

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
NOVEMBER 8 – 14, 2010
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NOVEMBER 14, 2010

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0654 GMT, 14 November 2010)

- The prosecutor of judges' disciplinary affairs [Ahmad Shafi'i] has said that the charges leveled against three suspended judges will be examined by the Prosecutor's Office of Governmental Employees.
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Shafi'i referred to the latest development concerning the case of the Tehran former prosecutor [Sa'id Mortazavi]: "After a case was filed for these three accused at the Prosecutor's Office of Judges' Disciplinary Affairs, a suspension sentence was issued against them."
- The prosecutor of judges' disciplinary affairs added: "Once these three judges were suspended, their case was sent to the Prosecutor's Office of Governmental Employees."
- "So far no arrest verdict has been issued against the Tehran former prosecutor [Mortazavi]. He has neither been acquitted nor convicted yet."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1215 GMT, 14 November 2010)

- Tehran Public Prosecutor Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi confirmed the arrest of five lawyers, Fars News Agency reported.
- According to Fars, three of them were arrested upon arrival at Tehran's Imam Khomeyni Airport on their way back from Turkey and the other two were arrested in connection with them in Tehran.
- Dowlatabadi said they were arrested on national security charges and for behavior against the Islamic Republic's values outside Iran.

NOVEMBER 13, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1650 GMT, 13 November 2010)

- Mohammad Nabi Habibi, the secretary general of Islamic Coalition Party, has commented that it is essential that reformists be active in the country's political scene.
- Those reformist groups who are loyal to the system, the constitution, and velayat-e faqih (rule by the supreme jurisprudent) must be allowed to practice politics, Habibi told a press conference held at the office of his party in Mashhad on Saturday [13 November].
- "Some people under the pretext of seeking reforms tried to topple the system during the post-election sedition (political unrest following the June 2009 presidential election)" he said, adding this group of reformists should be treated differently.

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1620 GMT, 13 November 2010)

- Expediency Council Secretary Mohsen Reza'i called for establishing a united front of national resistance urging all to participate:
- "We regard every move in line with promoting unity in the society as positive, and the need for national coherence to counter threats under the present condition is keenly felt" Reza'i told reporters on the sidelines of the Expediency Council session.
- "Today the most significant need of the country is to establish a united front of national resistance (in order) to turn the sanctions into an opportunity" said Reza'i.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0530 GMT, 13 November 2010)

- Pope Benedict XVI has called for the expansion of "sincere" relations with Iran and noted the important role of divine religions in peaceful co-existence between nations and in the establishment of a lasting peace in the world, Iran's state news channel IRINN reported.
- "The Vatican is striving for a lasting peace in the world and is ready for cooperation based on divine commandments," IRINN quoted Benedict XVI as saying at a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to the Vatican.

NOVEMBER 12, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1005 GMT, 12 November 2010)

- Military adviser to Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i alleged that Iran attained glory in the wake of the campaign of the Iranian nation during the Sacred Defense Era (1980-88).
- Addressing a ceremony to commemorate the unknown martyrs of Shemiranant in Shahid Mahallati Township, General Safavi added that everybody is indebted to martyrs. 'Undoubtedly, the wise stances of the Supreme Leader and well-preparedness of the armed forces prevented the US to think about attacking Iran,' he said.
- Safavi further contended that the formation of resistance movement in Lebanon was inspired by Iran's eight-year resistance.
- "It has now been turned to a strong body which trounced the Zionist regime during 33-day war," he added. Hamas forces also defeated the Israeli army in a 22-day war, he said.

NOVEMBER 11, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0752 GMT, 11 November 2010)

- A senior Iranian cleric has condemned the recent spate of violence in Iraq, calling on all Muslims across the world to protest the "crimes against humanity".
- "Iraq is a thousands-year-old civilized country and is the birthplace of great scientists and scholars ... but look what has become of it, and the world's civilized country has turned into a bloody scene of crimes against humanity," IRNA quoted Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi as saying on Wednesday [10 November].
- "Undoubtedly the presence of foreign [troops] in this country, and the blatant interventions of the US, and the less obvious intervention of Zionism in particular, have inflicted the current debacle on the innocent people of this country."
- "Beside the US and the Zionist regime (Israel), Arab countries are betraying Iraqi people behind the scenes," he stated.
- "Where are the Human Rights Watch and Doctors without Borders that deem themselves in charge of healing those affected by such events?" the cleric questioned.

