

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
March 29, 2010 – April 4, 2010
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April 4, 2010

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 4 April 2010)

- The Human Rights Activists News Agency reported that independent journalist Abolfazl Abedini Nasr has received a five-year jail term for his alleged "links with enemy states", another five years for membership of a human rights group and one year in prison for propagating against the regime through conducting an interview with foreign media.

(Source: Iranian news website, Sahamnews, in Persian 0001 GMT, 4 April 2010)

- Opposition leader, Mehdi Karrubi warned against the continued detention of political and human rights activists.
- Sahamnews, Karrubi expressed his concerns about the "condition of the political and civil rights elites" in a meeting with the family of the detained human rights activist, Emadeddin Baqi, whose health has reportedly worsened in prison.
- In response to the wife of the detained activist's concerns, Karrubi expressed regret over the present condition of the political activists such as Baqi and urged that: "[People] from inside the establishment must think of a way for getting out of this situation as the continuation of the present circumstances will extend the crisis. The process of releasing the detainees should continue and figures like Emadeddin Baqi, [religious scholar], Ahmad Qabel, [prominent journalists], Ahmad Zeydabadi, Isa Saharkhiz, Feyzollah Arab-Sorkhi and all other [political] prisoners must be released."

April 3, 2010

(Source: APA news agency, Baku, in Azeri 1058 GMT, 03 April 2010)

- About 40 people were detained during protests around the Orumiyeh Lake in Iran's West Azarbaijan province, Baku based APA news agency reported on 3 April.
- Hundreds of ethnic Azerbaijanis rallied near Orumiyeh Lake demanding protection of the lake from draining. Police blocked vehicle convoys heading towards the lake and attempted to disperse the crowd, APA said.

(Source: Mardom-Salari website, Tehran, in Persian 03 April 2010)

- Even one extra day of imprisonment cannot be justified according to the religion" published by Iranian newspaper Mardom Salari on 3 April
- Emphasizing the importance of implementation of Islamic laws, the source of emulation Ayatollah Safi-Golpayegani urged that: "Punishment and imprisonment should be completely according to the framework of primary Islamic rules and even one extra day of imprisonment cannot be justified according to the religion."
- Stressing on the importance of the judiciary's independence, Ayatollah Safi-Golpayegani added: "If some people are interfering and some judges are under the influence of personalities and, God forbid, do not follow the law in issuing orders

then the independence of the judiciary would suffer". He advised the judges to "follow the rules of ethics and recommended them to make efforts to defend the rights of the God's creatures [as published]."

- "The solidity and strength of the Islamic system's foundations is one of the major issues and we should be sensitive towards this issue. One of the elements of this strength is necessary loyalty of the officials to the religious laws."
- "In addition, instances of committing sins in the society should be prevented and in any case the judiciary should confront it as people's guardian."
- "We should behave in a way that one could say we have an Islamic policy. Wherever there is Islam we will be there and wherever Islam faces confrontation we should withstand it."

April 2, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1005 GMT, 2 April 2010)

- Iranian nuclear envoy, Sa'id Jalili, who is visiting China, said that "experience has shown that relations based on military power have not only failed to provide nations with justice, they have also been unable to guarantee security of nations." The top nuclear envoy added: "Relations stemming from power embolden a country to attack other states under vain pretexts, thus killing or injuring one million innocent people while not being accountable to anybody,"
- "Undoubtedly, the nuclear free world will be the world guaranteeing more security, peace and friendship for nations. International relations should be in a way to address the goal and solidify the mechanisms which would help materialization of the objective," he added.
- "Pointing to the US invasion on Iraq and Afghanistan and massacre of hundreds of thousand innocent people as a result, Jalili said that relations based on military might will not afford any help to tackle international problems."
- "Why after 60 years, such a big military might has failed to overcome the youth who are defending themselves with stones? Today, the Zionist Regime has hundreds of nuclear warheads but cannot encounter the youth, who defend themselves by stones. Though having the biggest nuclear arsenal, the US too admits that it has not been able to fulfil its pledges after Iraq and Afghanistan occupation. Years earlier too, thousands of nuclear warheads fell short of preventing former Soviet Union's collapse and disintegration," said the Iranian official.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 0930 gmt 2 April 2010)

