

## **IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**

**4 - 10 APRIL 2011**

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**9 APRIL 2011**

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

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0950 GMT, 9 April 2011)*

- Denying the recent charges made by the Saudi Arabian embassy regarding Iran's alleged interference in Bahrain, Nabizadeh said, "This is not the first time that Iran has been accused by such baseless statements...Iran has not at all interfered in internal matters of Bahrain".
- "Iran has never been interfering in internal problems of any country and will never do so in the future," Nabizadeh told the journalists.
- Nabizadeh said, "Iran has expressed its opinions about Bahrain as well as other countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. We firmly believe that every country should use its own forces to control its domestic problems."
- "Our stand actually is to defend the rights of people and nations. Iran supports Muslim communities as well as oppressed people all over the world," said Nabizadeh.

**8 APRIL 2011**

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

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1628 GMT, 8 April 2011)*

- Acting commander of Basij volunteer forces, Brigadier General Ali Fazli, alleged that the enemy is trying to create a rift among Iranians and their officials.
- Lieutenant-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi and Brigadier-General Ali Me'mar in the central city of Kashan, Brig-Gen Fazli said that the enemies of the Iran are planning new plots against the Islamic establishment.
- He called on the Iranian nation and officials to not cease their support for the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i, the clergy and scholars.
- "The uprising of the Muslim people of Bahrain, Libya, Yemen and Egypt are modeled on the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran," Brig-Gen Fazli said.
- He added that Islamic awakening is spreading throughout the world and said, "When the enemies failed to target the people of Iran, they targeted Muslims of other countries"

*(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0430 GMT, 8 April 2011)*

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad called on the West to "be modest and surrender" to the greatness of the Iranian people.
- "Today, the Iranian nation is more pious, more resistant, knowledgeable, revolutionary and courageous than before and will not allow the arrogant ones to take a single step against the front of monotheism,"
- The Iranian president went on to say that the West is using human rights as a tool of pressure on other nations. "The corrupt arrogant ones of today are using the mask of human rights and freedom as a new tool for plundering nations, but resilience based on the self-sacrifice of the Iranian people has removed this false mask," IRINN quoted him as saying.

**7 APRIL 2011**

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

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 7 April 2011)*

- Imprisoned Iranian journalist Ahmad Zeydabadi was named laureate of this year's UNESCO Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. Endorsing the decision by the jury, Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, called for Mr Zeydabadi's release from prison. The decision was made by an independent international jury of twelve media professionals, said the organization.
- "Throughout his career Ahmad Zeydabadi has courageously and unceasingly spoken out for press freedom and freedom of expression, which is a fundamental human right that underpins all other civil liberties, a key ingredient of tolerant and open societies and vital for the rule of law and democratic governance," said the Director-General.
- "Ahead of World Press Freedom Day and in recognition of the concerns expressed by the international jury for his health and well-being, I call on the Iranian authorities to release Mr Zeydabadi from detention."
- According to the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, Ahmad Zeydabadi was arrested on 14 June 2009 in front of his home and has not been allowed prison leave so far. On 2 January 2010, Judge Pirabbasi sentenced Zeydabadi to six years in prison, five years' exile in Gonabad, and a lifetime ban on social and political activities.

#### **6 APRIL 2011**

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

*(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0603 GMT, 6 April 2011)*

- A cleric in the Iranian city of Mashhad condemned Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the United States over the recent crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain, Iran's state news channel (IRINN) reported on 6 April.
- "Everyone knows very well that the White House's green light to the tyrannical government of Bahrain and the interference of the military forces of [Saudi] Arabia and the [United Arab] Emirates in Bahrain have resulted in the killing of the oppressed people of this country," an uncaptioned cleric said at a gathering of religious seminary students and teachers in Mashhad broadcast live by IRINN.

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0227 GMT, 6 April 2011)*

- Iran's Ambassador to the UN Mohammad Khaza'i called for the prosecution of those behind the recent burning of a copy of the Holly Koran.
- Khaza'i made the remarks on Tuesday at a meeting with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and a group of ambassadors representing Muslim countries, according to a fax by Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations.

