

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
April 19 – 25, 2010
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April 25, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0805 GMT, 25 April 2010)

- In a speech to mark the anniversary of a defeated US military operation in Tabas, Iran's Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani rejected the regional policies of the United States:
- [Larijani] "In the run of this important confrontation between Iran and America, the Supreme leader of Iran has decided which path to follow. The Iranian nation wants to restore its rights. It does not seek to oppress anyone. However, it does not allow to be cheated. There is a kind of fraud in the picture that the Americans are depicting today in the region. There is a deception. They have changed the words they use. Consider whether there has been any change with respect to Palestine or whether the oppression [against Palestinians] has doubled, ever since this new gentleman [presumably US president Barack Obama] took office?"

April 24, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1440 GMT, 24 April 2010)

- Member of Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Ali Aqazadeh said on Saturday [24 April] that "the IRGC maneuver in the Persian Gulf region code-named "Holy Prophet 5" aims to promote peace, friendship and brotherhood among countries of the region."
- He said that the "security of countries located in the Persian Gulf region is among Iran's top priorities which are manifested in such significant war games."
- "The IRGC war game "Holy Prophet 5" truly demonstrates Iran's strength and authority in the region and proves that the Iranian nation is determined to seriously deal with any insecurity and provocation in the region."

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0930 GMT, 24 April 2010)

- The deputy commander of the Law Enforcement Forces, Ahmad Reza Radan confirmed that there are new measures to enhance safety inside the country:
- [Radan] "In the very near future we will be witness to the implementation of measures which will enhance a sense of security inside Tehran. It is natural that the bullies and miscreants and violators of people's rights will be dealt with through the coordination that the judiciary has made and the concerns that the honorable head of the judiciary [Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani] has voiced. And, it is obvious that through this coordinated action the people's satisfaction will be doubled. The actions that are taken as preventative measures - such as dealing with drug traffickers and petty criminals - will be enhanced to highest levels as the measures themselves have already been implemented."

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 24 April 2010)

- Iran, under fire from Western countries over its human rights record, has decided not to seek a seat next month on the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council, a diplomat said Friday [23 April].
- Peggy Hicks, global advocacy director for New York-based Human Rights Watch, said Tehran apparently did so "in the face of mounting global opposition due to its abysmal human rights record."
- "And that shows international pressure can help put states with better records on the council," she added.
- "We hope that by rejecting the Islamic Republic of Iran's bid for membership in the Human Rights Council, you will draw the Iranian authorities' attention to their wrongdoings," she wrote.

April 23, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0430 GMT, 23 April 2010)

- Iran and North Korea have signed a document on cultural cooperation. During an official visit to Pyongyang by the Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, a document on a new cultural exchange program was signed between Iran and North Korea.

April 22, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1035 GMT, 22 April 2010)

- Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hoseyni said in a message on Thursday [22 April] that the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that freedom and avoidance of political bias is necessary for the mass media.
- "We are living in a modern age that some communication and news networks are influenced by hegemonic governments which cooperate together targeting the public opinion in various countries across the world by distorted and biased news. In this way they gain their illegitimate objectives. One of these targets is to overthrow democratic governments by manipulating information and imposing an administration that would serve the aims and interests of their own governments.
- "Currently, we are witnessing an undeclared war by the hegemonic governments against independent states. By monopolizing news and information, by craftily managing news, and by utilizing advanced and sophisticated methods to disseminate information, they are posing a threat to independent and free nations."
- "We sternly oppose the misuse of power and wealth in the international communication system which distorts realities and disseminates prejudiced baseless misinformation. I believe that media coalitions such as OANA has the capacity to firmly stand before such disorders created by domineering powers."
- "The world will be a much better place if the media follow the principles of impartiality and justice and devotion to mankind."

- "We therefore call for a free and fair international order of news communications. If the world is based on justice and neutrality, we will witness a new world order that will include an economic, political, cultural and healthy communications."
- "Respect for truth, traditions, cultures and values are the basis for all communications."

April 21, 2010

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 21 April 2010)

- The Committee of Human Rights Reporters reported that women's rights activist Dorsa Sobhani was released from prison on Wednesday 21 April.
- According to the committee, Sobhani who had been active in the One Million Signatures Campaign for ending discriminatory laws against women, had been arrested on 7 March in the northern city of Sari by intelligence forces and subsequently transferred to Evin prison.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1552 GMT, 21 April 2010)

- Iranian conservative, privately-owned Fars News Agency website reported a "telephone conversation of the Syrian President, Bashar al-Asad and his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Ahmadinezhad. In it the Syrian president alleged that the West tries to pit Arab countries against Iran diverting Arab attention away from Israel."
- Fars wrote: "In this telephone conversation, Asad explained that Iran and Syria share the same trench and have common views. He stressed: All actions by the two countries are aimed at promoting the interests and expediency of the two and that of the regional countries."
- "The Western countries have not reached their true objectives against Iran. They try to pit Arab countries against Iran and this can only be to the detriment of the Arabs themselves. Syria will stand against such trend with all its might and will resolutely keep to this stance."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0447 GMT, 21 April 2010)

