

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
OCTOBER 4 – 10, 2010
STACY TOPOUZOVA

OCTOBER 10, 2010

STATE FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1710 GMT, 10 October 2010)

- “The fact that the United States is unilaterally imposing its preferred definition of human rights on all nations is itself the greatest violation of human rights”, Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli-Larijani has said.
- Talking in a gathering of judicial officials on Sunday [10 October], Larijani also said that “killing, displacing and imposing blockade on defenceless Palestinians by the Zionist regime in clear violation of human rights can never be justified.”
- Larijani also said the US decision to impose financial and travel sanctions on eight Iranian officials under the pretext of human rights abuses is a "big lie".

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1440 GMT, 10 October 2010)

- Malaysian Ambassador to Iran Mohammad Sadeq Bin Katargani said on Sunday [10 October] that “Iranian and Malaysian cultures are closer to each other and that the cultural affinity helps promote bilateral ties.”
- Talking to IRNA, he said that “Iran and Malaysia are Muslim countries which have brotherly relations”. Describing Kuala Lumpur's ties with Tehran as excellent, he said that there is no obstacle in the way of developing ties between the two states. 'I am glad to see many Iranians visit my country and many Iranians are living there,' the Malaysian diplomat said.
- “Iranians living or studying in Malaysia can serve as cultural envoys to introduce the Iranian culture to the Malaysians,” he said

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 10 October 2010)

- [Presenter]: Economic affairs minister [Seyyed Shamseddin Hoseyn] criticized “the US and European dominion over the World Bank and International Monetary Fund [IMF]”. Hoseyni, who spoke at the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, said that “in regard with the West economic crisis, the voting rights of developing countries should increase at the international monetary organizations.”
- [Hoseyni]: “From the very first day till today, the managing-director of the IMF was always from the European Union or Europe and the chairman of the Work Bank was from America. This discriminatory management structure has been criticized by the developing countries. Therefore, the developing countries are seriously trying to increase the [voting] share of their countries in the IMF and the World Bank.”

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1445 GMT, 10 October 2010)

- Iran will establish an agro-industry complex in Sudan, the Iranian agriculture minister announced here on Saturday [9 October].
- "Iran is willing to produce wheat and sugar in the land and transfer Iranian know-how in related industries to that country," he added.
- The minister pointed out that the Islamic Republic can erect a paper factory, export technical and engineering services, agricultural machinery and modern irrigation equipment as well as hold training courses in Sudan.

OCTOBER 9, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1855 GMT, 9 October 2010)

- Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Sa'id Jalili alleged that "nuclear arsenals in the US and Israel are a threat to the world", and called for "global nuclear disarmament."
- "The nuclear arsenals of the US and Israel are a serious threat to international security," IRNA quoted Jalili as saying in a meeting with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez in Tehran on Saturday [9 October].
- Jalili praised Cuba's "fruitful resistance" against the US for more than half-a-century and said that "Iran and Cuba are clear signs of the success of decades of resistance against the United States."
- He added that "as members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the two countries have played a leading role in stimulating the movement."
- "Iran and Cuba have shown in practice the ineffectiveness of imposing sanctions against free nations," Jalili added.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1705 GMT, 9 October 2010)

- State-run Iranian radio started a recording of a speech delivered by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i at a meeting with officials in charge of hajj pilgrimage.
- The supreme leader talked about importance of hajj pilgrimage and called on hajj officials to implement their plans concerning the pilgrimage. The supreme leader added that "hajj pilgrimage would bring dignity, strength and hope to the world of Islam."
- He said that hajj pilgrimage could neutralize "enemies' plots" and foster unity among Muslims. The supreme leader referred to "atrocities" committed by Israel against Muslims in the Palestinian territories adding that hajj can play a key role to create unity among Muslims in this regard.

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0753 GMT, 9 October 2010)

- A campaign by 5,000 students of Tehran theological seminaries is "calling for the trial of reformist leaders", the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) reported on 9 October.
- The report said that 5,000 scholars of Tehran seminaries have started a petition in reaction to post-election events [June 2009] and what they call "failure to try the heads of sedition" calling for the trial of reformist leaders as a public demand.
- "The petition, the signing of which has already started and, which will be passed on to other strata of the society, addresses the head of the judiciary saying: We, the signatories of this petition, who are a group of theological seminary students in Tehran persistently request from his Excellency to review the cases of the heads of the sedition of 1388 [2009] in accordance with religious and revolutionary principles as soon as possible. We offer our full support to all the measures to be taken by that esteemed body."

