

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

7-13 MARCH 2011

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13 MARCH 2011

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian reformist news website Emruznews, www.emruznews.com, in Persian 2003 GMT, 13 March 2011)

- According to a report by an Emruz reporter in Qom [southern Tehran], Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Gudarzi, a member of the cleric HQ of Engineer [Mirhoseyn] Musavi, also a reformist activist in the city of Qom, was arrested on 11 Esfand 1389 [2 March 2011].
- No information is available so far on his condition.

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 1009 GMT, 13 March 2011)

- The head of Tehran Justice Department, Seyyed Ali Reza Ava'i, referred to the efforts by the "enemies of the political system and revolution to abuse the youth's excitement and celebrations that are held on the last Wednesday of the year".
- He said that: "the enemies aim to abuse the excitement of the youth who do not have any counterrevolutionary motivations and they [enemies] aim to gain their trust."
- He called on families not to allow their youth to be exploited by the counterrevolutionary groups.
- "The greater Tehran's judges will specifically encounter the offenders on the last Wednesday of the year in accordance with the law."

12 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1050 GMT, 12 March 2011)

- Direct excerpt: "The public and revolution prosecutor [Mohammad Reza Sanjari] of Bam [southeastern Iran, in Kerman Province] announced the arrest of several members of deviated Baha'i cult, who were proselytizing [their faith] and developing their plans in nurseries in Bam, Kerman, and Tehran".
- According to ISNA, Mohammad Reza Sanjari added: "The investigations that have been carried out indicate the existence of an expanded and intricate network. The members of the network received orders from a central organization, and followed up and implemented their various plans according to those orders."

11 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1715 GMT, 11 March 2011)

- The best way for Iran to counter the West's cultural invasion is to counterattack in the same manner, former foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Thursday [10 March].
- Velayati, who is currently the Supreme Leader's adviser for foreign affairs, made the remarks at a cultural conference in Tehran.
- Certain Western countries have been trying to negatively influence the cultures of Muslim countries through their media outlets, television networks, and websites, and thus it is necessary to respond to their evil efforts through cultural measures, Velayati stated.
- He added that efforts should be made to introduce Islam and present its message to the entire world.

10 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 10 March 2011)

- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i urged the country's bloggers to avoid in their weblogs what he called insults, disrespect for others and swearing.
- Khamene'i cautioned that because "Islam is against an atmosphere of disrespect and insults in society, an atmosphere in which people are subjected to insults should not exist; it is against Islamic principles, morality and political wisdom."
- Khamene'i added: "There is no problem with courageous participation in criticisms, disagreement, and expression of ideas. However, disrespect, insults, and swearing must be avoided. Everyone is responsible in this respect. Apart from polluting the atmosphere and disturbing society's calm nerves, which are needed today, such insults will also invite the wrath of God towards us."
- Khamene'i said: "Disagreeing, reasoning, condemning a wrong religious idea is one thing, but involvement in such acts which are against moral values, religious principles and political wisdom is something else. We totally and most definitely disapprove of the latter and say that it should not take place."

9 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1622 GMT, 9 March 2011)

- Iran's ambassador to Geneva, Mohammad Reza Sajjadi alleged that certain countries use human rights issues in the United Nations as a tool for achieving their political purposes. He alleged that the United Nation's credibility has been tarnished and that [the U.S.] in presenting anti-Iranian resolutions to the council shows that the human rights issue has been abused by certain countries for many years.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0530 GMT, 9 March 2011)

- The foreign minister issued a warning about an American plot to hijack the popular uprisings in some Arab countries.
- Speaking at a meeting of the Assembly of Experts yesterday [8March], Ali Akbar Salehi noted the efforts of America and some Western countries to divert the popular uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. He said that the influence of America in Tunisia and Egypt prevented the protests from resulting in a revolution. In Libya, he noted, the Westerners' efforts also proved fruitless.

8 MARCH 2011

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Iranian news website [Rahana], in Persian 1430 GMT, 8 March 2011)

- The security and military forces based in Tehran's Vali-Asr Square arrested nine men and a woman, Human Rights House of Iran's News Agency Rahana reported on 8 March.
- The report said: "All the [arrested] people were blindfolded and put inside police vans." It added that: "The arrested woman was put in the same van along with the arrested men and taken to an unknown place."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0634 GMT, 8 March 2011)

- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman criticized alleged Western attempts to foment a revolution in Iran, saying that the majority of the Iranian people support the country's leadership.

- "What exists in the Islamic Republic of Iran - and the seeing eyes and the hearing ears should see and hear the view of the overwhelming majority of our nation - is the people's extensive support for the system, revolution and the leadership," RaminMehmanparast said at his weekly news conference on 8 March, broadcast live on Iran's state news channel (IRINN).
- "The fact that the eyes of some Western officials are unable to see and their ears are unable to hear is a serious problem, and it is necessary to take steps to eliminate this shortcoming," he said.
- The West is "trying to create an artificial and false wave and present this wave, which is unacceptable from the nation's point of view, as a movement by the majority of the people", he said.