

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
June 7 – 13, 2010
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June 13, 2010

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1724 GMT, 13 June 2010)

- Commenting on the recent resolution issued by the UN Security Council against Iran and other countries' votes, President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said: "Mr Erdogan [Turkish PM] called me and said: Mr Obama called me and insisted for an hour and a half asking me to give a vote of abstention and not a negative vote [to the resolution]. You know that I have problems at the congress and there are issues and pressures. I have to do something about Iran. You know that there is nothing in it. It doesn't have any effects. Don't' cast a negative vote. Please do something about Lebanon, too. If Lebanon casts a negative vote there will be problems. Act as an intermediate so that it would give a vote of abstention and not a negative one.' They have definitely done the same with Brazil and others. They are beginning for votes at the Security Council." President Ahmadinezhad made the above remarks in an interview with IRTV1 on 13 June. Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1726 gmt 13 Jun 10
- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said: "They [Israelis] attack [ships] in open waters, kill, occupy and yet the Security Council doesn't show any reactions but at the same time it issues a resolution against us. I think the two incidents are blessed. We are not happy that people died. No. But the two reactions by the Security Council. I would like to congratulate the Iranian nation. The Iranian nation's resistance caused them to dig their own grave. This behaviour led to their end. In my opinion the measures taken in the past few weeks were like coup de grace. The first coup de grace was for the Security Council. And this is a great victor for all nations because the biggest hegemonic and bullying means is the very same Security Council. They are sitting there and go and start a fight and then issue a resolution and implement it themselves." He made the above remarks during an interview with the Iranian TV Channel One (IRTV1), broadcast at 1710 gmt on 13 June.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1710 GMT, 13 June 2010)

- At 1710 gmt, Iranian TV Channel One started broadcasting live an interview with Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad.
- At the outset, Ahmadinezhad gave a short presentation congratulating people on the religious occasions of the week and his own victory last year.
- Asked about his experience in office as president last year, Ahmadinezhad praised people's turn out at the polling stations. He said that all the people by their vote called for justice and changes in international affairs.
- He said that even Obama who had chanted the slogan of change was not able to hide his true intentions, and revealed his support for Israel and opposition to Iran's access to peaceful nuclear energy. He added the people turned out at the polling stations to call for change in international arrangements.

- Ahmadinezhad then said that Iran challenged US at the IAEA and NPT Review Conference. He said that powerful countries wanted to secure their nuclear weapons while depriving other nations of having access to peaceful nuclear energy.
- The president said that by people's turnout at the polling stations last year, the Iranian people today enjoyed a very important position in the world. He said that Iran was now playing an active role in the world and the West was passively defending its position.
- Asked about the resolutions on Gaza and Iran, the president said that the Security Council was a tool in the hands of neo-colonizers. He said that the Security Council had not yet solved Palestinians' problems. He said that the USA attacked Iraq and then sought to get permission from the Security Council. He said that whatever happened in the world was positive, and would be in Iran's interest. He said that the resolutions of the Security Council were coup de grace for the Security Council, the American president and US hegemony in the world.
- He said: "They [Israelis] attack [ships] in open waters, kill, occupy and yet the Security Council doesn't show any reactions but at the same time it issues a resolution against us. I think the two incidents are blessed. We are not happy that people died. No. But the two reactions by the Security Council. I would like to congratulate the Iranian nation. The Iranian nation's resistance caused them to dig their own grave. This behaviour led to their end. In my opinion the measures taken in the past few weeks were like coup de grace. The first coup de grace was for the Security Council. And this is a great victory for all nations because the biggest hegemonic and bullying means is the very same Security Council. They are sitting there and go and start a fight and then issue a resolution and implement it themselves."
- Ahmadinezhad said that Erdogan had told him that US president had begged Erdogan over the phone for an hour and a half to change Turkey's vote to abstention. Nevertheless, Erdogan did not accept it. He said the same applied to other votes that were cast against Iran in the Security Council.
- He said: "Mr Erdogan [Turkish PM] called me and said: Mr Obama called me and insisted for an hour and a half asking me to give a vote of abstention and not a negative vote [to the resolution]. You know that I have problems at the congress and there are issues and pressures. I have to do something about Iran. You know that there is nothing in it. It doesn't have any effects. Don't cast a negative vote. Please do something about Lebanon, too. If Lebanon casts a negative vote there will be problems. Act as an intermediate so that it would give a vote of abstention and not a negative one. They have definitely done the same with Brazil and others. They are begging for votes at the Security Council."
- Asked about Israel, the president said that following the attack against the ships that wanted to break Gaza blockade, 180 countries were planning to send ships to break the blockade. He said that there were internal differences in Israel. People wanted to leave Israel, but the government had made it difficult for them to leave, he added. He said that Israel had lost its raison d'etre, and no country was ready to recognize it in the region. He said that even if nothing was done, Israel was at the end of the road.
- Asked about Iran's economic role in the world, Ahmadinezhad said that Iran was not the first economic power in the world. He said Iran's influence in the world was due

to its cultural and humane power. He said that Iran had created a new political front in the world and the countries of the world were gradually joining Iran.

- Asked about his plans as the head of the executive branch to empower women, Ahmadinezhad said that there was no difference between men and women. He said nevertheless the government had attempted to promote self-confidence in women. He said that the government had given a greater role to women in the cabinet despite resistance by certain circles. He said that women had lost their honour in the West. He said this was while women in Iran were at the centre of the family and they manage the most important unit of the society. Ahmadinezhad said that women performed better than men in the government.
- Asked about social police targeting women, Ahmadinezhad said that the government was not supportive of such measures, and nobody had the right to stop people in the streets for being with a member of the other sex. He said that men were to be blamed more than women for social irregularities. The president criticized the police for stopping and confiscating cars, and putting signs on them indicating that their owners had violated norms of chastity.
- Asked about the government's cultural approach, Ahmadinezhad said that the role of the government was to pave the way, and cultural products, such as books, were to be supplied by people. He said that the government had certain cultural plans, including introducing the Iranian identity to the world.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 2, Tehran, in Persian 1600 GMT, 13 June 2010)

- [Presenter] Ministry of Intelligence forces arrested 13 members of a terrorist group in Qazvin, Hamedan, Kordestan and Mazandaran provinces during last week. This terrorist group has been responsible for the assassination of Mamusta Borhan, the interim Friday prayer leader of Sanandaj, Mamusta Mohammad Sheykholeslam, the Kordestan MP in the Assembly of Experts and the kidnapping and murder of Khalifeh Ebrahim Farhadi in the town of Qorveh. They had also carried out a number of other assassinations in the past.
- Five-hundred kilos of material needed for making bombs, 10 ready bombs and a large number of military arms and ammunition have also been confiscated from these people. This terrorist group had also a record of armed robbery from jewellery shops in Hamedan and Zanjan. During their armed robberies they had also committed murder.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1111 GMT, 13 June 2010)

- Tehran, 13 June, IRNA: Head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Ala'eddin Borujerdi said on Sunday [13 June] that Iran calls for restoration of security and durable stability to the region through collective cooperation among regional countries.
- Borujerdi made the remarks in a meeting with the Armenian Ambassador to Tehran on Sunday.
- AT the meeting, Borujerdi described the two sides' relations as friendly and developing and said the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches importance to expansion of all-out relations and cooperation with Armenia.