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 9 October 2010)

- Iran's largest reformist political party, Mosharekat [Islamic Iran Participation Front], announced that following the party's complaint, branch twenty-seven of Tehran's general court has overturned the decision of Article 10 Committee on Political Parties regarding the dissolution of Mosharekat. As such, and as some analysts had expected, the Ahmadinezhad

administration and its intelligence ministry's request to eliminate one of their opponents did not bear fruit, at least for now.

- Pointing to the court decision, the Mosharekat party requested that the Committee abide by the court order and acknowledge the party's rights under the Constitution and relevant laws.
- Previously, the judiciary's spokesperson and the country's attorney general, Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i had announced that in response to an Article 10 Committee request the court had dissolved the two reformist parties of Mosharekat and Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution.

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OCTOBER 8, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1300 GMT, 8 October 2010)

- Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast alleged that "Zionists have launched a series of hostile publicity that would adversely affect President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad's imminent Lebanon visit."
- Talking to IRNA, Mehmanparast said that "Zionists and western media have released the kind of reports that harm Iran's image, so Iranian media should be watchful of such reports".
- He added that the "Zionist media wants to prevent Iran-Lebanon close ties."

OCTOBER 6, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1735 GMT, 6 October 2010)

- Tehran Prosecutor General Abbas Ja'fari Dowlatabadi threatened that "the judiciary will take action against those who seek to create instability in the markets by hoarding goods and staging strikes."
- "The judiciary will deal with those who are indifferent to the country's economic situation and are seeking to disturb the public order by hoarding goods and closing markets" Dowlatabadi said in Tehran on Wednesday [6 October].

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1705 GMT, 6 October 2010)

Addressing a gathering of young elite, Khamene'i addressed the current international and domestic matters; the following are direct excerpts from his speech as delivered on October 6, 2010:

- The realities of the West's scientific progress are very sour and unfortunate and no one is prepared to pursue them at any cost. The scientific progress in the West - in fact it should be said the intellectual drive was a prelude to the scientific drive - began in the 16th century in Italy, Britain and other places until the Industrial Revolution, which occurred in the 18th century in Britain. The price was the end of the freedom of many nations and many countries were severely and violently oppressed by them. They felt that they need raw materials and markets which existed in other countries. They used this science to build cannons to fight swords and spears.
- Take a look at what they did in India and China. In the 19th century, the British committed atrocities in India which I am sure you've only heard of a very small fraction of in propaganda and history. ...They destroyed India's middle class and they blocked the formation of a drive toward science and industry by imposing various restrictions. They created and injected a critical illness into a nation. Even though nearly 150 years have passed since the start of these actions in India, that country is still suffering from this illness.

They did the same in China. The atrocities they committed in China and the pressure they exerted on the Chinese nation in the 19th century. They did the same in Africa. They committed atrocities on the American continent with the help of science.

- The teachings of prophets or the teaching of Islam and the conscience of human being do not lead us to this direction. Such an aim does not create an urge in mankind. The science that we are after should be accompanied with purifying the soul. The verses recited at the beginning of the session: It is He Who has sent amongst the Unlettered an apostle from among themselves, to rehearse to them His Signs, to sanctify them, and to instruct them in Scripture and Wisdom [previous sentence in Arabic from the Koran]. Purification of the soul comes first. This is how the Koran and Islam educate.
- Why does purification of the soul come first? This is because science is an instrument, it is a weapon. If this weapon falls in the hands of an evil and criminal individual, it will create nothing but catastrophe. However, the same weapon in the hands of a pious individual may become a mean for defending human beings, rights of people and families. The science should be in the hands of those who have purified their souls. This is my advice to you.
- You are young individuals who have had the chance to grow in a religious and Islamic environment. This is a great chance for you. This is similar to what Imam Husayn, may peace be upon him, in the Arafah prayers says. He says I thank God that he gave me life at the time of Islamic rule, referring to the prophet's rule.
- This is an advantage for the youth. You should learn science in order to serve others, use it for the promotion of spirituality, the advancement of human virtues and to truly defend human rights.
- National wealth and power should help this nation to promote the banner of justice, contrary to the prevalent world culture. We should not bully anyone. We should help the oppressed. We should fight against oppressors. We should stop oppressors.
- ...We should open a new path. That new path is that a nation with scientific means and power - and every other thing will follow suit - should promote divine incentives, values and ethics in the world. This is what we expect from you.

