

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
31 JANUARY – 6 FEBRUARY 2011
STACY TOPOUZOVA

6 FEBRUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0807 GMT, 6 February 2011)

- Iran's interior minister has said that “the voices of protestors in Egypt and Tunisia are an echo of the Islamic Revolution”, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported on 6 February.
- Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar made the remarks at a gathering of young advisors of governor-general offices across the country.
- "The Islamic Republic has a successful record and the global arrogance [West] is terrified by the movement of the people of Egypt and Tunisia."
- "The voices of the people of Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen are an echo of the Islamic Revolution."

5 FEBRUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1015 GMT, 5 February 2011)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said Saturday [5 February] that scientific progress was highly under way in Iran thanks to relentless efforts of Iranian scientists.
- In his address to the 24th Int'l Khwarizmi Festival, the President urged the need for further investment in the field of scientific activities.
- "Some believe that scientific activities are contrary to the religious activities while a scientific activity is the most beautiful example of worshipping God," said the President.
- President Ahmadinezhad wished that “there would be some day in which massive resources that are presently used to produce weapons for killing people would be used to serve nations' progress, prosperity and welfare”.
- Iran's Expediency Council responded to President Ahmadinezhad's recent open letter in which the Council and the Majlis were criticized for undermining the government, the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) reported on 5 February.
- The letter addressed the disagreement between the Majlis and the Guardian Council over a bill on the fifth development plan.
- Ahmadinezhad sent a letter to the Majlis Speaker in which he called into question the method and jurisdiction of the Majlis and the Expediency Council despite "their legal clarity in the constitution and the existence of internal rules of procedure."
- The letter pointed to the initial reasons for the establishment of the Expediency Council in 1987, saying that the main function of the Expediency Council was "dynamism, ending deadlocks and resolving problems on the one hand and maintaining the stability of the system's policy on the other."
- The letter underlined that the most important roles of the council were: "to resolve disagreements between the Majlis and the Guardian Council (Article 112 of the constitution), and providing advice and consultations to the leader to solve problems that

are not possible to resolve through normal channels." The letter cited as an example the Central Bank issue.

- The response advised: "If the president has any objection to the legal procedure of affairs within the authority and responsibility of the Majlis, the Guardian Council, the Judiciary or the Expediency Council, which are all based on the constitution, he should, whilst respecting and executing the ratification, attempt to amend the constitution through legal channels and the available legal means..."
- The letter warned: "The Expediency Council has observed many cases of failure to uphold the law and lack of attention to general policies by the government. However so far, because of the leader's wish to urge cooperation with the novice government, it has not shown rigor in fulfilling its duties to ensure implementation of Article 44 of the constitution regarding privatization or ending budget dependency on oil revenues."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0523 GMT, 5 February 2011)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad praised the role of Imam Khomeyni in the 1979 Islamic Revolution, saying that that signs of the Islamic Revolution can be seen all over the world now, Fars news agency has reported.
- "Today we joyfully witness signs of the Iranian Islamic Revolution across the world," he added. "The reason for the growing and joyful movement of Iran's Islamic Revolution, unlike other movements which externally had the energy to promote the progress of human society but lost their initial energy in the course of time and became inactive, is that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has renewed man's true identity and has ideals and goals," Ahmadinezhad said.

4 FEBRUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Al-Alam TV, Tehran, in Arabic 0931 GMT, 4 February 2011)

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i has warned Egyptians not to accept America's advice on President Mubarak's replacement.

In his Arabic sermon during Tehran Friday prayer sermons, Ayatollah Khamene'i said: "By this they are attempting to replace an [American] agent by another agent. They attempt to spotlight some figures to guarantee the domination of their agents over you. This is insulting the intelligence of nations. Reject this and do not accept anything less than the establishment of a completely independent and popular system based on Islam."

The following is the text of the Tehran Friday prayer sermon in Arabic broadcast live by state-run Iranian Arabic-language television news channel Al-Alam on 4 February

- "This miraculous incident, which started at the hands of the Tunisian people and reached its climax at the hands of the mature and great Egyptian people. The western world and the Islamic world held their breaths. Each had their own reasons, as they await what will happen in Greater Egypt."

