

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report  
March 8 – 14 2010  
Stacy Topouzova

March 14, 2010

(Source: *The Green Voice of Freedom* website, *en.irangreenvoice.com*, in English, 14 March 2010)

- According to Advar news, Montazeri's wife, Somayyeh Farid has repeatedly gone to various bodies in Tehran and Karaj in search of news regarding her husband's fate.
- "Despite referring several times to the revolutionary court, officials say that his name has not yet been registered and they refuse to respond to the family's questions regarding the charges and his place of detention," she said.
- "The lack of news regarding his condition has caused concerns for family members."
- Montazeri was arrested on 4 March when security forces entered his house, confiscated his personal belongings and took him to an unknown location.

(Source: *Islamic Republic News Agency* website, *Tehran*, in English, 1341 GMT, 14 March 2010)

- "Iran does not feel intimidated by western threats," said the head of the presidential office Esfandiar Rahim-Masha'i in a meeting with Iranian expatriates in Munich Saturday evening.
- He stressed that "Iran would not succumb to western pressure over its nuclear program"
- "They want to scare us but we are not afraid ...," Masha'i said.
- "No country in the world, including the US and Israel, posed a real threat to Iran given the country's political and military power."

(Source: *Press TV* website, *Tehran*, in English 1119 GMT, 14 March 2010)

- Up to 130 Iranian parliamentarians have called for "strict action to be taken against proponents of secularism in universities throughout the country."
- The MPs warned Daneshju of the activities that were carried out in universities by "certain individuals who are hostile toward the Islamic system".
- "The cultural message of the [1979] Islamic Revolution is the most important topic that university professors and the elite must seek to promote," IRNA cited the letter as saying.
- "Activities of individuals, who feel enmity toward the Islamic establishment, are unacceptable. What is more, nowhere in the world are resources and opportunities generously handed out to those who seek to bring down the establishment and the principles that society is governed by," added the lawmakers.
- They urged the minister to take "serious and decisive" action against "the enemies of the Islamic establishment," "proponents of secularism," and "those who work to weaken the government."

March 13, 2010

(Source: *Fars News Agency* website, *Tehran*, in Persian, 1547 GMT, 13 March 2010)

- "Following a series of complicated security measures and operations in the field of information and communication technology, a number of people accused of involvement in an organized American cyber war were identified and 30 of them were arrested," Fars news agency reported on 13 March without naming any of the detainees.
- The news agency quoted the public relations office of the Public and Revolution Court in Tehran as saying: "We would like to inform the noble and dear people of Iran that thanks to the blessing of God Almighty and help and ceaseless round-the-clock efforts of the guards of the country's sovereignty and revolutionary offspring of this valiant nation, a number of the most significant organized networks belonging to America's cyber network that had been set up by anti-revolutionary groups, were identified through a series of measures and complicated security operations in the field of information and communication technology and a number of elements linked with those groups were identified and 30 of them were arrested."
- The report added: "The CIA proposed a bill aimed at destabilizing Iran in 2006 which was later approved by the US Congress with the allocation of 400 million dollars which became operational during [the presidency of George W.] Bush. A new information war, known as cyber war, was included in the agenda of the American administration following an order by Bush and became operational using elements linked to anti-revolution groups including the Monafeqin [reference to member of the Iraq-based opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], monarchists and a number of other groups."

*(Source: Keyhan newspaper, Tehran in Persian, 13 March 2010, p 2)*

*Text of editorial by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari headlined "Paper tigers...!" published by Iranian newspaper Keyhan on 13 March 2010*

- "In those years - the first years after the victory of the Islamic revolution - everybody kept asking what was the significance of the deposed and fugitive Shah [Mohammad Reza Pahlavi] to American officials that they would not stop supporting him."
- "...At that time, America had other spent pawns in the Middle East and in other parts of the world. If she had given up her support for the Shah, she would have lost the confidence of her other pawns such as Anwar Sadat in Egypt, Malek Khalid in [Saudi] Arabia, Shah [King] Husayn in Jordan and... Furthermore, she would have faced many difficulties in finding other pawns and in winning their trust."
- "The foreign enemies that were in charge of organizing and leading this sedition - especially the triangle of America, Israel and England - have indicated in many overt and covert ways the failure of that sedition and have admitted the expiry date of the effectiveness of the leaders of the sedition. They have clearly realized that [Mirhoseyn] Musavi, [Mohammad] Khatami and [Mehdi] Karrubi have become spent pawns. Nevertheless, for the sake of the appearances and without having the slightest hope in the effectiveness of the leaders of the sedition, they insist on supporting them."
- "Can they not yet see that the "cardboard billboards" of the sedition have been pulled down and the leaders of the sedition that had come forward in the form of "paper tigers" have been totally exhausted? Can they not see that after nine months

of a desperate dance, the leaders of the sedition have fainted and have fallen on the feet of the organisers of the sedition?”

