

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
July 18 – 25, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

July 25, 2010

State-Owned Media Source

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0600 GMT, 25 July 2010)

- The president of Iran has pledged harsh retaliation against enemy if his country comes under attack: "They know that we do not have an intention to engage in acts of aggression, but they know that in case of attacking us, the Iranian nation will cut the enemies' arms," President Ahmadinezhad said in his address to the fifth conference of superior entrepreneurs in Tehran, broadcast live at 0600 GMT on state-owned English-language Press TV on 20 July.

July 24, 2010

State-Owned Media Sources

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1555 GMT, 24 July 2010)

- "Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has been deceived by the US, and Iran has never taken any measure to incite Russia", MP Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Ebrahimi told the Mehr News Agency on Saturday [24 July].
- "On Friday [23 July], Ahmadinezhad here unveiled the truth about the new US-Zionist scenario against Iran, expressing sorrow that Russia, too, is now harmonizing with it."
- "How is it possible for Iran to produce nuclear weapons while Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i and other religious authorities have declared 'producing, stockpiling and using' weapons of mass destruction as 'haram' (forbidden in Islam)" asked Ebrahimi.

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1555 GMT, 24 July 2010)

- "Israel's crimes are a symbol of modern barbarity which runs contrary to the peaceful coexistence in the world", Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani stated on Saturday [24 July].
- Addressing 31 representatives from the countries all over the world, Larijani stated that "although the US, Russia and other countries know Iran is not seeking to produce nuclear weapons, they raise hue and cry over this issue while they have remained silent about nuclear weapons stockpiled by the Zionist regime."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1040 GMT, 24 July 2010)

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said here on Saturday [24 July] that "the Zionists are trying to mislead the regional public opinion from their new compromising plan with the Palestinians"
- "The Zionists are accusing members of the Lebanese Hezbollah of having hands in the assassination of Lebanon's former Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in 2005."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1000 GMT, 24 July 2010)

- First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi stressed that “the US has inflicted great damage on the Earth.”
- Rahimi reiterated that “environmental pollution is a major concern of the human beings, adding that, by polluting the Earth, the West has created unhealthy environment for the world nations.”

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0925 GMT, 24 July 2010)

- “The United States would not dare to attack Iran as it is fully aware of Iran's defense power and its nation's determination”, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Mohammad Ali Ja'fari said Saturday [24 July].
- Speaking in a local gathering, Ja'fari said that the IRGC's preparedness "is at its highest level".

July 23, 2010

State-Owned Media Sources

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1622 GMT, 23 July 2010)

- Iranian President Ahmadinezhad accused the US of “waging a new form of "psychological warfare" against Iran with the help of Israel.”
- In remarks broadcast by IRINN on 23 July, he said: "They [the West] have mischievously designed a new psychological warfare. They have coordinated this with some others to create a negative atmosphere in the world against Iran, to apply pressure, to increase this pressure to the maximum, then at the peak of the pressure to carry out a military invasion of one or two countries in the Middle East, which are our friends, with the help of these disgraced Israelis, until, in their minds, there are signs of a halt, weakness or submission from Iran. This, in a nutshell, is the gist of the scenario."

July 22, 2010

State-Owned Media Sources

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 2153 GMT, 22 July 2010)

- A senior Iranian commander has called on the Iraqi government to tighten the screws on terrorist groups which use the Iraqi soil to launch attacks on Iran.
- "PEJAK terrorist group has managed to mobilize some of its forces and equipments to areas within the Iraqi Kurdistan," Iranian Border Guard Commander Brigadier General Hoseyn Zolfaqari was quoted by IRIB as saying on Thursday [22 July].
- As a result, the commander added, "We have [security] issues on our border with the Iraqi Kurdistan region."

Privately-Owned Media Sources

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 22 July 2010)

- According to the Kaleme website, on Tuesday [20 July] Iranian filmmaker and writer Mohammad Nurizad. was told taken to an open space in Evin prison supposedly for a

breath of fresh air when five security forces severely beat him up as though with an "intention to kill" the writer.

- Nurizad's has reportedly received heavy blows to the head and as a result he currently has vision impairment. The severity of the beatings was such that he had to be taken to a medic.
- For three days now, Nurizad has gone on a hunger strike to protest his illegal and brutal mistreatment. He has told his family that he will not be able to survive if this condition continues.

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 22 July 2010)

- "The illegitimate government of Iran has provided the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah with an aid of 400 million US dollars. The sum was granted to Hezbollah following a visit by Ahmadinezhad's adviser Mehrdad Bazrpash to Lebanon and the funding has the approval of Ahmadinezhad." (Direct excerpt)
- "Previously, Iran's financial aids to Hezbollah were through the Iranian Saderat bank, however following international sanctions against the bank and the sensitivities surrounding its activities, the Iranian Embassy in Beirut was used as a means of carrying out this large transfer of funds."
- "As Israel is beating the war drums four years after its humiliating military defeat against Hezbollah, many believe that Ahmadinezhad might exploit another conflict between Israel and the militant group as a way of resolving his own lack of legitimacy inside Iran."

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 22 July 2010)

- "Since press was chosen as the fourth pillar of democracy, effects of having access to news and information, reading newspaper on daily basis, and newspapers and media's importance as an effective element were emphasized so that people and governments would understand its significance..."
- "But in our country, while the Islamic Iran is under constant attack of foreign media, and we have seen in many cases that media sources abroad have invested hugely against the system [of Iran] and produce news to present the truth as per their own intentions and aims, not being kind to the newspapers and news agencies would mean leaving the news competition field."

