

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
May 24 – 30, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

May 30, 2010

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1520 GMT, 30 May 2010)

- “Reducing relations with China and Russia will be necessary in all fields if they vote for a new sanctions resolution against Iran”, a lawmaker suggested on Sunday
- However, Heshmatollah Falahatpishe, the member of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said Iran should use all its attempts "not to let a new resolution be ratified in the Security Council."
- But if a resolution is approved "we must be ready to deal with it," Falahatpishe told Mehr News Agency.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1451 GMT, 30 May 2010)

- Secretary of Supreme National Security Council Sa'id Jalili stressed that “the US should choose one of the following alternatives: Following the past wrong path and getting further isolated" or "undergoing change."
- “The US is now on a wrong track and should it continue to follow the path, it would get further isolated globally.”
- "The US should choose either the world of Islam or the Zionist Regime."
- He noted that “if the independent world comes to believe in its internal power it would take giant strides and the US will begin to back down gradually while independent states will move one step forward.”
- He ridiculed the US President Barack Obama's Middle East peace plan as "a deception and a big lie" regarding developments taking place in the region in the past one and half years and said that “none of the rights of the Palestinian nation has yet been officially recognized in the period in practice.”

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

- The six-year prison sentence of Mohsen Aminzadeh has been reduced to five years after appeal.
- According to the Kaleme website, Aminzadeh, a member of the Islamic Iran Participation Front (Mosharekat) and former Deputy Foreign Minister was initially sentenced to six years in prison which was reduced to five years after appeal. The charges against him include assembly and colluding with the intention to endanger national security and propagating against the Islamic state through interviews with foreign television channels.
- Aminzadeh is a founding member of the Mosharekat party. He was arrested right after last year's rigged presidential election and on the morning of 16 June 2009.
- After 238 days of imprisonment, Aminzadeh was finally released on 10 February on bail of more than 700,000 dollars. It should be noted that Aminzadeh spent four months of his imprisonment in solitary confinement.

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0655 GMT, 30 May 2010)

- Ezzatollah Zarghami, the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic (Iran's state Radio and TV Organization), in an interview with ILNA alleged that "Persian language satellite TV channels like the BBC and VOA are no competition for to the state channels."
- He said: "Fortunately the Iranian state TV, enjoying the trust of the people, has a wide range of news, political, entertainment programmes and films."
- He added that some Persian-Language satellite channels illegally use the IRIB's TV series and based on law Iran can sue them. He said: "These channels also try to use our local experts, however the capability of these media are in no way comparable to the Iranian national media."

May 29, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1239 GMT, 29 May 2010)

- "The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly stood up to threats and sanctions imposed by the enemies", First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi said while speaking to reporters.
- "We do our best to attract foreign investors to invest in East Azarbayjan province to help reach economic boom and development. The region has great capacity to turn into a tourist and agricultural pole of the country", he said.
- "The big powers attempted to prevent the country from path of progress and economic development by imposing eight-year devastating war with Iraq (1980-1988)...but the reconstruction activities of the government of President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad were remarkable."

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1042 GMT, 29 May 2010)

- Iranian parliament Speaker Ali Larijani urged Western countries, including the USA, to "change their policy of imposing sanctions and begin negotiating with Iran".
- Speaking in a live news conference with domestic and foreign reporters in Tehran on 29 May 2010, Larijani responded to a question about the possible new sanctions against Iran, and said: "The Americans and those few other countries that every now and then make odd comments, should once again look and see how effective their measures [against Iran] have been. They should see if their sanctions have been effective, for example on our nuclear activities or our regional relations."
- Advising the Americans to come up with a new policy, Larijani said: "There are intelligent American and Western figures who have understood this issue [that sanctions don't work]. I have seen some of their experts saying that this [issuing of sanctions] is not an effective measure. Basically, the people who are currently in power in America want to say that we have also done something about this issue. They are trying to create an atmosphere which would help the resolution of their [domestic] problems. I think the people who are currently in power in America would be more successful if they came up with a new method of working with important countries rather than trying to confront them. Because, their significant belligerent

character was Mr [George W.] Bush with his pre-emptive theory which resulted in a scandal. Obviously the same policy at a lower level would not be much effective either. Therefore, it is wiser for them [the American officials] to come up with a new policy.”

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0620 GMT, 29 May 2010)

Excerpt from report in English by Iranian news channel Press TV website on 29 May

- “After the US opposed what it has called efforts to single out Israel in nuclear talks, Tehran accused Washington of adopting double standards towards nuclear issues.”
- Iran's ambassador to the UN Mohammad Khaza'i said Friday [28 May] that “the US reaction to the final declaration of the NPT conference was a ‘clear manifestation’ of its hypocrisy.”
- "The US [verbal] attack on Iran, as an NPT member, along with its opposition to the conference [declaration] which urges Israel to join the NPT, is a clear manifestation of Washington's double standard nuclear policy," Khaza'i told IRNA on the sidelines of the NPT conference in New York.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0430 GMT, 29 May 2010)

- Foreign minister [Manuchehr Mottaki] emphasized that “the trilateral Tehran declaration on the nuclear fuel swap is an opportunity for mutual cooperation and confidence-building.”