- Highlighting the significant role of parliaments in broadening ties and cooperation between the two nations, he said the Iranian Majlis is determined to enhance all-out cooperation between Iran and Armenia.
- There are ample areas of economic cooperation between the two counties which should be further bolstered mainly between the two sides' private sectors, he said.
- The Armenia ambassador, for his part, said Armenia attaches importance to Iran's foreign policy, adding that Armenian political leaders call for expansion of all-out relations with Tehran.
- Armenia enjoys high economic capabilities, he said and invited the Iranian private sector to seize the opportunity and invest in various economic projects in Armenia. Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1340 gmt 13 Jun 10
- Tehran's governor general has said some of those arrested on 12 June, are members of the opposition group, Mojahein-e Khalg Organization (MKO)
- According to Fars News Agency, Morteza Tammadon, said: "According to the information [we have] obtained, there are a number of Monafeqins [MKO members] among the individuals who were arrested by people yesterday, and the intelligence and police forces will inform the public in this respect at an appropriate time." June 12 marked the first anniversary of the disputed presidential election in 2009.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0940 GMT, 13 June 2010)

- [Presenter] Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani described America's recent behaviour towards the nuclear fuel exchange issue as deceitful and said: America started this game but it will not be the one who ends it.
- In the open Majlis session today, Larijani referred to America's open and secret efforts regarding the nuclear fuel exchange in the past few months by asking Turkey and Brazil to mediate between Iran and America in order to materialize this, as well as the Tehran Declaration and the ratification of the anti-Iran resolution in the Security Council and said:
- [Larijani] In this test, other nations compared America's behaviour regarding two issues. They witnessed how the USA used its right of veto on sending aid to the oppressed people of Gaza and its attitude towards the cruel behaviour of the Zionist regime. However, despite its false pledges regarding Iran's nuclear issue, it used the Security Council as a tool and showed its criminal attitude towards Muslims. Of course, America knows that this is not the end of the story. This process started with the game these gentlemen started, but will not end by them.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0905 GMT, 13 June 2010)

- Tehran, 13 June: A Majlis representative said Sunday [13 June] the United Nations Security Council's new resolution against Iran was tyrannical.
- Rapporteur of Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Kazem Jalali made the remarks while commenting on the Resolution 1929 adopted by the UNSC on 9 June against Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

- Adopted under US pressure, the resolution imposed the fourth round of sanctions on Tehran for its civilian nuclear programme.
- "The White House radical rulers are not seeking to resolve issues through negotiations," Jalili told IRNA.
- He stressed that the resolution was "not acceptable", adding that it proved that the US officials were not to settle the nuclear dispute through diplomatic channels.
- Jalali said that the US officials were pursuing the same policies that were followed by the former US administration during George W. Bush era.
- The MP stressed that such moves would mislead the process of nuclear talks between Iran and the West.

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 13 June 2010)

- Tehran's police commander has said that on the first anniversary of the Iran's disputed presidential election on 12 June, 91 "suspects" were arrested.
- In an interview with the Iranian Students News Agency, ISNA, General Sajediniya, said: "Yesterday, no particular incident happened in the capital [Tehran] and the police arrested a limited number of individuals, 91, as suspects, and introduced them to the judicial sources."
- He said no case of vandalism occurred in city and added: "We sincerely thank the understanding residents of Tehran."
- The Greater Tehran's Law Enforcement Force Commander added: "Police forces were present across the city yesterday; however, no incident happened."
- He continued: "Yesterday, there was no clash in Tehran; so none of our forces suffered any injury." Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 0814 gmt 13 Jun 10
- Green Voice of Freedom: Not for the first time, pro-government websites in Iran have initiated a series of baseless rumours about the arrest of opposition leader Mir Hoseyn Musavi and alleged "protests" outside his house in Tehran after Yesterday's Friday prayers. Musavi's official website Kaleme has denied both stories and has stated that such rumours serve the purpose of radicalising the ambiance among the general public as well as distracting the people's attention from the country's real problems as a result of the incompetent and illegitimate government's disastrous policies. One pro-government website reported that that on the morning of Friday 11 June, "a massive number of" people "gathered outside Musavi's house in northern Tehran" to protest his conduct in the past year. This claim does not withstand the mildest scrutiny as the former prime minister's place of residence is located in central Tehran! Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 13 Jun 10
- 12 June: Journalist and human rights activist Abdolreza Tajik has been arrested for a third time within the past year.
- According to the Kaleme website, Tajik is the second member of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre to be arrested over recent days. Narges Mohammadi, the vice-president and spokeswoman of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre, was also arrested at her home on 10 June.
- Tajik was arrested and released on bail twice following last year's rigged presidential election in June.