- The defense minister addressed questions about Iran's military capacity: "The high military and spiritual power of Iran will be painful and lethal for the Zionist regime."
- Ahmad Vahidi said in an interview with a Fars correspondent in Babol: "In view of the international isolation of the Zionist regime, this regime has no courage to attack Iran and cannot fight Iran's military forces."
- "The Zionist regime is currently beset by numerous domestic and international problems which have plunged this regime into isolation."
- "When the Zionist regime and America say that they will use nuclear deterrence against Iran, this, in a way, shows their inhuman intention which also signifies something else and that they cannot respond to the pride and greatness of the honorable Iranian nation with conventional weapons, otherwise if one knows about politics, they would not easily say such words which, according to most people, are reprehensible in their nature."

(Source: Iran, Tehran, in Persian 21 April 2010)

Text of report under "What else is News?" column, headlined "Minister of reformist government insults sources of emulation" published by Iranian newspaper Iran on 21 April

- The former minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of [Mohammad] Khatami's government, Ata'ollah Mohajerani persisted with his stance "against the Islamic Revolution and accused some sources of emulation as well as scholars of violating the Iranian people's rights and perfidy."
- In his website (Jaras), Mohajerani published his negative reaction to the revocation of the licenses of the Organization of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Islamic Iran Participation Front.
- He criticized "the ignorance of some sources of emulation and scholars for not implementing the constitutional laws"

April 20, 2010

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 0930 GMT, 20 April 2010)

- Iran's Foreign Minister, Manuchehr Mottaki, has said that "the nuclear fuel swap deal is a good opportunity for "trust-building"."
- "We have held various consultations during visits such as this one. We think that if the involved parties demonstrate the necessary firm political will to implement a formula for the exchange of fuel, this exchange or swap can still be an opportunity to build mutual trust between all the involved parties, including the Islamic Republic of Iran."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0600 GMT, 20 April 2010)

- Speaking about sanctions, Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki has said Iran always welcomed dialogue as opposed to sanctions. "Of course if they insist on practicing their failed experience again, all right, we can not prevent them from that," he said at a press-conference with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu, aired live by the state-run IRINN TV.
- "If a European country wishes to not have economic ties with Iran, we can not insist that it must have them," the minister said referring to the threat of sanctions over the Iranian nuclear program.
- "Iran is defining its foreign economic relations with the whole world based on mutual desire, wish and interest. That is why today Iran's foreign economic policy is more balanced in comparison with the past," he added.

April 19, 2010

(Source: Iranian news website Parleman News, in Persian 1953 GMT, 19 April 2010)

- According to Parleman News, Ja'far Behdad, the former managing director of Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) has been sentenced to four months in prison.
- Behdad and Amir Taher Hoseyn-Khan, a writer, were charged with writing and publishing a piece on Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani.

- In addition to four months in prison, Hoseyn-Khan is sentenced to 74 lashes.

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1300 GMT, 19 April 2010)
Excerpt from report in English by Iranian news channel Press TV website on 19 April*

- Iran's Judiciary chief slammed the US for "adopting a contradictory nuclear policy, describing the country as "the biggest nuclear criminal"" in the world.
- "The USA is the first and biggest nuclear criminal in the world. It (the US) employs and proliferates nuclear weapons, while claiming that it prevents proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani said Sunday [18 April].
- "As the main supporter of nuclear weapons, the US openly backs the Zionist regime (Israel) while accusing other countries like Iran of making efforts to access such weapons."
- The Judiciary chief emphasized Iran's determination to continue its nuclear activities and said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has never sought to use and develop nuclear weapons but will not abandon its peaceful nuclear program."

(Source: Iranian news website Parleman News, in Persian 1045 GMT, 19 April 2010)

- According to the Iranian reformist website, Parleman News, permits of two reformist parties have been revoked.
- Citing Iran News Network (INN), Parleman News reported on 19 April that the Secretary of the Committee for the Parties' Tenth Article sent letters to two reformist parties, the Islamic Iran Participation Party (IIPP) and the Islamic Revolution Mojahedin Organisation (IRMO) informing them that their permits had been revoked.
- Abbaszadeh has reportedly said that some of the activities carried out by the above mentioned reformist parties are among a list of activities prohibited by law.
- According to the report, some of the prohibited activities mentioned in Abbaszadeh's letter are as follows:
- "Conducting actions that lead to the violation of the country's independence; levelling accusations and recriminations and spreading rumours; violating national unity and conducting acts such as plotting to create differences in the country; misusing the country's cultural, religious and ethnic diversity to cause discord among different groups of the nation and violating the Islamic standards of the Islamic Republic."
- Abbaszadeh has reportedly said that the IIPP and the IRMO had carried out some of the above mentioned activities.