

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT 4 – 10 JULY 2011

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DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Iran, Tehran, in Persian 10 July 2011)

- The press deputy of minister of culture and Islamic guidance said on 10 July that subsidies for the press have not been removed, IRNA reported.
- According to the report, talking to press reporters in Iran's northern city of Gorgan, Mohammad Ja'far Mohammad-Zadeh said: "We have reduced the subsidy, but not removed it." The deputy minister added: "44bn tomans [around 41.60m dollars] were allocated for press subsidy in the last year's budget, out of which 33bn tomans [around 31.20 dollars] were disbursed."

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Sistan-Baluchestan Provincial TV, Zahedan in Persian 1630 GMT, 8 July 2011)

- A group of women in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan have staged a rally in the provincial capital Zahedan, calling for stricter measures against violations of the Islamic dress code.
- Provincial TV showed the rally and women chanting "A hypocrite without the veil is a pawn of global arrogance" and "O Fatimah is our slogan, hijab is our pride".
- The rally adopted a resolution which demanded that officials take stricter measures against violations of the Islamic dress code, provincial TV said. It then showed footage from similar rallies staged in the provincial towns of Konarak, Zabol and Saravan.

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0930 GMT, 8 July 2011)

- After participating in Friday prayers, worshippers in various Iranian cities took part in rallies calling for the implementation of the hijab and chastity law, Iranian radio reported on 8 July 2011. The radio said demonstrators urged the three branches of power to carry out their obligations and implement the law.
- "The hijab and chastity law [Persian: Qanun-e hejab va efaf] was approved by the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council in [13]84 but it is still awaiting its implementation," the radio added.

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0918 GMT, 7 July 2011)

- Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology has said that it will follow President Ahmadinezhad's "order" on the issue of gender segregation in universities, Fars news agency reported.
- Ahmadinezhad had earlier asked the ministers of science and health to stop "superficial and unwise measures" regarding the separation of male and female students in university classes.
- According to Fars, in a statement issued on 7 July the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology announced that "what certain media have said about the gender segregation plan [to be implemented in universities] does not correspond with reality and the Ministry of Science has not yet presented any plan under the name of gender segregation in universities."

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0234 GMT, 07 July 2011)

- Head of Iran Election Headquarters [Seyyed Solat] Mortazavi has said that around 146 managers belonging to the government and non-government bodies of the country as well as provinces have resigned for registering their nominations in the ninth Majlis elections.
- Mortazavi added that around 60 of these managers belong to the executive bodies of the country whereas 86 of them belong to the non-government sectors such as Islamic City Councils, Friday prayer leaders and judicial officials.

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1627 GMT, 6 July 2011)

- Iran's president said that the younger generation must know the country's enemies by studying the history of the Iran-Iraq war.
- Speaking at a meeting with organizers of Rahian-e Nur caravans (visits to sites of Iran-Iraq war fighting) at the presidential administration on 6 July, Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said that the younger generation should visit various sites of fighting and see "the nature of the Satan and the enemy", IRNA news agency reported.
- "Some people are dreaming that the enemy is very kind and supports freedom, human rights and nations, whereas not only is this not the case, the enemy has also changed its mask," he said.
- "It is important that generations visit sites of fighting and various borders of the country and see the enemy's malevolence and people's suffering," Ahmadinezhad said.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1526 GMT, 10 July 2011)

- A senior Iranian military figure lashed out at the United States for its support for the presence of the terrorist group Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) [Iran's exiled rebel group] on Iraqi soil.
- Head of Iran's Sacred Defense Foundation General Mohammad Baqerzadeh on Sunday criticized Washington for its support for the presence of MKO terrorists in Camp Ashraf in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala. "Continuing to support MKO presence in Iraq after this group has been recognized as a terrorist cell in the world shows US support for the existence of terrorist movements," Mehr News Agency quoted him as saying.
- "This is an example of the West's double standards with regards to human rights and this issue must be broached in the international community."
- "This terrorist cell has committed crimes not only against the people of Iran but also Iraqis ... therefore the people of both countries can reserve the right to pursue efforts to bring the MKO to justice."

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0700 GMT, 9 July 2011)

- "Iran's armed forces can enter the enemies' backyard if necessary to defend the Islamic homeland," Iranian commander General Mas'ud Jazayeri told Iranian official government news agency IRNA on 9 July.
- In an interview with IRNA, Jazayeri, who is the Armed Forces General HQ's deputy for Cultural and Defence Propaganda, said: "The power and competence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces are at such a level as to enable them to counter the enemy's strategy and tactics at any moment and in any form."