June 12, 2010

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1633 GMT, 12 June 2010)

- Tehran, 12 June: The Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i is personally pursuing the case of those who suffered in the post-vote unrest, Abdolhoseyn Ruholamani told the Mehr News Agency.
- Ruholamini lost his 25-year-old son Mohsen last June. He was arrested at a demonstration following the presidential election. Mohsen died while in captivity in the Kahrizak detention centre.
- Following the incident Ayatollah Khamene'i ordered the notorious detention centre to be closed.
- Has it not been for the wisdom and good management of the Leader in the post-vote crisis, Iran would have faced more tragedies, said Ruholamani, the secretary general of Development and Justice Party.
- The remarkable participation of people in support of the system on various occasions should not be construed as a pretext to conceal the inefficiency and incompetence of some state officials, he underlined.
- Last year "I deemed it appropriate that president Ahmadinezhad would not stay in the office". At the time I was supporting another candidate and I believed that he was qualified and competent to become the next president, Ruholamini stated.
- Ruholamini criticized the performance of the national TV prior and after the election in supporting a particular candidate.
- Such performance gave rise to the belief among the public that the national TV is taking side, thus the root cause of some regrettable events after the election could be attributed to such impartial performance, he added.
- Without providing a "tranquil environment" in the society based on "reason and understanding" it would be impossible to properly run the country, he explained.
- Unfortunately a group of people who claim to support the principle-ist axioms has totally ignored moral principles and in order to harm their rivals resort to any immoral means, he lamented.
- Under such environment, it is noticed that critics and those who are serving the system are removed from their duties under different pretexts.
- "I should say that such an approach is not an appropriate strategy to resolve problems" he added. Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1635 gmt 12 Jun 10
- Iran's president says the Tehran Declaration has created a new climate for international relations based on justice and friendship.
- "Certain states which had ruled the world for over 60 years believed the future of the world would all be under their control, and that all governments and nations would follow the same path that they had delineated", Mahmud Ahmadinezhad was quoted by IRNA as saying in an interview with the United Arab Emirates' Al Aan TV network.
- However, the president added, the Tehran Declaration engendered a new atmosphere for independent states to seek fresh relations across the world based on humanity, justice and friendship.
- He said Europeans are free to choose whether they would like to regulate their relations under the sway of Washington 'whose power is in decline', or they want to

have friendly ties with the 'great' and 'independent' Iranian nation based on mutual respect, which would be in their own interests.

- He also refuted allegations that Iran is isolated on the world stage, and added the country has very cordial and wide-ranging relations with all nations, except the Zionist regime of Israel and the US government.
- Elsewhere in his remarks, President Ahmadinezhad lashed out at the Israeli assault on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla as well as the three-year Israeli blockade of the coastal sliver, adding there are indications that the Zionist regime is going to strike Gaza again. He urged Arab countries to sever ties with Tel Aviv.

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1633 GMT, 12 June 2010)

- Iranian Students News Agency: NAJA [Law Enforcement Force] deputy commander praised people's awareness with regards to enemies' propaganda.
- A few minutes ago, Brig-Gen Ahmad Reza Radan said the above remarks to Iranian Students News Agency's correspondent for 'incidents', and added: "Based on NAJA's earlier predictions, fortunately, despite extensive propaganda by the enemy, no problems were reported today from across the country due to people's awareness."
- He added: "Just a few people were arrested as suspects in Tehran by the intelligence agents and they will be referred to the judiciary tonight after completing their files."
- NAJA deputy commander emphasized: "The Iranian people proved their awareness once again and acted as per the guidance of the jurisconsult and proved that they would not be influenced by enemies' propaganda."

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 12 June 2010)

- A member of the Islamic Iran Participation Front Davud Roshani has been arrested.
- According to the Jaras opposition website, as Roshani was returning home this afternoon, he was brutally arrested by plain-clothed militia.
- He was also arrested on 23 October and later released on 5 December 2009. He had to endure fifty days of solitary confinement during his imprisonment.
- It should be noted that Roshani is the son of one of a martyred hero of the Iran-Iraq war and was a member of Mirhoseyn Musavi's election campaign last June.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0940 GMT, 12 June 2010)

- Tehran, 12 June: Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi warned the West on Saturday [12 June] against putting itself more in a stalemate regarding the way it was dealing with Iran's peaceful nuclear issue.
- Salehi made the remarks commenting on the latest resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council against Iran for its civilian nuclear activities.
- Being adopted on 9 June, Resolution 1929 imposed the fourth round of sanctions against Iran.
- Salehi suggested the Western states to stop drowning more and more in a quagmire made by themselves regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear programme.
- He advised the Western states to try to find "a graceful way out of Iran's nuclear dispute" by accepting the country's "proposal on nuclear fuel exchange".

- "The best graceful way out of Iran's nuclear issue for the Western states is to accept the nuclear fuel exchange," Salehi said in a meeting with officials of Iran's news agency (IRNA) which was held on the sidelines of his visit to the agency's headquarters.
- Based on a trilateral agreement signed on 17 May 2010, by senior officials of Iran, Brazil and Turkey in Tehran, Iran has accepted to exchange its low-enriched nuclear fuel with high-enriched nuclear fuel with the West via Turkey. According to the agreement, known as the Tehran Declaration on nuclear fuel swap, Iran will send some 1,200 kg of its 3.5 per cent enriched uranium to Turkey in exchange for a total of 120 kg of 20 per cent enriched fuel for Tehran's Research Reactor.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0741 GMT, 12 June 2010)

- Quoting "an informed source", Iranian Fars news agency on 12 June 2010 published a report detailing the way in which he was "tortured" in the USA after his reported abduction in Saudi Arabia last June.
- On 8 June Iranian state TV's second network broadcast a clip featuring the Iranian scientist, Shahram Amiri, missing since 3 June 2009.
- In the clip, Amiri talked about his alleged abduction by the CIA in collusion with Saudi security forces. He said that he had been sedated and brought to the USA where he was living under surveillance in Tucson Arizona.
- A clip was also put on YouTube apparently on the same day, 8 June, in which Shahram Amiri said that he was free and is continuing his education in the United States.
- The Fars report on 12 June, quoting "an informed source", explained the way Shahram Amiri was "tortured" in the US, how the first video clip was filmed and adding that America was pursuing to produce another video.
- The source was quoted as saying that the Americans resorted to "threats" such as handing Amiri over to the Israeli secret service Mossad in order "to force him" to say what the Americans wanted him to say. Fars added: "However, Iran has also new documents in its possession" The text of the report will be published later.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0436 GMT, 12 June 2010)

- Britain's state TV has urged [Iranian] people to continue [anti-government] rallies, while airing interviews with some members of the opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran that are residing abroad.
- According to a Fars report, after Musavi and Karrubi - who are treated in foreign circles as the leaders of the opposition to the Islamic Republic - withdrew their previous request to hold demonstrations on 22 Khordad [12 June], their supporters are hopeless and at a loss.
- Exactly this has made British state TV to prepare and broadcast various programmes in order to help those people keep up their morale and resume street protests.
- To achieve these goals, the BBC website has posted interviews with several anti-revolutionary persons outside the country, such as Shirin Ebadi and Abbas Milani, and claimed that the withdrawal of Musavi's and Karrubi's request was a sign of their influence.

