

**IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 13 – 19, 2010**  
**STACY TOPOUZOVA**

**DECEMBER 19, 2010**

**STATE FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0736 GMT, 19 December 2010)*

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad urged the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to take measures to boost women's role in society and improve their conditions.
- "Today women are main victims of the policies conducted by the bullying powers in the world. This tops the agenda of our days. The feminist trend misled by ill-mannered Zionists is actually the voice of help by oppressed women in the capitalist thinking," Ahmadinezhad said.
- The president offered to prepare a chapter on women's role in family, to prepare a road map to establish a global movement to restore women's rights

**DECEMBER 18, 2010**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

*Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0648 gmt 18 Dec 10*

- The new Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Salehi, outlined his ministry's new policies aimed at expanding Iran's relations with other countries, Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, reported on 18 December.
- "Considering the current regional and international realities, we must draw up our foreign policy priorities towards achieving maximum efficiency. In order to achieve that, we should focus our utmost attention on the neighbouring countries and the world of Islam."
- "Iran and Saudi Arabia are two influential countries of the region and the world of Islam and cooperating together, they can solve problems of the region and the world of Islam."
- "The speedy transforming of the policy of confrontation to cooperation by the EU would be in the interests of both sides"
- "A strong Foreign Ministry needs capable, competent and committed manpower."

**DECEMBER 17, 2010**

**STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

- Secretary General of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Mohammad Javad Larijani accused Western states of being the primary enemy of democracy in the Middle East.
- "Western countries, including the UK, are the strong supporters of dictatorship and enemies of democracy in the region,"

- “Western countries legalize all acts of violence in their own countries and other states under the pretext that they are fighting terrorism, they are committing crimes in war-ravaged Iraq and Afghanistan.”

*Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1017 gmt 17 Dec 10*

- *Excerpt from report by semi-official Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) website*
- The public and revolution prosecutor of Tehran [Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi] said that the news website of Mashreq was filtered because it “published an offensive letter and spread lies.”
- Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi, the prosecutor of Tehran, also confirmed that two Sharq newspaper's journalists called [Reyhaneh]Tabataba'i and [Mehran] Faraji had been arrested. He told ISNA that the investigation on the issue was ongoing.
- "The judiciary has taken into consideration the prosecution and trial of the leaders of the sedition [the opposition leaders including Mirhoseyn Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi] as a public demand, and it will do it at an appropriate time."

*Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1658gmt 17 Dec 10*

## **DECEMBER 15, 2010**

### **PRIVATELY FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

- *Text of report in English by Iranian pro-reform, English-language website The Green Voice of Freedom on 15 December*
- Students at universities across Iran have written and signed a message of solidarity to their fellow students in the United Kingdom protesting against the government's planned spending cuts to further education and an increase of the cap on tuition fees. The cuts resulted in massive protests in different part of the country, with the focal point being the demonstrations in the capitol London.
- Dear friends,
- We have received your statement of solidarity and it is indeed beyond all words that how encouraging and heartening we have found it. Your message found us almost on the Students day in Iran, a day in which once again, despite the unprecedented presence of repressive forces, we uttered the voice of our protest in all universities throughout Iran and, yet again, we showed that not only a year of threats, suspensions, arrests and tortures has not brought us to a standstill, but it has only made us more determined to pursue our struggle for freedom, justice and human rights more tirelessly than ever. Our determination for persisting in our cause only increases when we witness that our fellow students in other countries have also chosen to oppose the unjust and discriminatory education policies instead of conforming to the existing order. As we have been following your protests during the past months, we have perceived the common humanistic essence of our struggles and that of yours. This commonness indicates that there exist the chains which tie together human emancipatory endeavours beyond political borders, ties which have become evident, during the student movements. Not only this has offered hope for a

better future in our country, but it bears a promise that living in a better world is possible.

*Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 15 Dec 10*

#### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE**

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani attributed the suicide bombing in the southeastern city of Chabahar, to USA and Israel.
- "Terrorist operations such as the crime in Chabahar [Sistan-Baluchestan Province] can only be expected from the USA and the Zionist regime"
- "No human being who has a conscious will take such a cowardly and bestial action on the day of Tasu'a [the eve of Ashura when Imam Husayn was martyred in Karbala]. Such actions could be expected only from the Zionist regime and USA."

*Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1344 gmt 15 Dec 10*

#### **DECEMBER 14, 2010**

##### **STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES**

- While all the media in the world have covered the news of the protesting students, those which have neglected such a major event are the English news outlets - BBC.
- BBC, whose charter explicitly claims that it is not influenced by any political and commercial currents, tries to keep the audience on the dark side by highlighting the news such as the students' attack to police [sentence as published].
- Considering BBC's strategy in covering the developments in other countries such as Iran, one can understand which goals the professional news outlet pursues.
- In most of the cases, BBC was the main supporter of the old empire in its efforts to interfere in other countries' internal affairs.
- While BBC covers even the slightest issue in other countries, that's a big question why it has neglected such a significant subject?

*Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1630 gmt 14 Dec 10*

- Iran newspaper editor Kaveh Eshtehardi was summoned to court on the eve of Tasu'a mourning ceremonies (ceremonies held to mourn the anniversary of the martyrdom of the third Shi'i imam, Imam Husayn), Fars News Agency reported.
- Kaveh Eshtehardi was summoned to court upon an order from the prosecutor's office and in connection with the court session held last week upon a complaint filed by Mehdi Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

*Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1518 gmt 14 Dec 10*

- Following the recent terrorist attacks against Iranian pilgrims to Iraq, Iran is calling on its nationals to seriously refrain from travelling to the neighboring country unless as part of a registered tour.

- "All pilgrimage trips to Iraq by Iranian pilgrims that possess individual visas but are not accompanied by tours supervised by Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization are banned," said a statement by pilgrimage coordination bureau of Iran's Interior Ministry, quoted by IRIB website.
- "Unfortunately, we have repeatedly witnessed such tragic incidents involving Iranian pilgrims and we hope that Iraqi officials act more responsibly towards protecting the lives of Iranian pilgrims who have acquired Iraqi visas," Qashqavi noted.

*Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0822 gmt 14 Dec 10*

- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast has urged Canada to investigate the murder of an Iranian citizen in Ottawa.
- "We expect the Canadian government to pay greater attention to the situation of nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, take responsibility for this murder and arrest the perpetrators. They should be put to trial in order to create a secure atmosphere for our citizens in that country," Mehmanparast said during his weekly news conference

*Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0634 gmt 14 Dec 10*

- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast has said that the British ambassador to Iran was summoned in protest over the dispersal of students' demonstrations in London and "the violation of diplomatic ethics" by the ambassador.
- "Yesterday we summoned the British ambassador to the Foreign Ministry. We expressed our concern about the situation in Britain and the treatment of students there and about the violation of diplomatic ethics by this country's ambassador on Internet websites. We tried to explain the issue to him," Mehmanparast said at his weekly news conference on 14 December, which was broadcast live by Iran's state news channel (IRINN).

*Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0634 gmt 14 Dec 10*