- Jazayeri added: "All the efforts conducted by the Islamic Republic Armed Forces are based on defensive doctrines."

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1733 GMT, 08 July 2011)

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman described the wave of Islamic Awakening in the Arab world as the fruit of Iran's Islamic Revolution and a nightmare for Israel and the US.
- "The Zionist regime [of Israel], which claims dominance over the region and which managed to defeat the army of Arab countries in the space of a few days, would not have had any obstacle in its path to violate and invade Muslim countries if the Islamic Revolution had not happened," Ramin Mehmanparast was quoted as saying in a Foreign Ministry press release on Friday 8 July 2011.
- "They feared that their interests would be in jeopardy if other nations formed popular governments on the basis of Islamic principles and stood up to the Zionist regime and superpowers and cut off all their political and economic dependence on them."
- He further described the developments in North Africa and the Middle East as provoking the nightmare of Iran's enemies, who feel the achievements of Iran in its resistance against world powers have turned it into a role model for people in other countries.
- "If the enemy manages to [create] conflict and division among regional countries, then it will be able to find a gateway for the Zionist regime [of Israel]," he warned.

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0641 GMT, 8 July 2011)

- "Some 10,000 people have signed a petition calling on the British government to release of the Palestinian activist, Shaykh Ra'id [Raed] Salah," Iranian news network TV, IRINN, reported on 8 July 2011.
- The TV said about a week after the detention of Shaykh Salah, "people from various walks of life in Britain including civil rights activists" signed the petition which is to be handed to the British Home Secretary Theresa May in London today.
- The petition also calls on the British home secretary to recognize Shaykh Salah as a human rights activist and not to deport him.
- "Shaykh Salah, who is well known for his non-violent civil rights activities in the occupied [Palestinian] territories, had been invited by the research institute, Middle East Monitor, to London, but was detained after arriving in Britain by the police in the hotel where he was staying around 10 days ago.

(Privately-Facilitated Media Source: Peyamner news agency website, Arbil, in Sorani Kurdish 0000 GMT, 6 July 2011)

- Renewed Iranian shelling of Iraqi Kurdistan Region's border areas has forced farmers leave their farms in the Choman area, website of pro-Kurdistan Democratic Party Peyamner news agency reported on 6 July.
- Recent Iranian artillery bombardment has targeted areas in Administrative Sub-Districts of Hajji Umaran and Qasre in Choman Administrative town, Arbil Governorate, the report said, adding that the areas of Piralok, Bozi Mergasir, Bard Qalshta, the foot of Kodo Mount, Sarshekhan and an area up from Kani Spi had been targeted.
- The source added that the Iranian army was shelling the areas from artillery units in Qabri Husayn and Delza that were set up on the Iranian side over two weeks ago.
- Weza village chief Abdallah Hamad said as well as the shelling, Iranian soldiers opened fire at shepherds and sheep farmers using machineguns and anti-aircraft weapons.

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1510 GMT, 5 July 2011)

- Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi recently invited British Charge d'affaires Jane Marriott and discussed with him the situation of Iran's former ambassador to Jordan, Nosratollah Tajik, who is under house arrest in Britain based on false allegations.
- Commenting on the fact that Tajik is under house arrest, Mehmanparast said, "The move runs contrary to the international and moral principles. And we call on the British officials to [take the measures necessary to] release him as soon as possible."

(State-Facilitated Media Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0514 GMT, 5 July 2011 and 1640 GMT, 29 June 2011)

- Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohammad Ali Ja'fari confirmed that IRGC was behind the arrest of several members of the "deviant current", Mehr News Agency reported.
- Following the row between President Ahmadinezhad and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i over the reinstatement of Intelligence Minister Heydar Moslehi, the conservative camp accused the president's controversial aide Esfandiyar Rahim-Masha'i of being behind a "deviant current" in the country. Supreme Leader's supporters have intensified their criticism of the president's close aides, particularly Rahim-Masha'i and Hamid Baqa'i. They also accused Ahmadinezhad's aides of spreading "Iranism or Iranian school of thought" instead of the "Islamic school of thought" and resorting to "fortunetelling and witchcraft." Several people have been recently arrested who were reportedly close to Rahim-Masha'i, including Mohammad Sahrif Malekzadeh, the former deputy foreign minister for administrative and finance affairs.