be massacred and the culprits flee," Ya'qubi added.
- "The Islamic awakening will spread to western countries and it is attributed to late Imam Khomeini's political thoughts and the outcome of 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran," the protester added.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1546 GMT, 2 June 2011)*

- Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast condemned the NATO attack on civilians in the Helmand province of Afghanistan, Fars news agency reported.
- Describing the action of the NATO's military forces as regrettable, Mehmanparast said: "The killing of defenseless Afghan civilians by those, who have carried out a military expedition to that country under the pretext of establishing security, has made the people of Afghanistan more determined to pursue their demand for the withdrawal of foreign forces from their country."

- Mehmanparast expressed hope that with the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and the establishment of a completely Afghan government security and stability would return to Afghanistan.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0733 GMT, 2 June 2011)*

- Iran is to merge its Welfare and Social Security Ministry, Labour and Social Affairs Ministry and Cooperatives Ministry into one, Fars news agency reported on 2 June, quoting Qasem Mohammadi, a member of the Majlis Principlist Faction.
- According to Mohammadi, the three ministries are to be merged into one after gaining the parliament's vote of confidence.

#### **PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

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

- Security forces prevented the observance of the traditional Islamic mourning and commemoration for EzzatollahSahabi on the third day after his death. They closed the mosque in which the ceremony was to be held. People in the large crowd shouted "Allah-o Akbar" (God is great) as the security forces beat them with batons.
- Reports indicate that Sahabi's daughter-in-law, journalist Sa'id Madani; Amin Ahmadian, husband of human rights activist Bahareh Hedayat; and several university students were arrested. Ali Akbar Mo'infar, a nationalist-religious political figure, said that Ezzatollah Sahabi's sister was also detained.
- Reports indicate that the families of those who were arrested during the funeral procession of EzzatollahSahabi have gathered at the gate of Tehran's Evin Prison. Several people who took part in the funeral have simply disappeared. Several people were also reportedly arrested during the burial of HalehSahabi, which took place late Wednesday night.

#### **JUNE 1 2011**

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

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1140 GMT, 1 June 2011)*

- The Islamic Republic Guards Corps (IRGC) denied reports published in the media regarding IRGC commander Maj-Gen Ja'fari seeking Supreme Leader's permission to arrest the elements of the "deviant current" within the system, including president Ahmadinezhad's advisor Esfandyar Rahim-Masha'i.
- Reformist website Sahmanews published a report quoting the website of the leader's representative and Friday prayer leader of Kashan, Ayatollah AbdolnabiNamazi, providing some details over the row between the leader and President Ahmadinezhad over the reinstatement of the Intelligence Minister and other domestic issues.
- The public relations of the IRGC in a statement has denied the published report and asked the media to observe "utmost attention" in publishing reports quoting a third party about the commanders of the IRGC and to check their accuracy with the public relations of the IRGC.

*(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 1114 GMT, 1 June 2011)*

- Supreme Leader's [Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i] office issued a statement, to say that "reliable, valid and trustworthy reports and remarks about the Revolution's leader are published only by official sources."
- "With regards to certain untrue remarks about the great Supreme Leader's words, policies and stances, which have been provided to the individuals who expressed them through unreliable and groundless sources, while warning the gentlemen against quoting such baseless remarks, it is strictly reminded that reports attributed to the Supreme Leader are just issued by official sources. And the

media (news agencies, press, websites ) are expected to strictly avoid publishing contents reported in other manners [not by official sources]."

*(Source: Iranian news website Radio Zamaneh, in English 1058 GMT, 31 May 2011)*

- A jailed Iranian lawyer, Nasrin Sotudeh, has been hauled before the disciplinary tribunal of Iran's Bar Association after the judiciary called for the cancellation of her lawyer's permit, Radio Zamaneh website reported on 30 May.
- In a letter to her husband, Reza Khanadan, Sotudeh has reportedly written: "They want to set up a trial to revoke my licence to practice law. With or without my licence, I object to these sentences. Protesting against unjust sentences does not require a licence to practice law," the website said.
- The report added that a member of the association's board, Keyhani, and a number of other lawyers were overseeing the case and that their final verdict had been forwarded to the appeals court to be considered at a later date.

### **31 MAY 2011**

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

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2100 GMT, 31 May 2011)*

- Deputy Foreign Minister in Europe Affairs, in a meeting with Swedish director general in Middle East and North Africa Affairs, urged that instrumental use of human rights is not acceptable.
- According to the report of Foreign Ministry Media Department on Tuesday [31 May], Ali Ahani in a meeting with Swedish senior diplomat, by referring to historical ties between the two countries, called for using existing capacities in bilateral relations and underlined importance of dialogue and mutual contacts. Referring to differences in viewpoints concerning human rights issue and criticizing dual and discriminatory methods of the west on this issue in different countries, Ahani expressed that political and instrumental approaches with the issue of human rights is not acceptable at all.
- The deputy FM, by reviewing development in the region of Middle East and North Africa, said that destruction of economic infra-structures of Libya by NATO bombardment is not acceptable.