NOVEMBER 10, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Kohkiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad TV, Yasuj, in Persian 1315 GMT, 10 November 10)

The head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli-Larijani, has said that countries that accuse Iran of violating human rights, including the USA and European countries, are themselves major violators of human rights. Speaking during a visit to Kohkiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad province on 10 November, Amoli-Larijani said that these countries use accusations of rights violations as a pretext for attacking other

countries. The following is the text of a report by Iranian state-run provincial TV from Yasuj on 10 November:

- [Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli-Larijani] The ones that have accused us of oppressing human rights are themselves the biggest violator countries when it comes to human rights issues. America with its Guantanamo prisons, what more need I say? Their assistant secretary of state has said that human rights are an internal affair and this is our business. It is so strange. For a long time you have been making a meal out of human rights regarding other countries and recently you have been repeating this word continually. The same is true of the European countries. And now human rights are an internal affair for your own country? So nobody else should talk to you about it? So accusations about human rights are just an excuse for attacking and invading countries.

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 0920 GMT, 10 November 2010)

- Tehran Prosecutor General Abbas Ja'fari-Dolatabadi announced that the final rulings have been issued for certain defendants, including four journalists, on charges of involvement in the unrest that followed the June 2009 presidential election.
- "The rulings of some defendants of the post-election incidents including Emadeddin Baghi (political activist and journalist), Badr al-Sadat Mofidi (journalist), Ahmad Zeydabadi (journalist), and Abbas Abdi (pro-reform journalist and social activist) have been finalized and will be enforced in the near future"; Dolatabadi told reporters on Wednesday [10 November].
- Tehran prosecutor did not give more details on the rulings.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0712 GMT, 10 November 2010)

At 0712 gmt, the Islamic Republic News Network, IRINN, started to broadcast a live speech by President Ahmadinezhad in Qazvin Province. The president started his speech by praising the people of Qazvin and its valuable culture, architecture and history. He paid tribute to the martyrs, students, lecturers, elites, farmers and people from all walks of life in Qazvin.

- The president then talked about the former American leader, President Bush and said "If they had respect for other people, they would not have plundered 30,000bn dollars out of the pocket of people and the Korean and Vietnam War would not have happened."
- He added: "The root cause of all wars is that some people do not have respect for others, not only for other countries but for their own people as well." He said today many people in western countries are subject to tyranny and injustice.
- "We said talks [should be] based on justice and respect... Let's talk about global issues in an atmosphere of respect so that we can all help to eliminate the problems...We are ready for these conditions. Of course, we said before that you [West] must announce your viewpoints about some global issues. If you do, we will negotiate with you on that basis. And if you don't, we ourselves will determine your answer and talk to you on the basis of your behavior in the past,"
- He continued: "We have repeatedly said that the Iranian nation will not negotiate with anyone on its basic rights. Talks will be held for cooperation and for eliminating global problems, global concerns and for promoting peace and global security".

NOVEMBER 9, 2010

EXTERNAL SOURCE

(BBC Monitoring, 9 November 2010)

BBC Monitoring Note of particular importance:

- Iran's volunteer militia Basij and the Education Ministry are planning to spread what they describe as "the culture of martyrdom" among pupils at schools. To this end, Basij has openly announced that it aims to have a "direct involvement" in preparation of school textbooks.