- Media specialists believe that such a hasty and non-professional behaviour of the BBC is because of the reality that the trend opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran is increasingly losing its supporters.
- It seems that the extensive propaganda which has been carried out by foreign media, especially the internet sources in recent weeks in order to make rioters come onto streets, has lost its effectiveness. The declaration of this day [12 June] as "the last opportunity" to save the "sedition of 88" [referring to the post-election events of 2009] is yet another proof of the theory that the "sedition has died".

June 11, 2010

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1214 GMT, 11 June 2010)

- Tehran, 11 June: Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki on Friday [11 June] called on certain UN Security Council members not to further downgrade the Council.
- Addressing the 10th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Friday, Mottaki said the UN Security Council took no action to allay major security concerns over Zionist troops' savage attack on Freedom Flotilla activists and their killing or injury as a result.
- Mottaki said the UN Security Council in a behind-the-curtain game passed a resolution against Iran over its peaceful nuclear activities.
- He said Iranian nation attaches not the least value to such political ploys.
- He added that as a member of the international community, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved its adherence to international laws and regulations.
- The Iranian top diplomat said that while well-defining its stances, Iran has over the past five years given the priority in its measures to cooperation in nuclear field.
- Outstanding example of its initiatives was successful holding of the nuclear disarmament conference in Tehran, with the motto of nuclear energy for all, nuclear weapons for none, said Mottaki.
- "It substantiates sincere approach and firm belief of the Islamic Republic of Iran in indiscriminate nuclear disarmament, including the nuclear weapons free Middle East. Iran emphasizes legitimate, legal and peaceful use of nuclear sciences as an indisputable right of all the NPT signatories. [Sentence as published]"
- As for the 17 May Iran-Turkey-Brazil Fuel Swap Declaration, Mottaki said Tehran declaration is like a road map. "It is another positive move of the Islamic Republic of Iran in support for global peace and calm, revealing Tehran's firm determination for engagement and cooperation with other countries. It was good to take the transparent and sincere policy of Iran as a chance and provide it with serious support."
- "Is recent political and unfair sanctions, which lack any legal backing and were approved without global consensus, the answer to the good will and practical measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran?" questioned Mottaki.
- Elsewhere in his address, Mottaki said Iran expects the SCO to condemn foreign support for regional terrorism and such criminals as Abdolmalek Rigi.
- He said the international body, the SCO, is also expected to condemn the US nuclear threat to any of its as well as the UN members. Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1450 gmt 11 Jun 10

- The governor general of Tehran Province, Morteza Tamaddon, has announced: "No permits have been granted for any gatherings on 12 June [anniversary of the presidential elections] by authorities", Fars news agency reported.
- Morteza Tamaddon made the remarks during a visit to the county of Qods. He told reporters: "The sedition current [reference to the opposition] has recently restarted its psychological warfare following repeated blows from the nation and after its evil plans were foiled. They intend to make trouble for the people and public interest. To this end they have put forward a bogus application to hold a rally.
- Tamaddon said that the governor-general's office had received a letter without any reference numbers which had not been followed up. He added that the text of letter had been seen in counter-revolutionary websites and some other domestic websites previously and there was no reason why a permit should have been issued to that request.
- Tamaddon said: "They [the opposition] told a big lie in connection with the elections and that was the claim that the elections were rigged."
- He added: "If by putting forward this request these individuals want to celebrate 22 Khordad [12 June], they should call it the festival of lies."
- Tamaddon rejected rumours that schools will be closed on 12 June, saying: "All offices will be open tomorrow and school and university exams will go ahead in a normal and clam atmosphere."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1025 GMT, 11 June 2010)

- Shanghai, 11 June, IRNA: President [Mahmud] Ahmadinezhad said here Friday [11 June] that Americans are traditionally accustomed to interfering in others' affairs.
- Addressing a press conference, President Ahmadinezhad criticized the US President Barack Obama for poking his nose in Iran's internal affairs, saying, "We consider the conduct of Obama due to his incompetence and as a result of US' age-old habit of interfering in other countries' internal affairs."
- He said other reason Obama interferes in other countries' affairs is his attempt to divert public opinion from the US problems and cover up Israel problems.
- He referred to [the] 85 per cent strong public turn out in the 12 June 2009 elections in Iran which resulted in his election as Iran's president with 65 per cent of votes cast in his favour.
- He added that Iranian nation is the most united nation worldwide.
- Asked to comment on the 'no' votes of Turkey and Brazil to the UN resolution [Fourth UN Security Council Resolution on 9 June], he said there is no consensus in the UN Security Council, rather force and dictation governs it. "The front of independent states is soon expanding and unilateralism should be soon scrapped."
- Iran is an IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] member and a NPT signatory, having the maximum level cooperation with the Agency, he noted.
- On fuel supply to Tehran Research Reactor, he said Iran annually needs fuel enriched to the level of 20 per cent for the sake of research so as to cure 800,000 patients.
- He said Turkey and Brazil held talks with Iran on a call by the US President, urging Tehran to accept fuel swap offer but "we said the US is a liar, however, accepted holding talks just as a gesture of respect to the two governments."

- Thanking Brazil and Turkey for giving negative vote to the UN resolution, he said the one that defeated in terms of sincerity was the US.
- Today, the US government is the most hated government worldwide and they issue resolutions to cover up Zionist regime's political fiasco, he said.
- "Today, Iran is capable of producing fuel to 20 per cent level and it accepted swap only for the sake of cooperation and engagement. We do not need 20 per cent fuel today and the fuel will be of no use but for peaceful ends. We believe all nations should have the capability to produce nuclear fuel to safeguard independence," he noted.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0527 GMT, 11 June 2010)

