

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
May 10 – 16, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

May 16, 2010

(Source: Iranian news website Parlemannews in Persian 1021 GMT, 16 May 2010)

- Spokesman and senior member of the reformist Islamic Revolution Mujahidin Organization, Mohsen Armin, was arrested, reformist website Parlemannews reported on 16 May.
- In the meantime, Parlemannews also reported that the former managing-director of the Iranian Labor News Agency (ILNA), Masud Heydari, was arrested on 16 May.
- According to Parlemannews, due to complaints raised against Heydari by the ministries of Labor and Sciences, the media activist had been previously sentenced to 91 days in prison and received a monetary fine of 1500 dollars.
- The report added that the sentences issued by the preliminary court were confirmed.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0915 GMT, 16 May 2010)

- Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani: “the creation of Israel rightly dubbed as the Day of Nakba (catastrophe)”
- Larijani referred to 15 May which marked the creation of Israel and said: “it was the day when about 700 thousand Palestinians lost their homes and became refugees for the rest of their lives.”
- Stressing that the Zionist regime has been following a policy of "kill and force out in order to get established", he also alleged that “losing their homes had never persuaded the Palestinians to abandon their Jihadi spirit all through the years since the creation of the Zionist regime.”

May 15, 2010

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1705 GMT, 15 May 2010)

- “The Strategic Research Centre of the Expediency Council intends to hold a meeting with university experts and professors on covert and overt goals of Persian language satellite channels next Monday [17 May].”
- “According to ISNA [Islamic Students News Agency] the covert and overt goals of Persian language satellite channels these days are very important as they are an example of cultural invasion. An analysis and pathological examination of these channels is the top most priority of the Strategic Research Centre of the Expediency Council.”
- The main agenda includes: “Analyzing the covert and overt goals of the Persian-language channels like MBC [presumably Middle East Broadcasting Channel], VOA [Voice of America], BBC and Farsi 1, analyzing the operations and programs of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcast [Iran's state broadcaster], methods of attracting the audience and methods of coping with, analyzing the impact of Persian-language channels on different segments of society and analyzing the threats of these channels to the authorities and national media and to prepare the operational strategy to tackle them.”

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1325 GMT, 15 May 2010)

- Iran's Ambassador to Brazil Mohsen Shaterzadeh alleged that “Zionist media have initiated propaganda campaign against Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva for criticizing Israeli violence against Palestinians.”
- “Some 34 Brazilian reporters and other foreign newsmen will accompany the president.”
- Shaterzadeh confirmed that “most of the Brazilian media are run by the private sector and the government has no control over them.”
- “Most of the private media are against President Lula da Silva and are waging propaganda campaign against him because he is opposed to Israel”, he noted.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0940 GMT, 15 May 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad on Saturday [15 May] at the 23rd TIBF [Tehran International Book Fair], referred to the Tehran book fair as “a cultural event”
- “A nation can play an effective role in the world relations only when it possesses the cultural environment worldwide.”
- “The political and economic relations in the globe will not be reformed, unless the cultural arena is changed worldwide”, Ahmadinezhad added.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0803 GMT, 15 May 2010)

- A member of the Majlis National Security Committee, Mohammad Mehdi Shahriyari, alleged that: the presence of 400 children of officials in Britain to study was regarded “a weak point in the relations between Iran and Britain”.
- “Some participants at the Majlis National Security Committee believed that it was not in the interest of the country to have officials' children study in Britain. However, the committee did not make any decision whether they should return to the country or not.”

May 14, 2010

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

- Mohammad Sharif told Iranian Labor News Agency (ILNA) that six-year prison sentence handed down by a revolutionary court to journalist Mas'ud Bastani had been confirmed following appeal. He expressed regret over the harsh sentence and said that the confirmation of his client's harsh sentence was "unexpected" considering the "contents of the case and my client's actions in court". "The case of Mas'ud Agha'i who had been accused of assembly and colluding to commit crimes and to riot, ended in his acquittal of the charges of assembling and colluding and in the end he was sentenced to six months in prison for taking part in protests."