- "Children in nurseries must be trained by people who are themselves familiar with Islamic principles so by the time they reach the age of 13 they develop into Martyr Hoseyn Fahmideh." (ILNA, 16 April)
- According to Naqdi "The ministry, and particularly its Educational Research and Planning Department, should be responsible before Basij in this regard."
- "The enemy has resorted to soft war through its media because it feels that the liberal-democratic culture has been jeopardized," Mohammad Saleh Jowkar, the Pupil Basij commander, has said. As a countermeasure, he suggested that "martyrdom-seeking morale should be instilled in pupils in the fourth decade of the revolution." (Fars, 24 July)
- Education Minister Haji-Baba'i shares the same view. "The enemy's main goal in waging soft war is to target schools. Basij, as a school of thought, can help fight the enemies and vaccinate people's spirit against their plots." (Mehr, 30 October)
- "The Education Ministry tries to further highlight the symbols of martyrdom for pupils. It aims to instil and update a culture of self-sacrifice and martyrdom in school textbooks more than before." (Shabestan, 28 September)

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1335 GMT, 9 November 2010)

- Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Sa'id Jalili said Tuesday [9 November] that the Islamic Republic of Iran advocates for the formation of a new Iraqi government based on national resolve.
- The Iranian official expressed hope that Iraqi parliament would be established in cooperation with all political parties soon to serve Iraqi people.

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0639 GMT, 9 November 2010)

- The commander of the anti-narcotics department of the Law Enforcement Force [police] said that an agreement was reached to set up forced work camps in the suburbs of metropolitan cities.
- He added: "Based on coordination with the judiciary, Prisons Organization, anti-narcotics police, Welfare Organization and Ministry of Health, forced work camps will be set up in the suburbs of metropolitan cities."
- He said that "Shafaq" camp in Tehran is used for keeping homeless addicts and added: "Shafaq camp is a successful camp for keeping addicts."

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 09 November 2010)

Text of report by Panisa Hasanzadeh headlined "Montajab-Nia's reaction to claims about the penitence of members of the National Trust Party" published by Iranian newspaper Mardom Salari on 9 November

- A website [participating] in the press exhibition [held in Tehran from 26 Oct-1 Nov] got people engaged in a campaign against the secretary of the National Trust Party [Rasul Montajab-Nia] and raised issues that included repentance by the members of the party and removal of the party's leader.
- In an interview with Mardom Salari, the secretary-general of the National Trust Party rejected the issues that were raised during the campaign and considered the activities at a stand [the website's stand in the exhibition] at the seventeenth international media exhibition to be disgraceful.
- Referring to the aims of the campaign and the accusations made by it, he said: I was surprised to see that the press exhibition, which is meant to discuss and advertise the media, press and news agencies, turned into a platform of propaganda against [certain] individuals, especially for interviewing people who were not informed about the issue.
- There were people who insisted that an independent website had been launched for the clergy of Qom and students. I asked whom does this website belong to? They insisted that the website was

completely independent and took me to its stand. When I entered the stand and sat down, I saw that they wrote the name of the secretary-general of the party [Monatajab-Nia] and an abusive remark against him on a poster and fixed it in the stand. Ethically, it was a disgraceful act against which legal action could be taken.

- He said: If some people face legal allegation, then they should be dealt with by the Judiciary. Insulting people at a press exhibition and using deceptive means to interview people to get a word out of them is a disgraceful and immoral action.

NOVEMBER 8, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1620 GMT, 8 November 2010)

- Majid Ansari, a senior member of the reformist Association of Combatant Clerics, asserted that: all groups should be allowed to make their voices heard.
- The loyalists to the Islamic system may have differing views on political issues, but all of them believe in the principles of the Islamic Revolution, he said.
- Ansari also criticized the monopoly of certain groups over the media outlets as unfair and said: "According to Imam, justice is a principle, and justice is not merely economic justice."
- He expressed regret that certain extremists are allowed to distort the history of certain political groups and make baseless allegations about the revolutionary figures and Imam's companions such as Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and members of the Association of Combatant Clerics.
- He praised the patience of the revolutionary figures and also Imam Khomeyni's companions who have been unfairly treated by the ruling group and divested of their rights.
- "The fact that they have not expressed their views via foreign media outlets, despite all allegations and mistreatments leveled at them, shows their high tolerance"; he opined.
- Certain media outlets claim that they are seeking to restore unity, but they don't give a chance to those political figures and groups that have differing views to make their voices heard, so their claim is meaningless, he stated.