- “The Tunisian people succeeded in expelling the traitor ruler who was led by America and declared his animosity to the religion. But it is wrong to think that this is the desired result. The agent regime does not fall by the departure of its known figures...”
- In the Islamic revolution in Iran, they repeatedly tried to capture our people into a similar trap, but the awareness of the people and their great divine leader, understood the enemies' trick and foiled it and continued its path to the end.
- The greatest crime committed by the ruling regime in Egypt, is that it brought down that country from its esteemed position to the level of a tool in the hand of America, in its political game in the area. This explosion we see today among the Egyptian people is the right answer for this great treason which was perpetrated by the agent dictator against his people.
- The Egyptian people sacrificed their lives and everything they owned to help Palestine in 1967 and 1973, but following this they witnessed with their own eyes their leaders running down the road of agency through submission to America, to such an extent that turned Egypt into a loyal ally of the usurping Zionist enemy.
- Americas' control over Egyptian leaders dashed all the previous efforts of its people in supporting Palestine, and turned the Egyptian system into an arch enemy of Palestine and the largest defender of the usurping Zionists.
- As for the Egyptian agent system, it reached the extent that for the first time in history, its people witnessed their government supporting the Israeli front during the Israeli war against Gaza. Not only did it [the Egyptian government] help, it was active in supporting the enemy's front.
- History will never forget that Husni Mubarak himself strongly supported Israel and America in the Israeli war against Gaza when women men and children were killed during 22 days of continuous bombing, and also during the unjust Gaza blockade before and after [the 22 days of bombing].
- The patience of these [Egyptian] people reached its limit, they could no longer tolerate this situation; and what we see in Cairo and all other Egyptian cities is an explosion of this sacred anger and complexities accumulated inside the hearts of free Egyptian men and women during the long years they were subject to the stands of this treacherous agent system which is hostile towards Islam.
- Maintain your unity around the pivot of religion and saving the country from the evil of enemies' puppets. Hold fast to the covenant of God and do not disperse.

3 FEBRUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1542 GMT, 3 February 2011)

- A top Iranian military official has said that the United States is seeking to use the anti-government protests in Egypt to divide the country.
- "Due to the absence of a single religious leadership in Egypt, America seeks to sow discord among the brave people of this country," IRNA news agency quoted Brigadier General Yahya Rahim-Safavi, a top military adviser to Iran's supreme leader, as saying on 3 February.

- “This source of emulation called the valiant and passionate rebellion of the nation of Egypt against the dependant dictatorship which is in line with the Zionists a sign of their social, political and religious ingenuity.”

EXTERNAL MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran website, in English 3 February 2011)

- *The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran expressed concern about the growing number of executions in Iran, calling for an immediate moratorium on executions. It added that coerced confessions are being used to convict criminal and political defendants alike, while state media is used to sell dubious death sentences and verdicts to the Iranian and international public.*
- *The report, published on the website of the campaign and posted on Facebook by a user called "Iran", also condemned what it called secret executions in Iran and noted that in a number of cases, prisoners were forced to confess on TV.*
- *The following is the text of the report by the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran website on 3 February:*
- Iranian officials should base convictions on reliable evidence and due process instead of televised confessions and dramatic re-enactments, the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran said today.
- The Campaign added that coerced confessions are being used to convict criminal and political defendants alike, while state media is used to sell dubious death sentences and verdicts to the Iranian and international public.
- The Campaign also expressed its grave concern about the execution sentence of Sa'id Malekpur, an Iranian-Canadian dual national and web developer, accused of establishing "pornographic websites." He has been reportedly tortured to confess to these charges.
- "The issue is not whether crimes occur in Iran, but whether death sentences are based on real trials, with real evidence, and real cases presented by lawyers," said Aaron Rhodes, a spokesperson for the Campaign. "Staged-for-TV confessions that reek of coercion are no substitute for due process," he added.

1 FEBRUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0831 GMT, 1 February 2011)

- Mas'ud Shafi'i, the lawyer of the three US nationals, who were detained by Iranian border guards on 31 July 2009 in a mountainous region on the Iran-Iraq border, urged the judiciary to show "Islamic mercy" in the trial of his clients, Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on 1 January.
- According to state-run IRNA news agency, Shafi'i has requested the judiciary officials to treat his clients' case with Islamic mercy since the trial will be held on 6 February which is during the Ten Days of Dawn, marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0634 GMT, 1 February 2011)

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Ramin Mehmanparast, called on the authorities in regional countries to "listen to the demands of their nations".

- Mehmanparast said: "We are witnessing large movements in the Middle East and North Africa. These developments are a sign of a large flow of people towards obtaining their independence and stopping their dependence on powers."
- "Our advice is that the authorities in the states should certainly listen to the demands of their nations, abide by them and move towards performing an effective role to glorify and promote their countries."

31 JANUARY 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1406 GMT, 31 January 2011)

- According to IRNA, Ezhe'i made the announcement in his presser held on 31 January. He said death sentence had been issued for a "Zionist spy" and the verdict had been sent to the Supreme Court for approval but had not been approved, yet.

(Source: Iranian news website Aftabnews, in Persian 1212 GMT, 31 January 2011)

- Iran's Judiciary Spokesman Hojjat-ol Eslam Gholam Hoseyn Mohseni- Ezhe'i announced that the sentences passed for 15 post-election detainees have been finalized and will be soon carried out, Aftabnews reported on 31 January.
- Talking at a press conference on the evening of 31 January, Mohseni- Ezhe'i said the court of appeal had finalized the sentences of 15 detainees in connection with the events that followed the disputed 2009 presidential election.
- The official said: "The sentences include jail terms from six months to four years, bans in certain cases, imprisonment and lashes."