- Shanghai, 11 June: The behaviour that American governments have been consistently showing towards other nations and even towards their own nation, not only lacks any trust and value but is also disgusting, Mahmud Ahmadinezhad, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has said. He made these remarks on Friday [11 June] in a ceremony staged in Shanghai to mark Iran's National Day on the sidelines of the 2010 World Expo.
- Addressing high-ranking officials from the Chinese Communist Party's local branch, people in charge of the exhibition and hundreds of Iranians residing in China, Ahmadinezhad said that no nation in the world would accept egoistic and despotic behaviour, IRNA reported.
- "Egoism and despotism, wars and military invasions, the production of nuclear bombs and injustice that prevail in economic and political relations not only do not promote culture and civilization, but they are doomed to disappear," he added.
- The president went on to say that when the behaviour of and decisions made by a state are unacceptable for nations, affect their popularity and become repulsive, that state can never be long-lasting.
- Referring to intolerable events in the world, Ahmadinezhad described the attack against Iraq, constant strikes on Pakistan and Palestine's old wound as a tragedy for humanity.
- "Taking advantage of the veto right, which is an unfair and imposed thing itself, preventing nations' scientific and technical progress, and even threatening them with the use of nuclear bombs which is a challenge for the world, have become an ordinary occurrence," Ahmadinezhad added.
- He stressed that those who possess nuclear weapons do not permit other countries even to have peaceful nuclear energy and falsely accuse them of the possibility of creating nuclear weapons in the course of the production of nuclear energy.
- Ahmadinezhad dwelt on the issue saying that some of them [countries] both possess nuclear weapons and have used nuclear weapons. In other words, although they are a guilty party, they create restrictions for the peaceful use of nuclear energy on the pretext of the possible proliferation of nuclear weapons, he pointed out.
- "The reason for such behaviour and actions is that morality, ethic, human love have been abandoned, and they are ready to sacrifice justice and purity in order to secure their own interests," Ahmadinezhad said.
- The full text of the speech by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be provided later.

June 10, 2010

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1944 GMT, 10 June 2010)

- The Iranian conservative, privately-owned Fars News Agency website has said that the judiciary has completed the dossier for trial of "sedition" leaders. The leaders included Mirhoseyn Musavi, Mehdi Karrubi, ex-President Mohammad Khatami and Musavi-Kho'iniha:
- "The deputy head of the national security and foreign policy commission of the Majlis [Esma'il Kowsari] said: the head of the judiciary [Sadeq Larijani] has said that the dossier on the leaders of the sedition is complete and ready for trial. We have to wait a little, however, and this waiting period is for reasons of expediency by the judiciary.
- "Esma'il Kowsari was speaking to Fars news agency on the sidelines of his trip to Kerman [province in the south] when he remarked: In relation to the trial of [Mirhoseyn] Musavi, [Mehdi] Karrubi, [Ex-President Mohammad] Khatami and Musavi-Kho'iniha, the Majlis has issued two separate statements each supported by 144 and 175 signatures.
- "He added: These statements were submitted to the judiciary for the trial of the heads of the sedition whereby the head of the Judiciary said that the dossier for the trial of these people is complete. We have to wait a little, however, and this waiting period is for reasons of expediency by the judiciary."

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 2, Tehran, in Persian 1814 GMT, 10 June 2010)

- At 1814 gmt Iranian TV's channel two started to broadcast a roundtable discussion on UN resolution issued against Iran on 9 June. Guests present in the studio were experts in international relations Hasan Beheshtipur and Mahdi Faza'eli. Another expert, Robert Fox, also took part in the discussion via a satellite link.
- The programme started with a report on international reactions to the resolution in which Turkey and Brazil strongly criticized the resolution and President Obama told reporters that the sanctions will not close the door to diplomacy.
- Presenter Hasan Abedini asked Beheshtipur about the new line up of US, Israel and Europe against Iran, Turkey and Brazil. Beheshtipur said that Iran changed the rules of the game and surprised the West by having Turkey and Brazil on its side. He said the support of Turkey and Brazil showed that the world opinion doubts the West's policies. He said despite Iran showing goodwill, the West carried out its pre-planned decision.
- Fox was asked about the message of this resolution. Fox said the resolution carried no message. He said it seems that the big powers do not really know what they are doing. Asked about the world order and what Iran should do, Fox said the Security Council is a body established by superpowers to meet their demands but the world order has to change. He said Obama and other world leaders are imposing resolutions to maintain their own power.
- Beheshtipur was asked about the reason for China and Russian going along with the resolution. He said China and Russian considered their own interests. He said it is natural that countries consider their national interests in such situations; however,

there are some common interests that China and Russian should have taken into account in their considerations.

- Asked whether Russia and China were bribed by the US to go along with the resolution. Beheshtipur said the US adopted softer policies regarding certain issues of interest to China and Russia in order to convince them to cooperate. Beheshtipur added that the fact that they have imposed harsher sanctions in response to the Tehran declaration only demonstrates the West's bullying approach.
- The presenter asked Fox about double standards in the approach of the Security Council in which it ignores Israel's undeclared nuclear programme and yet pressures NPT member, Iran. Fox agreed that the Security Council has adopted a double-standard approach.
- In response to a question on the significance of the timing of the resolution, Mehdi Faza'eli said the timing of the resolution was not unrelated to Iran's domestic affairs. He referred to Obama raising some points about last year's presidential elections in his speech which suggested that the resolution was issued at this particular time to put political pressure on Iran just before the anniversary of the presidential elections.
- Asked whether sanctions against the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the arms embargo will affect Iran's military power. Faza'eli said that in his view Iran's military power will not be affected by the sanctions, adding that Iran has been through tougher times in the past and survived. He said that Iran is enjoying great capabilities in the field of military hardware, particularly in the production of missiles. He said Iran is not dependent on foreign technology in the field of defence and this resolution will in fact promote innovation inside the country.
- Beheshtipur was asked why the Tehran declaration was ignored by the West. He said the West was surprised and cornered by the Tehran declaration. He said the resolution was issued to be used as a lever against the Tehran declaration in negotiations. He said the West had no intention of approving the declaration.
- Fox was asked why was the West trying to deprive Iran of its right to nuclear technology given its importance for the Iranians. Fox said that the West wants monopoly over the nuclear issue.
- Responding to a question on the impact of the resolution on Iran's future progress, Faza'eli said the resolution will further stress the need for self-sufficiency and, as in the past, the impact of this resolution will be positive. He referred to Iran's several thousand centrifuges and its capability to produce 20 per cent enriched uranium. He said all the achievements in the past 30 years have been made while Iran has been under sanctions.
- Beheshtipur agreed that the sanctions will be turned into opportunities. However, he said the fact that the world is imposing an unfair decision on Iran should not be ignored. He added that the West does not want Iran to enrich uranium and Iran is not prepared to risk putting itself in a position where it will be completely at the mercy of the West.
- Faza'eli added that there are no guarantees under the international law that Iran would receive the nuclear fuel it needs from the West and therefore Iran has no option but to meet its own nuclear needs.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1440 GMT, 10 June 2010)

