

**Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report**  
**August 30 – September 5, 2010**  
**Stacy Topouzova**

**August 30, 2010**

**State-Facilitated Media Sources**

*(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1635 GMT, 30 August 2010)*

- Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani alleged that “the United States is trying to promote Islamic extremism in order to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran.”
- “The enemies of Islam and Iran are incensed that Islam is rising in the West, and this anger has manifested itself in derogatory remarks about the Koran”, Rafsanjani stated at a gathering of Iranian and foreign Koran reciters in Tehran
- Rafsanjani made the remarks in response to the plan of Terry Jones, the senior pastor of a church at the Dove World Outreach Centre, who has brazenly said his group is planning to stage what they call a “;Burn the Koran Day” on September 11, 2010.

*(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1430 GMT, 30 August 2010)*

- The Iranian vice-president for parliamentary affairs threatened that “the list of firms related to the occupying Palestinian regime will be published by next week for further sanctions against these companies.”
- Hojjat ol-Islam Mohammad-Reza Mirtajeddini said that “three years ago a plan was approved by the Majlis to intensify sanctions against the Zionist regime.”
- Following that, last week a list was prepared of multinational companies which are somehow related to this regime and sent to the foreign policy commission of the Majlis.

*(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0726 GMT, 30 August 2010)*

- The manager of an Iranian cyber group has said that his team has hacked more than 1,000 American, British and French websites in the past two days, Fars news agency reported on 30 August.
- Quoting Behruz Kamalian, the manager of the cyber group "Ashiyaneh", Fars said that "to mark the anti-terrorism day and on the anniversary of the martyrdom of martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar [two officials killed on 30 August 1981] and in protest against the inhumane activities of the supporters of terrorism headed by American and Britain, the group fought back by hacking or changing more than 1,000 of their sites using new methods."
- Kamalian said: "We put a picture with a symbol of Iran and above it the pictures of martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar on the home page of the hacked sites and added two texts in two languages Farsi and English expressing the group's protest against America, Britain and France."
- Kamalian said: "This project started on Saturday [28 August] and continued until Monday morning 8 Sharivar [30 August]. During this time we succeeded in hacking more than 1,000 American, British and French sites, the most important of which are: The official site of America's Louisiana state, the British city council of Pevensy, the French website security company and the British internet services company LogMein.

*(Source: Javan newspaper, Tehran in Persian, 30 August 2010, p 2)*

- According to Javan, after the emergence of the sedition movement's new failures and lack of public support, the seditionists have started a new round of political activities in an organized manner since Mordad [month starting 23 July 2010].
- “Among these plans, there have been disgraceful hunger strikes by detainees, gatherings by detainees' families, especially in front of the Evin Prison, these families' statements, interviews by prominent members of sedition movement, such as Musavi-Kho'iniha, Zahra Rahnavard, Mohtashamipur and Tajzadeh, complaints against intelligence and security organizations by seditionists and manoeuvres over it by the domestic and foreign elements [of the movement].” (Direct excerpt)
- Meeting the families of political detainees, holding gatherings by giving Iftar [evening meal to break fasts during Ramadan] in front of Evin Prison by the families of detainees, taking photos and making videos for sending to satellite channels abroad are among other plans of the seditionists.
- The seditionist women have also become active this month. Among those [active women], [Green Movement Leader Mirhoseyn Musavi's wife Zahra] Rahnavard and [Tajzadeh's wife Fakhro'sadat] Mohtashamipur, who have strengthened their activities for supporting the seditionists can be mentioned.

### **August 31, 2010**

#### **State-Facilitated Media Sources**

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Sistan-Baluchestan Provincial TV, Zahedan in Persian 1200 GMT, 31 August 2010)*

- The Iranian Navy commander has said that Iran should expand its military presence in the north of the Indian Ocean and even beyond it, both in coastal areas and in the sea, Iran's provincial Hamun TV from Sistan-Baluchestan has reported.
- "Even trans-regional states, always pursuing their own illegal interests, are present in this strategic region, which is especially important from the economic viewpoint," Rear-Adm Habibollah Sayyari said on the news programme of Hamun TV from Konarak (Sistan-Baluchestan's provincial town) on 31 August. "Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, having the right [to be present in the region] and very suitable coastline in this dominant region should have more presence in the region... both in coastal areas and in the sea up to the north of the Indian Ocean and even beyond it," he added.