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0521 GMT, 14 May 2010)

- The Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission rapporteur [Kazem Jalali] on British presence in Iran: “the issue of the Progeny of the Gentlemen

[Persian: Aqazadeha; sons of clerics] going to Britain for education is quite an interesting point. The numbers going over are quite high and the security and intelligence officials must express an opinion on this issue.”

- “Even America's secret services do not have as much power and influence in the region as the British ones do. This is because the history of their presence in the region is shorter than that of Britain's.”

May 13, 2010

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

- According to Daneshjoo News, the civil engineering student at Imam Khomeyni International University of Qazvin has been sentenced to nine and a half years in prison by Judge Salavati. Abadi was arrested on 27 December [2009] as widespread demonstrations were taking place across the country. However he was not involved in any of the protests or clashes that took place that day.
- “It should be noted that following his arrest, the family of Arsalan Abadi have been repeatedly threatened by security forces to keep silent. It was no sooner that [than] two months after his arrest when Abadi was first allowed to have a lawyer and to speak and meet with his family.” (Direct excerpt)

(Source: Javan, Tehran, in Persian 13 May 2010)

- “Some biased regimes of the region [Middle East] have alleged that the free Arab voices and writers are supporting the Islamic Iran by criticizing the US officials' diplomatic and security movement in the Persian Gulf region, mobilization and organization of Arabs of this regions against their biggest and strongest neighbor - the Islamic Republic of Iran - and terming it an evil movement which is against the interests and development of the whole region or they have been coerced to do so”
- “Any conflict and tension would not be in the interest of the nation's economy, future and prosperity and the people of region had bitter and sad experiences from the past three wars.”
- “The Persian Gulf Arab neighbors know very well why Washington has enmity with Tehran for the past three decades and from another point they have seen the bravery and resistance of the Muslim people of Iran against the US's bullying posture and accepted it. The Islamic Iran because of these conditions has been asking its Arab brethrens why some people are defending the US and staying on the side of US shenanigans, which has never wished good for this region.”
- “Also we are reminding our Arab brothers that any harm done to Islamic Iran by the Great Satan will automatically have harmful and irreparable consequences for the region and its economy, and the best evidence to prove this claim is irreparable harms of Saddam's imposed war against Islamic Iran and for the whole region.”

May 12, 2010

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1640 GMT, 12 May 2010)

- The Expediency Council Chairman Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani alleged that “certain officials put obstacles in the way of the Islamic Azad University's progress.”

- "Unfortunately it is observed that sometimes certain officials not only don't support this university but rather put obstacles in the way of the Islamic Azad University's progress," he said on Wednesday [12 May]
- Some pro-administration officials seek to nationalize the Islamic Azad University, but the university's board of trustees has not given in to pressures yet.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1455 GMT, 12 May 2010)

- Iranian filmmakers will face governmental punitive action if their films are found participating in foreign events without a license for a foreign premiere from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.
- "Directors will be banned from filmmaking for one year if their films, which have not received a license for foreign screening, are shown at international events," Deputy Culture Minister for Cinematic Affairs Javad Shamaqdari'i said during a press conference on Tuesday.
- "They will also be deprived of any governmental services for that duration," he added.
- "Our filmmakers are allowed to dialogue with our people through their films, but it would be against our national interests if they wanted to communicate with foreigners on sensitive topics and we must change this situation," Shamaqdari'i said.
- "Our people are able to hold a confidence but foreigners cannot be depended upon to do so," he noted.

May 11, 2010

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0746 GMT, 11 May 2010)

- "American surveillance aircraft, which was trying to approach the zone where military war games are being held, left the site due to prompt warning by the air defense."
- According to Fars news agency's correspondent, two long range surface-sea missiles at the site where Velayat-89 exercises were carried out.
- Ata'ollah Salehi, the commander-in-chief of army: "Yesterday an American surveillance aircraft was intending to approach our zone but with the prompt warning by army's air defense it left the zone."