#### **5 APRIL 2011**

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

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1335 GMT, 5 April 2011)*

- Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon Ghazanfar Roknabadi alleged that "the main plan for protecting the Zionist regime has been collapsed and it will not be able to even think about threatening Lebanon, Gaza or any other place."
- "We have on several occasions underlined that Iran will always support Lebanon and all the political groups there," he said. Iran favors an independent Lebanon, he said, noting it is still insisting on dialogue and understanding among the Lebanese. "Following the toppling of the Mubarak regime in Egypt, which served as a strong fortress for the Zionist regime, it is greatly worried about its security," Roknabadi said.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1321 GMT, 5 April 2011)*

- Prominent Iranian lawyer and lecturer Mohammad Sharif, who has acted as legal counsel for several detained political and student activists, has been released from Allameh Tabataba'i University
- Citing an informed source, Fars reported that Sharif's employment had been "illegal" and at the time he was employed, the Ministry of Sciences' rules and regulations for employing lecturers had not been observed.
- The report added that Sharif was employed at the age of 48 with an MA degree, while the would-be lecturers should hold PhD and they should not be over 40.

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran West Azarbayjan Provincial TV, Orumiyeh, in Persian 1215 GMT, 05 April 2011)*

- The Islamic Propagation Organization and seminaries in West Azarbayjan Province issued a statement, asking people to take part in a gathering in the Jame' Mosque on 6 April in Orumiyeh to protest against "brutal killings of defenseless Muslims" in various regional Muslim countries.
- "An Islamic awaking and uprising of Muslims is taking place in countries, which are under oppression from their cruel and corrupt rulers throughout the world, particularly in Islamic countries, dictators, who are not capable of responding to them, are killing defenceless and innocent people with support from dominant powers like America, Israel and others," the statement says.
- The statement also said that in order to support Shi'i and Sunni people in Bahrain, all provincial seminaries would be closed on 6 April, and asked students to assemble in a mosque in Orumiyeh, the capital of West Azarbayjan Province, to listen, among others, to the Supreme Leader's representative in the province and Friday imam of Orumiyeh, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hasan.

*(Source: Qods website, Mashhad, in Persian 05 April 2011)*

- Member of Majlis Foreign Affairs Committee Seyyed Hoseyn Taqavi-Hoseyni said that "Iran shall not permit human rights special reporter, who intend to implement the US goals in Iran and act in a biased manner, to enter the country."
- "Expelling of few Iranian reporters from countries claiming to uphold democracy and human rights is an issue, which raises doubts. Such actions [by these countries] have failed the humanistic claims of countries alleging to uphold democracy and reveal their fake identity. Those claiming to support human rights and democracy are themselves violators of the rights of their own citizens. A bright example of this matter is that the US has received 225 warnings for respecting human rights."

*(Source: Keyhan website, Tehran, in Persian 5 April 2011, p. 2)*

- A counter-revolutionary TV channel that was launched recently has been closed down quietly.
- "Last year, a group of counter-revolutionary figures and active semi-intellectuals announced via foreign media that they are going to launch a TV channel named 'Iran Neda'. They started huge propaganda for a few weeks and sneaked into some political societies in Europe to attract some support. However, the high number of such media on one hand and the fire of sedition being put down on the other hand caused the TV channel to fail before it was launched."

#### **4 APRIL 2011**

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

*(Source: Jaam-e Jam, Tehran, in Persian 4 April 2011, p 2)*

*On 24 March, the UN Human Rights Council reviewed the human rights' situation in Iran and convicted Iran with 22 votes in favor, 7 votes against and 14 abstentions. The Head of Human Rights Committee of Majlis National Security and Foreign Affairs Commission Zohreh Elahiyan addressed this in an interview with Jaam-e-Jam:*

- In your opinion, what is the objective of approving the resolution against Iran by the Human Rights Council?
- "The UN Human Rights Council resolution was passed under the management of the US and under the powerful lobby of the Zionist regime. However, this is not for the first time that a resolution against Iran has been approved. We have had many such resolutions because the West is trying to compensate its defeats against Iran and prevent the spiritual spread of the Islamic Revolution. Through these resolutions and sanctions, the West is trying to contain Iran and malign the popularity and acceptability of our country in the world."
- "The US, Israel and Britain and some other Western countries are very much concerned about the influence of Iranian Islamic Revolution in the world because we are witness to the fact that by emulating the model of Iranian Islamic revolution, regional countries are confronting dictatorial regimes, the main supporters of which are the US and the West. So these countries are trying to prevent the model emulation by the Muslims in the region by using tools like human rights and issuing resolutions against Iran."
- "Despite the uproar by the West and poisoning of the atmosphere through their propaganda, Islamic Republic has achieved its peaceful nuclear objectives and is gradually making progress. Iran considers such progresses to be the right of all the people in world..."

### **3 APRIL 2011**

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

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

- Deputy interior minister for security affairs said that the perpetrators of the recent "terrorist attacks" in the western province of Kordestan are linked to the American and Israeli intelligence agencies.
- "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.