- Iranian TV on 10 June launched a bitter personal attack on Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi in the run up to the anniversary of the 12 June presidential elections and the protests that ensued.
- State-run TV channel one, which describes itself the "national medium", accused Ebadi of collaborating with the whole spectrum of the Islamic revolution's "enemies", ranging from the reform movement to the communist Tudeh Party, followers of the banned Baha'i faith, "Zionists" and foreigners in general.
- According to a 12-minute "investigative report" broadcast by the station's "News Magazine" programme, Ebadi, "a woman whose family life had reached a dead-end", held a "grudge" against the Islamic revolution, because she had been demoted from the position of judge by the revolutionary authorities in 1979.
- The station went on to interview her husband Javad Tavasolian. He appeared to be seated on a sofa in what looked like a living room. Tavasolian was in front of a window with the curtains drawn.
- He accused his wife of "carrying out orders from abroad" and having played a role in organizing the post-election demonstrations. Moreover, Tavasolian gave a personal account of his 31-year marriage, accusing his wife of "not respecting my human rights".
- The reportage ended with Tavasolian announcing that he wanted to separate from Ebadi, unless she returned to Iran and expressed remorse for her actions.
- The station promised that it would air a more detailed report on Ebadi at a later date.
- Ebadi, who is currently abroad, has been vocal in her criticism of the Iranian authorities' treatment of prisoners and its human rights record, especially since the 12 June elections.
- An aide to Ebadi, Narges Mohammadi, was arrested on 11 June, according to the French news agency AFP, quoting Ebadi's right's group, Defenders of Human Rights Centre.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1230 GMT, 10 June 2010)

- Tehran, 10 June: Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani has said that internal unity and reliance on the Revolution's ideals will neutralize foreign pressure.
- Addressing a gathering of Friday prayer leaders on Thursday [10 June], he added, "We should strengthen our unity in all political, economic and social fields."
- "If artificial challenges are not created inside the country, foreign challenges will be doomed to failure," he reiterated.
- He also called for development of a proper analysis of the enemies' cumbersome moves which requires taking the true path.
- Referring to a shift in the status of the country after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he further noted that it turned to be a dignified country in the wake of Imam Khomeini's thoughts.
- Evaluating Iran's role in the region as excellent, he further noted that although other countries have good military and economic capabilities, they always suffer from political turmoil due to their wrong strategies.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0835 GMT, 10 June 2010)

- Tehran, 10 June: Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast on Thursday [10 June] denounced the double-standard approach of the West, stressing that such an approach is not correct.
- Talking to IRNA, he added that Tehran believes that such approaches cannot be practical.
- He underlined that the best way to respect rights of all nations is avoiding discriminatory attitudes and removing the existing injustice at the international arena.
- Referring to the imposition of new sanctions on Iran, the spokesman asserted that such moves are "incorrect and illegal". Such moves are aimed at preventing the Iranian nation from pursuance of peaceful nuclear technology, he said.
- The Security Council imposed a fourth round of sanctions on Iran on Wednesday.
- EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton's office said last night that the resolution keeps the door open for continued engagement between world powers and Iran.
- "Sanctions are not the endgame or the final solution," the EU statement said. "We hope that today's decision will bring Iran to the negotiating table."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0705 GMT, 10 June 2010)

- Fars News Agency: In reaction to the resolution issued on new sanctions against Iran by the United Nations Security Council yesterday [9 June], talking to Fars news agency's correspondent for parliamentary affairs, saying that this resolution was ratified without full consensus, Esmail Kowsari, Tehran MP and vice-President of Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission has said: "America, UK and France, which are illogical and bullying countries of the world, have been pursuing a resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran for a long time."
- He added: "Through this resolution, these countries' aim is to adverse new climate and to control public opinion across the world to save the Zionist regime from the disgrace it created by attacking the Fleet of Freedom."
- The vice-President of Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that the Majlis will have its logical reaction to this issue and based on that a double-urgency bill on ties between Iran and the agency [International Atomic Energy Agency] will be discussed at the Majlis open session next Sunday [13 June]. And the content of the bill which is 'reduction of Iran's relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency' will be executed.
- Kowsari also said that the countries which are claimants of democracy, human rights and new global order proved being unreasonable by their positive vote for the resolution. Officials of these countries want to pursue their demands and aims through constant bullying and greed.
- At the end he added that the resolution was void of legality in the opinion of the Iranian nation and the 5+1 countries should be aware that this resolution will fail.

(Source: Iranian news website Sahnnews, in Persian 0001 GMT, 10 June 2010)

- Iran opposition leaders Mehdi Karrubi and Mirhoseyn Musavi in a statement, have called off the planned demonstrations which was due to be held on Saturday 12 June marking the first anniversary of the disputed presidential elections.
- Parts of this statement which was published on Sahamnews says: "According to Article 27 of the Islamic Republic Constitution, in order to prevent tensions and to deprive the oppressors of the regime from any excuse, and in order to safeguard the security of our nation, we had submitted a request to the Tehran's governor-general's office and the Interior Ministry for holding demonstrations... In view of the report by the representatives of the reformist groups and in order to safeguard the lives and properties of the people we hereby announce that the planned demonstrations are cancelled."

June 09, 2010

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 9 June 2010)

- The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the nature of threats against the Islamic Revolution of Iran has changed.
- "Last year's (post-election) sedition lasted for around eight months only, but it was much more dangerous than the (eight-year Iraqi) imposed war", said Major General Mohammad Ali Ja'fari.
- He said the seditious moves were aimed at diverting the Islamic Revolution from its right path and slowing the momentum that the Islamic Republic had gained.
- The top general said the IRGC has a duty to confront hard, security, intelligence, political and cultural threats, adding special training is required to tackle cultural threats. Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1752 gmt 09 Jun 10
- GVF, 9 June: Human rights activist Kuhyar Gudarzi as been sentenced to a year in prison by branch 26 of the revolutionary courts.
- According to the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, Gudarzi's trial was held on 2 June under Judge Pirabbasi. He was sentenced to one year in prison for "propagating against the regime through effective cooperation with the website of the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, gathering and circulating news directed against the regime and passing on this news to terrorist organizations based outside the country as well as giving interviews to foreign media and publishing articles on websites."
- His mother had requested that her son be temporarily released on bail, but her request was turned down by the judge. This is despite the fact that a bail of more than \$70,000 had been previously set for his release.
- Gudarzi has been in the notorious Evin prison for the past six months. He was moved to a solitary confinement after protesting against the conduct of the head of Evin prison's ward 350. He then went on a hunger strike which came to an end after his demands were met by prison officials.
- The civil activist has also been expelled from Sharif University of Technology due to pressure from security forces.