- “If foreign managers of the sedition give up their support - even their apparent and oral support - for the domestic leaders and pawns of the sedition, they would have to admit openly the failure of their costly and all-out conspiracy. It was a conspiracy for the sake of which they had made use of their entire financial, political and media capabilities, and they had mobilized all the domestic groups, movements and individuals that received their orders from them.”
- “The continuation of the psychological operations against the Iranian people, by pretending that the leaders of the sedition are not yet dead and are still breathing, is another reason why foreign enemies still continue their support for the leaders of the sedition, and why this constitutes a part of their propaganda agenda.”
- “The available evidence clearly and without the slightest doubt shows that Musavi, Karrubi and Khatami got involved in the sedition as the result of a foreign mission, and that they had acted as the enemy's fifth column. The reaction of [foreign] intelligence services to those who have played the role of a fifth column for them is based on a clear and known formula
- “Therefore, if for instance America has recruited a "fifth column", in the eyes of the public that fifth column is known as an "Americophile" - namely, being in support of America's policies. Under those circumstances, if after the failure of the mission of its fifth column America withdraws her support for it, first of all other individuals and groups in the country that are also playing the role of America's fifth column will lose their faith and confidence in America.”

### March 13, 2010

*(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0820 GMT, 13 March 2010)*

- The lawyer of Azar Mansuri, the political deputy of the Participation Front Party, has said that Bench 28 of the Revolution Court sentenced his client to three years in prison.
- In an interview with the ILNA, Mohammad Reza Faqih referred to the latest situation of Azar Mansuri's case and said: “After the preliminary investigation was carried out, a bill of indictment was issued for my client. The case was then referred to Bench 28 of the Revolution Court. The court studied the charges levelled against the political deputy of the Participation Front Party and sentenced her to three years in prison.”
- He said that “Azar Mansuri has been charged with disturbing public order through participating in gatherings, propagation against the system, spreading lies aiming at agitating public opinion, and gathering and plotting to disturb national security”.
- He said: “After my request from the court about the bail verdict failed to gain any result, I asked the court to grant a furlough for my client so that she could stay with her family during the holidays” [the New Year holidays starting from 20 March]. However, the judicial authorities have not agreed yet about this issue.
- “[Monitor's note: Azar Mansuri was arrested in September 2009 during the protest which followed the controversial 12 June presidential election]”

### March 12, 2010

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian 1148 GMT, 12 March 2010)

- The lawyer of Mohammad Owliya'ifard emphasized that his client was "sentenced by the Revolution Court to one year in prison".
- In an interview with the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), Mas'ud Owliya'ifard said: "My client who was the lawyer of Behnud Shoja'i was sentenced by Bench 26 of the Revolution Court to one-year term in prison under the charge of propagation against the system by giving interview to foreign media about this [Behnud Shoja'i's] case."
- He confirmed that "the preliminary court has not yet notified any of the three lawyers of the client about the verdict".
- "[Monitor's note: Behnud Shoja'i was executed in October 2009 in Tehran's Evin prison. He was convicted of murdering a boy in 2005. At that time, Shoja'i was 17 years old.]"

### March 10, 2010

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1730 GMT, 10 March 2010)

- This was the reaction by deputy commander of the IRGC Ground Forces [General Eraqi] to the insult made by Commander of American forces in the Middle East and Central Asia [David] Petraeus a few days ago. In a media talk, Petraeus had said that Iran was a thugocracy.
- Deputy Commander of the IRGC Ground Forces General [Abdollah] Eraqi said that the insult made by America's defeated military commander showed how far the level of the American foreign policy had diminished. He said that America was supporting the most gangster regime in the world, i.e. the Zionist regime, and it was the main supporter of thugs such as Bandit Rigi, and other murderer and gangster groups.
- General Eraqi said that Yankees, instead of logical people, determined the fate of the Americans. He added that the statements made by the American commander showed that America's diplomatic system had got out of control following constant failures of this country and its policies in the world and the region, particularly in Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan.

### March 9, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0936 GMT, 9 March 2010)

- The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Ramin Mehmanparast, has said that "US officials are nervous and this nervousness damage their reputation".
- Commenting on US Central Command chief Gen David Petraeus's remarks, Mehmanparast said at his weekly news conference: "I know that Petraeus said these words. We regret that they themselves use this kind of thug words. We think that American officials are seriously nervous. And this nervousness damages their reputation as diplomats and human beings. Sometimes their behavior is similar to that of thugs. We do not know the reason of this nervousness. Perhaps, the reason is the 22 Bahman [11 February] rallies, our people's support for the system, the failure

of the soft war. Maybe, the reason is the victory of the Iraqi people in the [parliament] elections. Perhaps, the disclosure of their security service's support for terrorism and [Abdolmalek] Rigi was a seriously blow to them. This nervousness caused them to deviate from moral norms in their speeches and behaviour."

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English, 0740 GMT, 9 March 2010)*

- Iran's Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani emphasized that "the real thugocrat government is the US administration itself which is involved in the killing of thousands of Iraqi, Afghan and Palestinian people."
- He said it was "quite evident that the Americans were trying to comfort themselves through using of such malicious remarks in face of the general hatred targeting them by the nations of the region."
- "Despite the whole body of plots hatched by the Americans and their extreme interference in Iraqi election, the brave nation of Iraq, too, inflicted a big blow on the US by their votes."
- He stressed that "the US administration and officials were in fact suffering from political isolation among regional states so they are trying to soothe their wounds by indulging in nasty behaviors."