

**Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report**  
**May 17 – 23, 2010**  
**Stacy Topouzova**

**May 23, 2010**

*(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1543 GMT, 23 May 2010)*

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad addressed the Tehran nuclear declaration and believes that it will “usher in a new era in international diplomacy”
- “The nuclear declaration has provided an opportunity for dialogue and interaction for all sides”, Ahmadinezhad said in a telephone conversation.
- On the sidelines of the Group of 15 Summit, held in Tehran on May 17, Iran, Turkey, and Brazil issued a declaration, according to which “Iran would ship 1200 kilograms of its low-enriched uranium to Turkey to be exchanged for 120 kilograms of 20 per cent enriched nuclear fuel to power the Tehran research reactor, which produces radioisotopes for cancer treatment”.
- The Iranian president highlighted the important role Turkey and Brazil could play in determining the outcome of the nuclear declaration: “through the expansion of ties with brotherly nations, Tehran seeks to create a new atmosphere in international relations.”
- “The world should eventually reach a point where all countries are able to use nuclear technology meant for peaceful purposes while no country possesses nuclear weapons,” Ahmadinezhad added.

*(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0630 GMT, 23 May 2010)*

- In his speech at the Majlis, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Iran's parliament] noted the “anti-Iran resolution the USA has adopted after Tehran issued a declaration [on a nuclear swap deal]”.
- He [Ali Larijani] warned that in the situation like this, “the Majlis will take other decisions regarding the manner of cooperation between Iran and the IAEA.”
- [Larijani] “You have seen in the latest nuclear issue that after the Americans asked Turkey in a written form to mediate, and brought Turkey and Brazil into the scene in order to open the way in the nuclear dispute, Iran accepted the nuclear swap deal under the conditions reflected in the Tehran declaration, as Iran respects Turkey and Brazil - two countries that are friends of Iran. They [the USA] immediately went into trickery, and again moved towards a resolution [on sanctions] with a lot of fuss. If you really were after this, why did you leave two important countries like Turkey and Brazil in a ridiculous situation?”
- “The rightness of Iran's view has proved true for everyone now. The USA and some European states may have the dream that they can continue implementing the Tehran declaration in a discriminatory way.”

**May 22, 2010**

*(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0657 GMT, 22 May 2010)*

- "In a letter, 85 filmmakers have called for addressing the condition of Ja'far Panahi".
- According to ILNA, the 85 filmmakers, who are mostly young Iranian filmmakers, signed a letter calling on officials to "address the condition of Ja'far Panahi".
- The full text of the letter and names of the undersigned are as follow:
- "We, the undersigned, are among independent story, documentary, and short filmmakers of Iran's cinema. Considering the existing condition for the Iranian filmmaker, Ja'far Panahi, we - only for humanitarian and professional reasons - call for release of him and swift addressing of his condition and his demands in the prison."
- [Monitor's note: Pro-reform and internationally awarded Iranian director, Ja'far Panahi, was arrested in early March 2010. According to opposition websites such as JARAS, Panahi has gone on a hunger strike since 16 May 2010, to protest "abuse and ill-treatment" as well as "continuous threats" against his family members.]

### **May 21, 2010**

*(Source: Iranian news website Sahamnews, in Persian 0001 GMT, 21 May 2010)*

- Iranian opposition leader Mehdi Karrubi has criticized the judiciary as well as the government's "undiplomatic behavior", a reformist website reported on 21 May.
- Karrubi also criticized Mahmud Ahmadinezhad for "signing some agreements which make Iran obliged to other countries for long years."
- According to Sahamnews, official news website of the National Trust Party, Karrubi made the comment in a letter to Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, former judiciary chief.
- In his letter, Karrubi wrote that the judiciary has turned into a "tool" in the hands of "security and military organizations" aiming at creating "terror". He also expressed regret that the judiciary cannot play a role of "safe haven" for people.
- Karrubi criticized the "undiplomatic behaviour" of the Mahmud Ahmadinezhad's administration and added: "With his strange and unique behaviour, the head of the incumbent government has brought humiliation to the Iranian nation in the world. He [Ahmadinezhad], who is thirsty for travelling abroad, has caused disgrace for the country with his speeches and correspondence that has never received any reply In order to compensate for such failure, he discovers some countries, which even geographers can only find with a magnifier on a map of the world. He then spends extravagantly from the nation's pocket in order to insinuate the idea in the public opinion that he has some allies in the world. Signing some agreements which make Iran obliged to other countries for long years and Iran's none profitable investments in other countries are unjustified and illogical."

