

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
DECEMBER 6 – 12, 2010
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DECEMBER 12, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 12 December 2010)

- In a meeting attended by top judicial officials, the Judiciary Chief [Ayatollah sadeq Amoli-Larijani] stressed that every episode in Ashura is a lesson, and that one of the most important lessons is to have insight.
- The judiciary chief addressed the sedition [protests] following the [disputed 2009 presidential] election and those who were trapped by this sedition and he stressed that lack of insight caused some of them [protestors] to persist with their prejudices.
- [Ayatollah Amoli-Larijani]: Last year at Ashura [27 December 2009], the seditionists launched a very hypocritical campaign and now they issue statements saying that they were suppressed during Ashura. They say they chanted Ya Husayn [a call on the third Shi'i Imam for his support]. Yes, that is true.

(Source: Javan Online, in Persian, 12 December 2010)

- According to "Javan online", Azerbaijan for some years now, under the West's policies started mischief against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and lately these measures have increased.
- These measures include: Formation of nationalist groups against Iran; Training, equipping and supporting separatist elements; Provision of platforms and media to separatist elements.
- Ethnic incitement through under-cover expeditionary groups of clergy, traders, cultural advisors, joint enterprises, etc.; Mass smuggling of alcohol and many other forms of cultural corruption [material] into Iran through Azerbaijan borders; Unrestrained propagation over the border walls with Iran and Permitting Israel and America to use its facilities and to establish espionage ties against Iran.

(Source: Resalat website, Tehran, in Persian, 12 December 2010)

- According to Iran network, Mashallah Shamsolva'ezin, the senior member of the UK government's Persian TV think-tank [BBC Persian TV], has been sentenced to a 16-month imprisonment by Tehran Revolutionary Court.
- He is the founder of chain newspapers [opposition groups' newspapers] such as Jame'eh [Society], Tus, Asr-e Azadegan and Neshat and a media analyst for the "hostile medium like Saudi's Al-Arabiyah".
- "In an interview with some foreign media at the time of the post-poll unrest, Shamsolva'ezin supported the street unrest and questioned the principles of the Islamic Republic."

DECEMBER 10, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English, 0500 GMT, 10 December 2010)

- German Mayor Klaus Wowereit here on Thursday [9 December] condemned the arson attack on the Iranian Islamic Culture Centre, the daily Der Tagesspiegel reported.
- Reacting to this firebombing and five previous arson attacks against mosques in Berlin since June, Wowereit expressed hope that police could arrest the perpetrators of the crime. Meanwhile, the intelligence unit of police has reportedly launched its investigation of the case.

- The attack on the Iranian Islamic Culture Centre early Thursday morning has shocked Berlin's large Muslim community.

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1540 GMT, 10 December 2010)

- Grand Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpayegani called on the Republic of Azerbaijan to maintain its religious identity and Islamic heritage.
- The remarks were made as Azerbaijan's ambassador [Cavansir Axundov] to Iran met with the grand ayatollah in the holy city of Qom on Thursday [9 December].
- Ayatollah Golpayegani said the propaganda campaign against Azerbaijan should not be a reason for sowing discord among Azeris.

DECEMBER 9, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1319 GMT, 9 December 2010)

- Reformist figure Ali Shakurirad has been arrested, Mehr reported on 9 December
- Shakurirad who was released from prison on 28 October 2010, was once more arrested and sent to prison.
- Citing the website of Tehran's Prosecutor Office, Mehr reported that "following the publication of Shakurirad's statements in certain websites and the attribution of false and untrue remarks to the esteemed Judiciary chief [Sadeq Amoli-Larijani] and also his false comments against the Islamic Republic of Iran", Shakurirad was summoned" on the charge of "propaganda against the system and spreading lies."
- The report added that "after investigations and in view of the former charges raised against him," he was arrested and sent back to prison.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0920 GMT, 9 December 2010)

- Visiting Foreign Minister of Iran Manuchehr Mottaki said Thursday [9 December] that the Zionist regime and its nuclear weapons were roots of every problem in the region.
- Speaking in a meeting with his counterpart from Australia Kevin Rudd on the sidelines of the forum, he regretted that "the Western states were keeping their eyes closed on the illegal acts and crimes committed by the Zionist regime in the region."
- "If the Western states had adopted a realistic viewpoint and looked at the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty through a comprehensive and non-selective point of view, then things could have moved towards interaction and cooperation instead of confrontation", Mottaki said.