July 20, 2010

State-Owned Media Sources

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 2143 GMT, 20 July 2010)

- The governor-general of Iran's Tehran Province has dismissed media reports about pollution of drinking water supplied to the capital Tehran, the Iranian official government news agency IRNA reported on 20 July.
- "People, do not pay attention to rumors about drinking water supplied to Tehran and do not worry about drinking water in Tehran," the report quoted Tamaddon as saying.
- "It is surprising that media outlets affiliated to the BBC and Europeans and Americans have taken compassion on the people of Tehran and are saying - why are you sitting around, the water in Tehran is polluted and why are you drinking such

water. These countries, according to statistics available, rank lower than our country in terms of some standards and indices regarding drinking water," Tamaddon stressed.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1749 GMT, 20 July 2010)

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry has issued a report detailing how the ban on hijab in western societies violates the rights of Muslim minorities there.
- The report follows a ban on Islamic dress in certain Western countries which has led to infringement of the rights of Muslim minorities.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0849 GMT, 20 July 2010)

- White House officials have sent a message to the leadership council of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] and asked the PKK officials to deploy the Monafeqin [a term used by Iranian officials and domestic media to refer to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] grouplet members to Qandil mountains near Iran's border.
- According to a Fars News Agency reporter in Arbil, since the deadline for the US forces withdrawal from Iraq approaches and as the Iraqi government is determined to arrest and expel the Monafeqin grouplet members from Iraq, US officials have started a hustle with an aim to deploy the terrorist Monafeqin grouplet to the mountains bordering Iran.
- He said: A message was sent by the White House officials to the leadership council of the PKK rebels on Saturday [presumably 17 July]. In this message, they asked the PKK officials to allow the Monafeqin grouplet members to be deployed to Qandil mountains close to Iran's border.

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0720 GMT, 20 July 2010)

- The Tehran and General Tribunal has heard hearings on the seven charges brought against [official] Iran newspaper by [opposition leader] Mirhoseyn Musavi and exonerated the managing director of this newspaper, Kaveh Eshtehardi, from these charges. It has issued a ruling to stop further investigations against him.

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 20 July 2010)

- The prosecutor office of Babol city has issued a travel ban verdict for Adeleh Ziya'i for posting a note titled "I'm Sorry" to her husband's personal weblog. The verdict has been reportedly issued to increase pressures on her husband Arya Aramnezhad, an artist, singer and composer.
- According to Daneshjoo News, Adeleh Ziya'i, a poet and writer whose license for publishing books has been cancelled by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance
- Arya Aramnezhad is an art activist, singer, and composer who was arrested on 15 February 2010 on charges of acting against national security due to releasing his "Ali Barkhiz" song.

July 19, 2010

State-Owned Media Sources

(Source: Iranian news website Hrana, in English 1917 GMT, 19 July 2010)

- “Political prisoner Rashid Akhkandi, sentenced to death, has been placed under high security by prison officials. He is being deprived of medicines needed to treat his illnesses and meetings with his family.”
- According to information gathered by HRANA reporters, Rashid Akhkandi was sentenced to death by the revolutionary court for being a "mohareb" or "waging war against God".

(Source: Qods, Mashhad in Persian, 19 July 2010, p 9)

Text of report by Mohammad Rezai headlined "Year 89 will be leap year for Student Basij Organization; 400 per cent increase in Student Basji allocations" published in Iranian newspaper Qods website on 19 July

- The Education Basij [Basij-e amuzesh va parvaresh] thwarts the enemies' soft war and protects the future of the revolution from enemies' mischief. General Mohammad Saleh Jokar said the Basij [militia] had taken fundamental steps in line with its mission, to give depth and to fight the soft threat.
- He said "by capacitating and immunizing the education-sector society [Jame'e-ye farhangian], the level of perception of all society will rise and the enemies will no longer be able to create problems through the soft war."
- Jokar said it was very important to raise [secondary school] students' scientific level, and "by realizing this important matter the enemies will no longer be able to create an obstacle for our country, which will make notable advances."
- He states that there are to be “essential change to the defensive preparation course for students in schools, and students will become more familiar with the soft war, and identify enemies with perceptiveness.”
- He said that “this year 25,000 education-sector Basijis have been sent to war zones [frontline areas of the 1980-88 war] as part of the Travellers of Light [Rahian-e nur] caravans, and "the interaction between the Basij and the education sector is very notable.””
- The deputy-head of the [Majlis] cultural committee and parliamentary representative for the people of Mashhad separately told our reporter that "the need to transfer values to the third generation of the revolution is of great importance right now, and the Education Basij can become the basis of this transfer."
- Javad Arianmanesh said "the Education Basij has a key and crucial role in transferring the values of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This institution is important in the sense that it is on the one hand the receptor of values and on the other the transmitter of values to the new generation.
- He says "we pursue three important solutions in the Student and Education-Sector Basij. The first is to build cadres for the revolution by educating competent students and providing human resources at the level of the revolution. This is pursued by various means including the Chapters of Civilization [Ayeha-ye tamaddon] plan." Colonel Hoseyn Momtahn continues: "we have not restricted the scope of our work in this respect, and this includes all those working in education as well as students.