*(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 31 August 2010)*

- Rashid (Himan) Pishgir, a Nagadeh resident, has been sentenced to prison by the Revolutionary Court. Pishgir who is currently held in the Orumiye Prison has been sentenced to one year in prison for “collaborating with anti-regime groups.”

*(Source: Resalat website, Tehran, in Persian 31 August 2010)*

*Note: The following are direct excerpts of an article published by Resalat website on August 31, 2010.)*

- Spokesperson of Karrubi's staff has converted to Musavi and is now into the author of a website that supports Musavi abroad and an expert with Persian BBC [TV]!

- Sa'id Razavi-Faqih was once a certain Tahkimi [presumably a member of the student movement called Tahkim-e Vahdat]. During the adventure [incident] of Kuy-e Daneshgah [attack of security forces to the Tehran University dormitory after the 10th presidential election in Iran], he was among the student activists who were provoking and organizing clashes. However, when after the election the situation worsened, he took the hands of his wife and children and imitating the opposition, went to France, hoping to get rich. However, due to his cooperation with Karrubi, the opposition leaders have not accepted him. Therefore, he together with his wife was forced to be content with low-level jobs and earn daily bread in this way.
- Sa'id Razavi-Faqih has recently returned to the country without a fuss. His wife and children are staying in France and Karrubi and the Greens have also not done anything for him.

### **September 1, 2010**

#### **State-Facilitated Media Sourc**

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0957 GMT, 1 September 2010)*

- A senior Iranian lawmaker said that an "investment of effort into preserving Israel's existence is futile and that the regime should give the Palestinians their rights."
- "The massive turn out of the world's Muslims on the Quds Day proves the fact that investment of effort to maintain the existence of the Israeli regime is a futile endeavour," deputy head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Iran's Parliament (Majlis) Hoseyn Sobhaninia said on Wednesday [1 September].
- Initiated by the late Founder of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Imam Khomeyni, the International Quds Day is observed on the last Friday [3 September] of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims all over the world are urged to hold rallies in support of the Palestinian resistance against what Imam Khomeyni commonly referred to as "the illegitimate Israeli regime occupying Palestine."
- "Israel should give in to the rights of Palestinian nation, although the fate of the regime is annihilation," the Iranian lawmaker noted.

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1311 GMT, 1 September 2010)*

- Senior Iranian cleric Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi "lambasted terrorist activities committed by Wahhabis", saying that "terrorism has no place in Islam".
- "The extremist Wahhabis... have spread terrorism under the name of Islam," Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi said on Tuesday [31 August], Fars News Agency reported.
- "By attempting to brand themselves [as Muslims] the Wahhabis have damaged the image of Islam worldwide," he said.
- Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi called for a gathering of Muslim clerics and scholars, so they can unanimously "condemn the unlawful activities [of the Wahhabis] and announce that they (the Wahhabis) are not true Muslims."
- He described Islam as "the religion of peace, logic and reasoning" and condemned the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, which have left thousands of civilian dead.

*(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1847 GMT, 1 September 2010)*

- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman alleged that “the enemies of Islam seek to create discord among Muslim countries to continue oppressing them.”
- “If Muslim countries unite to confront the aggressions against the interests of the Muslim world, they can become a great power and prevail over Israel and its supporters, Ramin Mehmanparast said on Wednesday [1 September].”
- "We believe that there is an ulterior motive in the conciliation scheme between the Zionist regime [of Israel] and some of the Palestinian groups," Mehmanparast told ISNA regarding the upcoming Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.
- He added that Israel is trying to change "the heavy international atmosphere" and put on a "peace-seeking face" after attacking a Gaza-bound aid convoy in May.
- "Some Arab countries are trying to establish peace in the region and we welcome any effort that can ultimately resolve the issue," Mehmanparast said.

### **Privately-Facilitated Media Source**

*(Sources: Iranian reformist news website Saham News, in Persian 1 Sep 10; Iranian reformist news website Saham News, in Persian 1700 GMT, 30 August 2010)*

- An Iranian opposition leader's wife has appealed to the supreme leader, questioning him on his stance over "immoral actions" taken against Mehdi Karrubi's family and neighbours, the opposition Saham News website reported on 1 September.
- "Can you name a government ruling over backward nations, the primary human rights of which are not secured, which would treat this way the family and neighbours of its political opponents?" Fatemeh Karrubi wrote in her letter to Ayatollah Khamene'i. "Do you consider such destruction and immoral actions as permitted and legal in the name of defence of the system [of the Islamic Republic]?"
- On 30 August, more than 50 Basij-affiliated persons, equipped with different weapons and covering their faces, gathered in front of Mehdi Karrubi's house, preventing him from leaving home, while the police refused to intervene, Saham News reported on 30 August.