(Source: Javan, Tehran, in Persian, 9 December 2010, p 2)

Direct Excerpts:

- After the hypocrites' [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization's] name was removed from Europe's and America's [terrorist] blacklist and their role in the riots and street terrorism of the 1388 [2009] sedition was confirmed, the supporters (the US, Britain and Israel) of this terrorist group decided to transfer these mercenaries to a safe place, with high manoeuvrability and under the direct protection of the US army."
- According to a report by Javan [newspaper], the destination considered for the hypocrites is a region in Yemen called Sa'dah which was funded by Saudis and is furnished with state-of-the-art education, communication and terrorist facilities. (A big size of the hypocrites' troops and facilities were shipped to Yemen by Americans during a secret transfer project).

DECEMBER 8, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1337 GMT, 8 December 2010)

- A senior Iranian lawmaker says Iran's top negotiator's remarks in his meeting with the P5+1 - Britain, China, France, Russia and the US plus Germany - in Geneva "disabled enemies."
- Vice Speaker of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Shahabeddin Sadr told reporters on Tuesday [7 December] that in the third round of Geneva talks Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Sa'id Jalili defended the Islamic Republic's sovereignty and honour through prudence and power, IRNA reported.

DECEMBER 7, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in Persian 2244 GMT, 7 December 2010)

- More than 1,000 students staged a protest at Iran's Qazvin Azad University in Qazvin Province on 7 December, the Human Rights News Agency of Iran RAHANA reported on the same day.
- The Students' Day protest began at 1000 local time (0630 gmt) at Qalam Square outside Azad University, RAHANA said.
- The gathering began with the slogans of "Ya Hoseyn Mirhoseyn" (referring both to Imam Husayn and opposition leader Mirhoseyn Musavi) and took place despite the heightened presence of security and Basij forces, according to RAHANA.

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1019 GMT, 7 December 2010)

- Expediency Council's chief Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked university students to be "vigilant" and not to allow society "to fall asleep with the lullaby of superstitions," ILNA reported on 7 December.
- In the message, Rafsanjani congratulated the students and reminded them of Iran's "brilliant record" in history in establishing universities and the "Iranians' talents" in science and research. He further added: "In the contemporary history, in addition to scientific activities, universities have also been active in politics and Iranian students in all academic fields of study have challenged the rulers [of the time] with their power of reasoning and logic."
- Rafsanjani described the students as "the creators of the future and the directors of the future society."
- "The Iranian student should be vigilant so that the society would not fall asleep with the lullaby of superstitions."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0630 GMT, 7 December 2010)

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that Western states should be held responsible for "terror" against a nuclear scientist.
- Ramin Mehmanparast made these remarks in a weekly news conference in Tehran on 7 December which the state-run news network IRINN aired live.
- "In connection with terror against a nuclear scientist of our country, martyr Shahriyari [assassinated in Tehran on 29 November], as we have noted, Western states should be held responsible for terror against individuals and scientists of the country in order to suspend the nuclear movement of our nation, prevent them from obtaining modern science and establishing society which can make of use relevant prosperity by means of this science. Why do they not condemn this terrorist act? And why do they support these terrorist groups and provide them with shelter in their countries and exclude their names from their list of terrorist groups?..."

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 07 December 2010)

- According to the report, Sharq and Keyhan newspapers included blank pages in their paper yesterday. According to Ati News, on page 15 of Keyhan and page 2 of Sharq newspapers, some articles were omitted and part of the pages were blank due to unknown reasons.
- It has been reported that the blank pages had previously contained the version of the defense used by Kaveh Eshtehardi in the Mehdi Hashemi case.
- The hearing of Iran newspaper's Managing-Editor Kaveh Eshtehardi's case began in 76 bench of Tehran's criminal court in the presence of judicial staff and Press Jury on last Sunday [5 December].
- According to the indictment by the Tehran Islamic Revolutionary Public Prosecutor's Office, Islamic Propaganda Organization and Mehdi Hashemi were the two petitioners, out of which the Islamic Propaganda Organization cancelled its complaint.