June 08, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0554 GMT, 8 June 2010)

- [Ahmadinezhad] Last year's election was a very great election and in a way, the freest election. Forty million people participated in it - 85 per cent of eligible people. It is a record in democracy. In Iran, elections belong to people. It is the people who hold it, and it is the people themselves who oversee and elect. The Iranian nation is happy with its life and the freedom and democracy that it has, and they sacrifice themselves for that. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the most stable country in the world, because the bases of the Islamic Republic are in the heart of every Iranian.
- [Ahmadinezhad] It is a sign, a model and a beginning. After the Tehran declaration, dozens of states contacted us and announced their solidarity with this declaration. [Ahmadinezhad] It is possible, but it will change many issues in the world. We believe that with this action, the Zionist regime tried to reverse its countdown. They showed that there is no room for them in the region and no-one is ready to live with them in the region. In fact, no nation has recognized them officially. You know that the Zionist regime is the pillar of the existing brutal regime. When it is affected, it is the brutal regime that collapses. It is possible that it will have some influence at the Security Council temporarily. With this action, the Zionist regime totally closed its path to staying in the region.
- The Iranian nation has repeatedly dispatched humanitarian aid. Last year, it did so as well. The Iranian nation is well-known in the world. Even when Hurricane Katrina struck five years ago, the Iranian nation announced its readiness to help Americans affected by the hurricane.
- But the American government did not open the road for aid from the people of Iran. In any place where people are faced with problems, [changing tack] the Iranian nation is a several thousand year old nation like the people of Turkey. They cannot remain indifferent to the problems of other nations.
- [Ahmadinezhad] The basis of this Security Council is discriminatory and unfair. The most undemocratic international institution is the Security Council. Several countries have the right of veto, and they rule the whole world by themselves. Unfortunately, their erroneous behaviour has put the Security Council even above the international community and has made it dominant over the international community. In most of the Security Council resolutions, we see that non-permanent members and even some of the permanent members say that they are under American pressure. What sort of institution is that if it makes decisions under pressure?
- It is clear that this cannot continue. It has reached the end of the road. We need new institutions or substantial reforms in order to establish justice and real democracy.
- Documents have been published saying that it is helping this false and illegal regime to produce the atomic bomb. The time of double standards has ended, and the faster they move on this path, the faster they will reach the end. Their resolutions have no value.
- My words are words of all nations. We say that peaceful energy is for all and the atomic bomb is for none. We say that international relations should be based on respect, justice and equality. We say that the system of government in the world should be democratic. All states and nations should play an effective role in the

governance of the world. Persistence in the old and rotten system in fact brings forward the demise of this system.

- The path of the Iranian nation is the path of all nations. We protect the interests of all nations. It is not a sectional or political subject. It is a strategic and religious policy. It is a political and historical pivot. And we are sure that victory on this path is certain.
- You saw that the American government spent one year, trying to turn the NPT reforms to its own advantage and to the advantage of the Zionist regime and those who possess the weapons. But you saw that Iran and other countries stepped in and changed the trend with cooperation and collaboration. The NPT Review Conference was a victory for independent states and nations. This shows that victory is certain on the path of nations, justice and purity.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0553 GMT, 8 June 2010)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that the UN Security Council is the most "undemocratic" international institution and called for the setting up of a new organization or substantial reforms at the UN.
- "The basis of this Security Council is discriminatory and unfair. The most undemocratic international institution is the Security Council," he said at a news conference in Istanbul broadcast live by Iran's news network IRINN on 8 June.
- "It is clear that this cannot continue. It has reached the end of the road. We need new institutions or substantial reforms in order to establish justice and real democracy," the Iranian president said.
- "Several countries have the right of veto, and they rule the whole world by themselves," he said. "In most of the Security Council resolutions, we see that non-permanent members and even some of the permanent members say that they are under American pressure. What sort of institution is that if it makes decisions under pressure?" Ahmadinezhad said.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0553 GMT, 8 June 2010)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has praised the 2009 presidential elections in Iran. Asked about the forthcoming anniversary of the elections at a news conference in Istanbul, he said "in Iran, elections belong to the people. People hold them and people themselves oversee and elect".
- "The Iranian nation is happy with its life, freedom and democracy and are making sacrifices for them. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the most stable country in the world," he said at the news conference in Istanbul broadcast live by Iran's news network IRINN on 8 June.
- "The Iranian nation does not belong to any party. They vote freely and love each other. In Iran, there is no boundary between parties," Ahmadinezhad said.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0055 GMT, 8 June 2010)

- Istanbul, 8 June: IRI president said here Monday [7 June] night at a gathering of worshippers, Zionist regime's attack against Gaza Peace Flotilla was a big step of that regime and its masters towards death and total annihilation.
- Speaking for the worshippers at congregation night prayer at Istanbul's Abu Ayyub Ansari Mosque, named after one of Prophet Muhammad's disciples, President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad was welcomed by enthusiastic Turkish audience.
- President Ahmadinezhad who is in Istanbul to attend the CICA Summit as the first leg of his three nation tour to Turkey, Tajikistan and China, spoke to the worshippers after performing the congregational evening prayer with them.
- The audience in addition to "Allah-o-Akbar (God is the Greatest) slogans shouted Death to America and Death to Israel slogans during Ahmadinezhad's presence.
- The Iranian president appreciated the Turkish government and nation, particularly the worshippers among them and described the two nations of Iran and Turkey as "great, civilization maker, brother nations."
- The president said that the two nations are the "standard bearers of humanity and moralities" emphasizing, "Everyone should know that the relations between the two countries are friendly brotherly and deep rooted today and that the two countries would stand side by side of each other till to end of the line."
- Ahmadinezhad reiterated, "The future of the two countries is bright and their victory in campaign against the oppressors is near at hand, after which we would all attend the celebrations for our victory."
- Elsewhere in his address the president said, "In the name of freedom and the human rights the materialist powers have launched many wars against the mankind, having killed more than 100 million human beings so far."
- Ahmadinezhad reiterated, "The materialist powers have imposed the Zionist regime resorting to military force against the world nations, particularly against the Middle East and regional nations, and they have thus been creating many unmatched crimes in the course of sixty some years of its history, that have been unprecedented in the history of mankind, the last of which has been invading the Gaza Peace Flotilla.
- Ahmadinezhad said, "Resorting to the human rights pretext they occupied Iraq and Afghanistan, where they massacred or wounded hundreds of thousands of the people of those countries."
- Ahmadinezhad reiterated, "The materialist world has ruined the personality of nations, looted their wealth and insulted their cultures and their value systems."
- Pointing out that the oppressors have now reached the end of the line and the Zionist regime and its masters are on the verge of collapse, Ahmadinezhad condoled with the Turkish citizens on the occasion of the martyrdom of some of their fellow citizens in the incident of the Israeli attack against the Gaza Peace Flotilla.
- He further emphasized, "Pursing this path would lead you nowhere, but to victory for the Turkish nation."
- The Zionist army on Monday morning last week launched a military operation comprised of its air force, parachute guerrillas, and marines, on a decision made by the Israeli war minister Ehud Barack, the support of that regime's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the leadership of the Zionist regime's joint chief of staff Gabi Ashkenazi, leading to an attack against the international peace Flotilla at international water in the Mediterranean Sea.