### **September 3, 2010**

#### **State-Facilitated Media Source**

*(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1530 GMT, 3 September 2010)*

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani has said that “in the current situation, it is not possible to hold direct talks with US officials.”
- “Negotiation with the US is not possible and no one has the right to make compromise with the great Satan [the U.S], Larijani told marchers who held solidarity rally in Qom to mark the International Qods Day.”
- “The US president pretends he is willing to help Muslims, but he should first account for his actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, the senior lawmaker who represents Qom told demonstrators.”

*(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0919 GMT, 3 September 2010)*

- Iranian Maj-Gen Hasan Firuzabadi said that he hopes “Iran would not need to target Israel's nuclear power plant.”
- "We hope there will not be a need for us to target a nuclear plant of the Zionist regime," the chief of General Command Headquarters of Iran's armed forces was

quoted as saying in an interview with Mehr on the sidelines of the Quds Day rallies on 3 September, as he commented on Iran's possible response in case of an Israeli assault on Iran. "There is no place in Israel that is out of reach of our modern missiles," he added.

*(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0740 GMT, 3 September 2010)*

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad alleged that "Western countries have given Israel absolute authority and do not hold it accountable in terms of democracy, freedom and human rights."
- During his Friday prayer pre-sermon speech on Quds Day which was broadcast live on Iran TV news channel, the president said that: "The Zionists are partners in the over-whelming majority of European and American companies. They [Israelis] still receive taxes. They still receive ransom after more than 60 years since the end of World War II. They recently made a claim against a relatively independent country in northern Europe. They said that those who were killed in war had accounts in that country's banks and asked for the return of their [dead Jews] money to them [Israel]. They put pressure on that country and withdrew a few billion dollars from a nation's account. And they gave in to the ransom-seeking of the Zionists."
- "In a quick calculation, one can conclude that up to now they [Western countries] have helped this despised regime with more than 1,500bn dollars. They have equipped it with nuclear weapons and all forms of weapons of mass destruction. They [the European countries] chant the slogan of democracy, freedom and human rights. But when the Zionist regime is involved all these issues are put aside and lose their meaning. They have given them [the Zionists] absolute authority".

#### **September 4, 2010**

##### **State-Facilitated Media Source**

*(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0649 GMT, 4 September 2010)*

- Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani warned that "Iran is under the West's threats of economic pressure and reduction in its zones of influence in the region."
- Talking in a gathering of political and social activists in Qom Province last night, Larijani said: "In view of the economic conditions, domestic politics and external pressures, we should be able to define a period of national resistance in the country and insist on its formation."
- He added: "The West is now attempting to make people's lives difficult in Iran by increasing pressures and threatening Iran's zones of influence in the region. As a result, Iran's capabilities are within their target range."

#### **September 5, 2010**

##### **State-Facilitated Media Source**

*(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0001 GMT, 5 September 2010)*

- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps claimed that "the gathering outside the house of the opposition leader, Mehdi Karrubi, on the eve of Quds day (3 September), was held by "imprudent and wayward agents"."

- According to the Iranian Students News Agency, ISNA, the Greater Tehran's Mohammad Rasulallah IRGC issued a statement on 5 September on "the commotion [Hashiyehsazi] created by certain wayward agents during the Quds Day rally".
- According to ISNA, the statement says: "The Greater Tehran's Mohammad Rasulallah IRGC, hereby congratulates the Supreme Leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i] and the brave and martyr-producing nation for their million-strong and outstanding turnout, and considers the commotion by certain wayward elements outside the residence of Karrubi - that led to the firing of guns from his house and injury of a few individuals - an incident created by imprudent and wayward agents, and strongly condemns the event.
- "As opportunists and the domestic discord-promoting [camp] are seeking a chance to exploit any commotion the [IRGC] commanders, directors, employees and brave [paramilitary] Basijis of the Greater Tehran condemn such marginal and reckless acts and announce that under the present circumstances, everyone should endeavour to act sensibly and prudently to safeguard unity and avoid providing the domestic discord-promoting camp and the seditionists with more excuses."
- Meanwhile, the reformist website, Kaleme, reported on 5 September that various "religious and political figures reacted to the attacks on Mr Karrubi's residence."