(Source: Tabnak news website, in Persian 0450 GMT, 6 October 2010)

- Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mohammad Khaza'i criticized the organization's secretary-general for ignoring the role of the [UN] General Assembly in decision making process, Tabnak news website reported on 6 October.
- "The General Assembly, which means all the members of the UN, has been entrusted with the right of vote and decision-making but this organization does not play a constructive and decisive role in different problems of the world like security, economic crisis, disarmament, terrorism, ensuring different nations' rights and of the likes."

(Source: Iran, Tehran in Persian, 6 October 2010, pg 3)

- A member of the National Security Commission of parliament said that the actions of the Executives of Construction Party are similar to that of the dissolved parties like the Participation and the Mojahedin and added: "The Article 10 Commission of Parties should prepare a report about these parties in order to respond to people's concerns."
- Speaking to Fars News Agency, Fatemeh Alia added: "If a party or group violates the constitution or the commitments that they made in their statute based on which they got their license, or if it does something which is aimed at weakening, undermining, or overthrowing the system, a report on this action will be sent to the judiciary through this commission and the judiciary will issue a verdict in the light of the report."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1337 GMT, 6 October 2010)

- Speaking at a gathering of the young elite, President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad once again stressed the need for Iranians to initiate and use their own model for scientific progress.
- Ahmadinezhad told the closing ceremony of the fourth conference of the young elite: " We have to plan and implement our own models for scientific work which are based on our objectives."
- He stressed the importance of scientific progress but criticized the capitalist model for using science and scientists as a tool to strengthen and spread Western imperialism.

(Source: Javan, Tehran in Persian 6 October 2010, p 2)

- Agents of one of the atheist websites operating in the country have been identified and arrested.
- Javan reported that following investigations by the respective institutions the agents of "Zandiq" website, who were circulating atheistic and blasphemous material against religious and Islamic fundamentals, were identified and arrested.
- "It must be pointed out that this website (Zandiq) is among several websites which, in order to stage a soft warfare against the beliefs of the Islamic nation of Iran, embarked on attacking, insulting and creating doubts against the religion of Islam." *(Direct excerpt)*

OCTOBER 5, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0634 GMT, 5 October 2010)

- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast has said that Iran is ready for talks with the West: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is in favor of talks and is not going to give up its rights," he said during his weekly news conference which was broadcast live by the Iranian central news channel (IRINN) on 5 October.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1735 GMT, 5 October 2010)

- The first session of the trial of 23 suspects charged in connection with the 2009 Tehran University dormitory incident was held in a military court in Tehran on Tuesday [5 October].
- At the court session, indictments against 23 of the 27 suspects charged in connection with the 2009 Tehran University dormitory incident were read out, the ISNA news agency reported.
- On 15 June 2009, unidentified people in plainclothes entered the Tehran University dormitory, ransacked buildings, and beat and detained dozens of students.

(Source: Iran newspaper, Tehran, in Persian 5 October 2010, p 3)

- After publishing an abusive item against the head of the Judiciary entitled "Nullified", the Jomhuri-ye Eslami newspaper received a written warning from the Domestic Press Office.
- In the editorial on Saturday [2 October] edition of the daily, the editor-in-chief of the Jomhuri-ye Eslami newspaper Masih Mohajeri attacked the head of Judiciary for his principled remarks in the meeting with Friday imams regarding the Azad University's endowment and in the last paragraph of the article wrote that the word "nullified" is the creation of the head of Judiciary.

PRIVATELY FACILTIATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 5 October 2010)

- Jinus Sobhani, former secretary of Defenders of Human Rights Centre was sentenced to two years in prison. She was convicted of "acting against national security." A member of the Baha'i Faith, Sobhani was arrested after Ashura Day events on 3 January 2010 and was released after posting bail. Sobhani's sentencing comes a few weeks after the trial of seven Baha'i leaders whose 20-year prison sentences were reduced to 10 years each upon appeal.

OCTOBER 4, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1108 GMT, 4 October 2010)

- A senior Iranian cleric cautioned that "the enemy seeks to pit the clergy against the country's officials and make out that top religious figures do not support the establishment."
- The enemy has a 'murky scheme' to spread lies and inculcate a sense of indifference in clergymen to alienate them from the establishment, Tehran's Interim Friday Prayer Leader Ahmad Khatami was quoted by Mehr news agency as saying.
- "We should get to know the enemy and see what tactics it uses," the top religious figure further explained.
- "They wanted to bring Iran to its knees by banning gasoline sales [to the country], but the nation has come to a point where it can export gasoline at the moment," he underscored.