### **May 20, 2010**

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0810 GMT, 20 May 2010)*

- Head of Presidential Office Esfandiar Rahim-Masha'i alleged that "the global arrogance is getting too weak to dominate the world"

- Rahim-Masha'i made the remarks in a ceremony in the northern Iranian province of Mazandaran and said that "the US administration has faced serious challenges today and that temporary changes in the US policies cannot work."
- "The Islamic Republic of Iran advocates international peace and settlement of dispute over Iranian nuclear program by negotiations", citing the landmark agreement announced in Tehran on May 17

*(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0715 GMT, 20 May 2010)*

- Speaking at a conference of Principle-ists [hardline] on Wednesday [19 May] at Shokuhi Mosque, Sari, Mazandaran Province, Masha'i addressed numerous regional and international matters:
- Referring to the speech by the President [Mahmud Ahmadinezhad] at the UN, he said: "All of the five speeches of the president were based on one rationale, i.e. resistance against bullying. America's policy of change should meet the demands of the Iranian nation...Today, the Iranian nation is in a better position [than before]."
- "Today, the entire world knows that the president [Ahmadinezhad] has the necessary features [to stand against the West]."
- "We have no such thing as Israel attacking Iran. It does not exist in our plans. If one day the Zionists attack Iran, it will mean that the Americans have reached an agreement with Iran to get rid of Israel."
- "They want to issue a fifth sanction against Iran which will be to the loss of those who levy it."

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 20 May 2010)*

- Mohammad Davari, a member of the Teachers' Association and Editor-in-Chief of Saham News' website, and Mehdi Mahmudian, a member of the Participation Front Party, have each been sentenced to five years in prison.
- Kalame News announced that the sentences were issued directly to the defendants in absence of their lawyers. The report stated that Davari and Mahmudian have both objected to their sentences and are appealing the decision.
- Davari was detained on 8 September 2009, during the closure of Mehdi Karrubi's offices, and was instrumental in helping Mehdi Karrubi document statements made by detainees who reported rape and sexual abuse in prisons. In the past several months, several reports have surfaced about pressure on Davari to confess against Mehdi Karrubi. In a letter to Iranian authorities published recently, Karrubi demanded an end to forced confessions which are aimed to render "repentant" individuals. In his letter, Karrubi said that Davari's only role had been to film the testimonies of rape and abuse victims and witnesses.
- Mahmudian played a significant role in publishing news about the Kahrizak Detention Centre in which at least four prisoners lost their lives.

**May 19, 2010**

*(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0957 GMT, 19 May 2010)*

- "The submission of a draft of a sanction resolution at the time that Iran has agreed to transfer some of its enriched uranium to Turkey shows that Washington is not interested in settling its differences with Tehran over the latter's nuclear issue.
- Indeed, the [Obama] government which claims to be the frontrunner of adopting a diplomatic approach towards Iran has now entered a path which many news organizations, including Al-Jazeera, describe as breaching Obama's previous stances.
- The significant advancements which our country has made in various fields over the past few decades, in spite of sanctions, show that America and its allies have started going down a repetitive and futile path [by drafting a resolution against Iran]."

### **May 18, 2010**

*(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 18 May 2010)*

- Branch 28 of the revolutionary court has sentenced political activist Amir-Khosro Dalirsani to four years in prison.
- According to Reporters And Human rights Activists News Agency, Amir-Khosro Dalirsani was informed today [17 May] that he would be facing four years of prison after he was found guilty of "assembly and colluding to commit crimes against national security."

### **May 17, 2010**

*(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2330 GMT, 17 May 2010)*

- According to IRNA Monday night service report, the supreme leader's information website, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i further emphasized in his Monday evening meeting with President Robert Mugabe and his accompanying delegation, "Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with Republic of Zimbabwe are deep, friendly and sustainable."
- His eminence added, "There are broad potentials for further expanding of bilateral ties to much greater extent than their today's status and Iran would remain by the side of Zimbabwe for good."
- "The powers' nature is interference and that is a great plight for the entire mankind, while the only way to get rid of it is greater cooperation among the independent governments and nations."