

*Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report*  
*March 22-28, 2010*  
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*March 28, 2010*

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1118 GMT, 28 March 2010)*

- Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hoseyni announced on Saturday [27 March] that “unity and solidarity of nations is the best way for countering hegemony of the Western states”.
- He alleged that the “SCO meeting undoubtedly plays a crucial role in expansion of cultural interchanges among world nations.”
- “Condemning the Zionists' expansionist policies”, the Iranian minister underlined “the need for vigilance of all nations against the Zionists crimes.”

*March 27, 2010*

*(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1728 GMT, 27 March 2010)*

- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i has said that "big powers" aim to create "crisis" among nations.
- The supreme leader made the remarks at a meeting with the presidents of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iraq, and Turkmenistan as well as other officials who attended the first international Nowruz festival in Tehran on 27 March.
- Ayatollah Khamene'i, whose speech was broadcast by the Iranian TV, added: "Unfortunately some big powers aim to create crisis among nations today. They bring brother nations into conflict with each other. They insinuated this idea that these countries' interests are in contradiction with each other. But the fact is something else. The fact is that the interests of our nations do not contradict each other. On the contrary, their interests promote and advance each other's."
- The supreme leader said: "We can stand together and help each other. We can establish a group encompassing world and cultural high values which has international power."
- He also called for expansion of ties among the countries of the region and expressed hope that the Islamic countries would increasingly develop.

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 27 March 2010)*

- According to the Kalemeh website, supporters of the Green Movement have informed the website that “certain words cannot be sent through text messaging in Iran.”
- "The enquiries confirm the accuracy of this issue," adds the report.
- The Telecommunication Company of Iran has filtered the word "green" which means that mobile phone users were not able to send their messages. However, the website adds that the word "green" is filtered only when it is written in Persian letters, and not when the word "Sabz" (meaning green) is used.

*March 25, 2010*

*(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0717 GMT, 25 March 2010)*

- Speaking live at the inauguration ceremony of a dam in the south west, Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad urged the US to “put aside its hostility towards Iran and befriend the regional peoples.”
- He then added that “his government will step up the pace of water resource development” He
- He added: "You cannot unleash a bunch of savages called Zionists on the region and then play the role of the mediator."

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0330 GMT, 25 March 2010)*

- The spokesman for the Iran Foreign Ministry, Ramin Mehmanparast, urged the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab League to “react immediately to remarks by the Zionist Regime Prime Minister [Binyamin Netanyahu] about Baitul Maqdis [referring to Jerusalem].”
- During his recent meeting with President Barak Obama [in Washington], Netanyahu said that Israel would not back down from the Judaization of Baitul Maqdis.
- "Such remarks clearly show the occupation and aggressive nature of the heads of the Zionist Regime towards Baitul Maqdis, which is a sacred place for Muslims and followers of the other divine religions," Mehmanparast said.
- He added that “the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab League were expected to take seriously this great danger which is now being declared openly and clearly by the Zionist Regime officials and to take proper measures.”

*March 24, 2010*

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1520 GMT, 24 March 2010)*

- Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Envoy to the Vienna-based International Organizations, Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh condemned “Zionist regime's crimes in the Palestinian occupied territories.”
- Addressing the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People at the United Nations Office at Vienna (24-25 March), Soltaniyeh alleged that the “Palestine issue is not only a mere conflict between Arab states of the region and Israel, rather it is a global concern.”
- He said that “the international community should without any hesitation take a prompt action to restore rights of Palestinians, who have been deprived of their most basic rights since the past six decades.”
- He added that “the Zionist regime has, by ignoring all the international regulations and violating provisions of resolutions of the UN and other organizations, continued committing grave offences”.
- He also added that “the Zionist regime continues its crimes of bombarding and massacring innocent women and children, causing horror and intimidation, and blockade and construction of illegal settlements.”

- "The Islamic Republic of Iran wants a principled and lasting solution to the Palestine problem and to this end it has proposed holding a democratic referendum participated by Muslims, Christians and Jews in occupied Palestine and deciding a government based on democracy and equality of rights," he added.

*(Source: Iranian website [www.hashemirafsanjani.ir](http://www.hashemirafsanjani.ir) in Persian 24 March 2010)*

- In an interview, Chairman of the Assembly of Experts Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned that the voice of authoritarians in Iran had become stronger today.
- In a video link presented by Rafsanjani's website on 24 March, he was asked whether he believed that enemies of the Islamic Republic were still active. He said: "Yes. They were active at that time [during the revolution in 1979] too. There were some individuals who wanted a republican state without the mention of Islam. They were not necessarily secular, but believed that it was enough to have a republican state. There were also some who were against republicanism. Such authoritarianism existed at that time too. They had a weak voice at the time, because they had not participated in the revolution. A big number of people supported republicanism. Today, the voice of the authoritarian has become a bit louder than others [supporters of republicanism] inside Iran. But in the international atmosphere these voices [supporters of republicanism] may be louder."
- Asked about his analysis of the post-election rallies, Rafsanjani said: "The majority of those who turned out in the streets as protester or critics to express their views are loyal to the state. That is to say they believe in the Islamic Republic and the constitution in its entirety."
- "There were also a limited number of people who were carrying their own party or sectarian placards, and nobody opposed them. They were also there after the revolution. They were allowed to take part in the [1979 Islamic Republic] referendum, and realized that had limited votes. I believe the same applies today. The majority want the Islamic Republic, and their objection started since the [2009 presidential] elections. The protesters want reform and have no problem with the principles."

*March 22, 2010*

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, [en.irangreenvoice.com](http://en.irangreenvoice.com), in English 22 March 2010)*

- Chairman of the reformist National Trust Party, Mehdi Karrubi met with recently released head of the Islamic Iran Participation Front Mohsen Mirdamadi and journalist Bahman Ahmadi Amu'i.
- According to his official website Saham News, during his meetings, Karrubi expressed his concerns regarding the fate of those arrested after the 12 June [presidential] elections especially those "prisoners who are not known by anyone and have been spending months in prisons and no one is aware of their condition." He also promised to do whatever it took to secure their release.
- "We must not forget that many of the prisoners were arrested during the post-election protests in the streets and no one knows them and they have been in prison for months without anyone knowing anything about their condition."

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1508 GMT, 22 March 2010)*

- Tehran, 22 March: Senior Presidential Aide Mojtaba Samareh-Hashemi says no change has been made in the US President Barack Obama's policies.
- "The US policies of invasion on Iraq and Afghanistan and Iran confrontation continued in Obama era too. Obama had in his campaign promises claimed that he had come for changes. This had two meanings: That he opposed the policies in effect in the US and pursued by (his predecessor George W.) Bush. This was really true. The second point was the slogan of change, meaning that they (Obama's men) wished to adopt new policies being different from those of Bush," Samareh-Hashemi told the Arab-language TV Alalam late Sunday [21 March].