- The bloody attack cost the precious lives of 20 peace activists and wounding of over 50 others, as well as taking captive the entire other members of the peace caravan for a few days.
- Nine of the martyrs of the cruel attack were Turkish, from Turkey.
- The volunteers in the caravan were from 40 countries.
- The president also paid homage to the tomb of Abu Ayyub Ansari, amid the circle of the warm-blooded Turkish worshippers after performing the evening congregational prayer together.

(Source: Iran, Tehran, in Persian 8 June 2010, p 3)

- Text of report headlined "BBC's insult to Imam Khomeyni" published by Iranian newspaper Iran on 8 June
- According to the report, BBC Persian that claims impartiality has shown its complete dislike to the late Imam Khomeyni in its "Your Turn" programme.
- The BBC was in charge of guiding seditious media during the post-poll sedition in Iran and has launched a wave of desecrations to Imam Khomeyni on the threshold of 14 Khordad [4 June, death anniversary of Khomeyni] 2010. This website has published views, which were full of insults towards the late Imam Khomeyni. The BBC used expressions such as violence, mercilessness, seeking brutality and monopoly, having reactionary tendencies and [inflicting] adversity, misery and catastrophe [on people] to describe Imam Khomeyni.

June 07, 2010

Labour rights activist Alireza Akhavan has been arrested.

According to the Kaleme website, he was arrested by security forces at 2am on 4 June while he was at his home. He was taken away after a thorough two-hour search of his house was conducted. No warrant was shown for neither the arrest nor the house inspection.

Akhavan was able to contact his home after more than 24 hours of being detained. He is currently being held at war 209 of Evin prison.

Alireza Akhavan is a member of the Council for Defence of Labour Rights. The charges against are still not clear. Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 7 Jun 10

Political controversy between Iran's government and Majlis (parliament) has intensified in June as the two sides have openly criticized each other of violating the constitution.

* President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said the Majlis is passing "illegal" bills while Speaker Ali Larijani has threatened to publicize government's "irregularities"

President criticizing Majlis

During a meeting with the members of a Majlis supervisory committee two weeks ago, Ahmadinezhad reportedly criticized the Majlis for ratifying more than 130 (private members') bills "against the constitution". Answering questions raised by members of the committee about government's failure to implement some bills ratified by the Majlis, Ahmadinezhad described the criticism as "irrelevant", and added: "The Majlis has ratified more than 130 bills which contradict religious laws [Shar'a] and the constitution."

He also criticized the constitutional arbitration body, the Expediency Council, for endorsing "illegal" Majlis' bills. "It would be wrong if the Majlis ratified bills which

contradict religious laws and the constitution, so the Expediency Council could decide about the bills. Is the Expediency Council above religious laws and the constitution?" Ahmadinezhad was quoted as saying. (Fars, 30 June)

Chaired by Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Expediency Council is responsible for resolving differences between the Majlis and its supervisory body, the Guardian Council. In another part of his speech, Ahmadinezhad criticized the MPs for wasting his ministers' "useful time" as they are occasionally impeached by the MPs.

President's Office denies Ahmadinezhad's comments

In a statement on 1 June, the President's Office denied the comments published by pro-Ahmadinezhad Fars News Agency. The office said that the publication of the report, using "unclear" and "unidentified" sources, was "illegal". In response, Fars said that it received the report from a government official and that it had an audio file of the president's speech. (Tabnak, 1 June)

Majlis Speaker's response

Delivering a speech to MPs on 6 June, Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani referred to Ahmadinezhad's comments saying that it is the MPs who should decide whether bills ratified by the Majlis are compatible with the constitution. "It was said that 130 bills which were against religious laws and the constitution have been ratified. It is unlikely that the total number of bills passed by the Majlis exceeded 130. The Guardian Council raised questions or opposed 10 or 15 of the bills, the majority of which were related to the agreements signed by the government with other foreign countries."

Larijani also defended the position of the Expediency Council saying that "deciding whether bills are against religious laws or the constitution is an underlying duty of the council and there is no question about it."

He welcomed "unity fostering talks" between the government and the Majlis but warned: "There were some irregularities [by the government] and I do not intend to discuss them now. However, if [the government] insists on such issues people will be definitely informed through MPs and necessary measures will be taken." (ILNA, 6 June)

Before Larijani, senior MP Mohammad Reza Bahonar had made similar comments saying that the government violates laws "intentionally" (ILNA, 31 May)

Ahmadinezhad's letter to Guardian Council

A day after Larijani's comments, Ahmadinezhad sent a letter to the Guardian Council on 7 June reminding the body that some Majlis' ratifications were not "compatible" with the constitution. In his letter to his political ally, Secretary of the Guardian Council Ahmad Jannati, he referred to a number of "irregularities" in parliamentary ratifications regarding housing, education and the annual budget.

According to the president, the Majlis ratification on housing had led to a "land grabbing phenomenon" in the country. He also criticized the Majlis for "revoking the government's legal authority" and bringing about "heavy costs" for the government. Ahmadinezhad criticized Larijani for "not being committed to his legal obligations". (Fars, 7 June)