- [Presenter] In Beijing, the Secretary-General of the Supreme National Security Council [Sa'id Jalili] said that "threats and pressures by certain western governments are ineffective." Jalili stressed that "the threats of a few western governments will not stop Iran pursuing its nuclear activities. We will definitely continue on our path."
- The secretary-general of the SNSC submitted three suggestions for international cooperation. He said that "international disarmament, strengthening efforts for peaceful use of nuclear technology and the Non-Proliferation Treaty and allaying

international worries over the nuclear issue which have all been formulated within the proposed package of Iran can prepare the ground for this cooperation.”

- Mr Jalili asked: “why is it was that the countries that enlarge their nuclear arsenals and which equipped the Zionist regime with these weapons do not face similar actions from the United Nations Security Council [sanctions].”
- The head of Iran's SNSC called the opposition of Tehran and Beijing to “international monopolisation of power [by the West] 'indicative of the common approach of the two countries”.
- He strongly criticized the “double-standards of certain powers over proliferation and creating excuses aimed at depriving nations of the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy.”

March 31, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1540 GMT, 31 March 2010)

- Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday [31 March] honored memory of martyrs who dedicated their life in defense of the country in 1980s.
- The Supreme Leader said that “Iranian nation should never forget the era of eight-year sacred defense which was a record of glory for the Islamic Republic of Iran.”
- Ayatollah Khamene'i alleged that “the enemies of the Islamic Revolution imposed a devastating war in order to humiliate the Iranian nation and occupy some parts of the country, but to no avail”
- "That time, the US, the former Soviet Union and some European countries, the so-called advocates of human rights, were backing the Ba'athist regime in Iraq in order to bring the Iranian nation to their knees but the sacrifices and firm determination of faithful Iranian nation neutralized the conspiracy."
- He alleged that “the enemies are constantly masterminding various plots which the Iranian nation snubs.”
- "With reliance upon excessive patience and endeavour, the Iranian nation should compensate all its shortcomings inherited by years of colonialism and interference of aliens in the country's affairs."

March 30, 2010

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 30 March 2010)

- The Iranian Aftab News website reported that death row prisoner Abdolreza Qanbari is accused of "Moharebeh through contacts with dissident groups."
- The charge of Moharebeh or fighting against God is punishable by death according to Iranian law.
- Mr Qanbari is a 42-year-old school teacher and has been to death by the revolutionary court's branch 15. He is accused of having contacts with dissident groups through "suspicious emails and having contacts with television media outside the country".

March 29, 2010

(Source: Tabnak news website, in Persian 1303 GMT, 29 March 2010)

- Sasi Mankan, an underground singer, was arrested on the evening of Saturday 7 Farvardin [27 March] in a mall in Kish Island [Persian Gulf].
- Jahan News citing Serat [news website], reports: that “no confirmed detail is available regarding the reason for his arrest.”

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0656 GMT, 29 March 2010)

- Israel reopened the Hurva Synagogue close to the highly revered al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of East Jerusalem (al-Quds).
- Tel Aviv's reopening of the synagogue provoked widespread protests by Palestinians against what they maintain is “an Israeli scheme to demolish the holy city's Islamic sites in an effort to Judaize the region.”
- Ayatollah Hoseyn Nuri-Hamedani said that “US-led arrogant powers have established the fake and occupying Zionist regime (Israel) to disturb peace in the region through crimes, massacre and destruction”, Fars News Agency reported.
- “Their move displayed a grudge the enemies of Islam hold against Islam and Muslims.”
- The cleric condemned Israel's plot to reopen the Jewish synagogue and said, "We announce that all Muslims across the world and the OIC member states in particular should be cautious about the ongoing situation."