May 28, 2010

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 1230 GMT, 28 May 2010)

- Secretary of the Iranian Guardian Council Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati has said that “some political officials with certain viewpoints are unnecessarily interfering in the dismissal and appointment of officials and would like the country to get close to America”, and added that “such a thing is dangerous for the country”.
- "Some seditionists inside the country are continuously showing a green light to the enemy and are trying to create trouble for the people. On the other hand, some individuals inside the country, who have been offered posts which they are not suited for, are misusing their position."
- "At one time we avoided openly mentioning some criticisms and concerns due to the fact that the seditionists would be able to misuse the situation. But how long can we keep silent in that regard?"

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0845 GMT, 28 May 2010)

- Iran's IAEA envoy Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh confirmed that Iran has “provided the UN NPT Review Conference with constructive proposals.”
- Soltaniyeh told IRNA that the NPT Review Conference has since three weeks ago been the scene of challenges between countries possessing nuclear arms and the countries lacking such weapons, especially the Non-Aligned Movement member states.

- He confirmed that “during the conference the countries possessing nuclear arms tried to shrug off commitments and responsibilities, though were forced by international community public opinion to accept some of the offers.”
- Besides three key points, “such issues as the problem with transfer of nuclear arms from such countries as the US to countries lacking nuclear arms, was raised”, said the Iranian envoy, adding that the point was included in the draft document.
- "We say a deadline should be set for Israel's joining NPT and that the Zionist regime should not find any chance to upgrade nuclear technology, being forced to bow to international community demand."
- “Western states tried to contain the fuel cycle right but failed to do so as they faced resistance of such developing states as Iran, Brazil, Egypt and other countries.”

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0810 GMT, 28 May 2010)

- Iran’s Ambassador to Bahrain Hoseyn Amir-Abdollahiyan alleged that “the statements by the British defense secretary in Manamah are interference in Iran's domestic affairs and a continuation of the British inauspicious interventionist policies.”
- “...The Islamic Republic of Iran receives its legitimacy from the Iranian nation, rather than the British defense secretary”.
- He stressed: “We hope that the new British government would be realistic and logical in terms of current developments in Iran.”
- “All the countries and nations of the region are aware that the Islamic Republic of Iran wants security, progress, stability and development for the countries in the region.”
- “With the extensive and millions-strong presence of the Iranian nation in rallies and various occasions, the people have always shown their support for the Islamic state, and have stressed that they will stand up to aliens.”

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0600 GMT, 28 May 2010)

- Head of the Iranian state-owned radio and television, Ezzatollah Zaraqami, addressing the nationwide congress of the Islamic Republic Devotees Society held in Tehran on 27 May confirmed that “Iran jams some satellite channels”.
- According to ILNA report on 28 May, Zaraqami said: "We jam them, and they jam us. Then our channels on their satellites are blocked, as Al-Alam network, in violation to the contract, was removed from Arabsat and Nilesat."

May 27, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1152 GMT, 27 May 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad: “[I]ndependent nations take pride in Islamic Republic of Iran for the landmark progress the great nation has made in the past three decades.” (He made the remarks while addressing a group of provincial intellectuals and talented personalities.)

- "The current economic, cultural and political criteria being enforced by global arrogance never let an independent state attain welfare and progress. The current world order runs counter to our Islamic and humanitarian beliefs," he said.
- "To attain the goal we should follow the Islamic and Iranian lifestyle. We believe that the economic development and prosperity should serve spirituality, cultural and ethical values in societies. This is a key for success of Iranian nation," he said.

May 26, 2010

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Kerman Provincial TV, Kerman, in Persian 1712 GMT, 26 May 2010)

- "Iran's people are successfully resisting Western powers' 'psychological warfare' against the Islamic Republic", President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said in a live interview on state-run Kerman Province TV on May 26
- "When an ocean of people appears on the scene, all the plans, propaganda and psychological warfare is foiled. The psychological warfare is aimed at depriving the people of power," he said.
- "Therefore all media activities, propaganda and psychological warfare are foiled when the people rise to the occasion powerfully. The people are managing the thinking of world politicians and nations in terms of government-people relations."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1215 GMT, 26 May 2010)

- Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar alleged that "the Islamic Republic of Iran as the first regional power has the final say in regional developments."
- Addressing people in Kerman, he said that the "Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys high status on international scenes."
- "Tehran Declaration inked by Iran, Turkey and Brazil has isolated the global arrogance", he said. "The ball is now in the court of global arrogance and they are now in a state of shock and bewildering", he said.
- "Iran is now playing a balanced role in regional developments which has roots in the martyr-seeking spirit of the Iranian nation", he added.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0742 GMT, 26 May 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad in an address to the people of Kerman Province, south Iran, referred to Iran's will to establish just relations across the world. He said: "We do not believe in bullying or aggression nor do we submit to bullying. We consider today's relations in the world oppressive. A few people get together in the Security Council - countries which themselves have nuclear bomb, enjoy the unjust right of veto, they have multi-force military capacities, occupy lands, and kill innocent people in their hundreds, they are the biggest dictators and support the most unpopular currents against the nations and then chant slogans in favour of human rights, freedom and security and against nuclear bomb. These words belong to 60 years ago. They must open their ears and eyes, and these words and false gestures and cunning faces have no credit in the world."
- The president's speech was broadcast live on IRINN on 26 May.

May 25, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1547 GMT, 25 May 2010)

- First Vice-President: "Tehran Declaration indicated that Iran continues its way without paying any attention to sanctions and threats."
- Mohammad Reza Rahimi, who was in Asaluyeh to attend the second meeting of working group of president's representatives in oil affairs, added that "the situation is moving in such a way that will provide national interests".

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 25 May 2010)

- Journalist and human rights activist Kaveh Qasemi Kermanshahi was released on Sunday [24 May] on bail after spending more than 100 days behind prison bars in Iran. Soon after his release, this human rights activist spoke to Rooz in an exclusive interview and informed about his hunger strike and general conditions while in detention.
- In his first interview following his release, Kermanshahi thanked individuals, groups and human rights organizations that helped to secure his release.
- "The most fundamental issue is my illegal detention after the conclusion of the interrogation process. According to the law, no individual can remain behind bars without a verdict after the interrogation process."
- Commenting on his treatment by prison officials throughout his confinement, Kermanshahi said, "I was satisfied with their behavior, it was generally good. There weren't any physical confrontations, in particular."

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0619 GMT, 25 May 2010)

- "With regards to reports published by certain media sources [who presumably called for holding] gatherings on 22 Khordad [12 June; anniversary of the controversial presidential election] the commander of the Greater Tehran Law Enforcement Force said that the police would confront any illegal gathering and that they [the police] are guardians of security and order in society." (Direct excerpt)
- In an interview with ILNA, Brig-Gen Hoseyn Sajedinia said that: "The police will support any legal gathering. But in the case of illegal gatherings, the police will confront them regardless of which days and occasion of the year they are held."
- He said: "The police are vigilant and are the guardian of order and security in society; therefore, illegal gatherings will be confronted in accordance with the law."

May 24, 2010

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 24 May 2010)

- The initial eight-year prison sentence of twenty-year old student Sina Golchin has been reduced to four years and six months after appeal.

- According to Daneshjoo News, following his arrest, Sina Golchin, a student with no prior political activity had been under physical and mental pressure to appear in a televised show trial after last June's election.
- Golchin was deprived of having any legal representation during his prosecution. His family was allowed to obtain a lawyer only after the court had issued an initial ruling of eight years in prison.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1713 GMT, 24 May 2010)

- Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i: "the countries that supported Iraq's Saddam Husayn during his war against Iran are still acting against Iran today".
- "America, Britain, and other European countries helped Saddam Husayn and offered him every kind of support in order to break down the Iranian nation".
- Visiting a Revolution Guards' Defence Academy on 24 May, Khamene'i said: "Those who are the source of insecurity in most parts of the world" are now trying to portray Iran as the source of insecurity.
- In his speech at the academy's graduation ceremony which also marked the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, Khamene'i said "the enemies of the Iranian nation" are attempting to distort the truth about Iran with their propaganda machines while they themselves are actually the ones behind most of the insecurity and criminal actions in the world. The following is the text of the recorded speech by state-run Iranian radio on the same day; subheadings inserted editorially:
Opening remarks
- In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I would like to congratulate all of you, the dear youth and our future's hope, on the success you achieved during your academic period at the university as well as on the great day of 3 Khordad [24 May] which is an unforgettable day in the history of the Revolution and even the country. [24 May marks anniversary of the recapture of the south-western city of Khorramshahr from the Iraqi forces during Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988)]
- "The message of the Islamic system is a message for which nations of the world are thirsty. It is different from any other country, with whatever political system, which only thinks about its geographical territory and is run by people who care for their materialistic interests."
- "Here we are talking about values, humanity, rescuing nations from the clutches of interventionist and hegemonic power. It [Islamic Republic] has a message for human beings. And this very message has turned every power-monger against the Iranian nation."
- "The Iranian nation has been standing strong. This strong body has become more honored day by day. The roots of this fruitful and divine sapling, this sanctified tree in this ready and talented land have become stronger day by day. If the enemies of spirituality and Islamic values and the enemies of the dear Islamic Iran had a hope at that point in time, they do not have any hope now. They are hopelessly making efforts. They do not know the path. They do not know the Iranian nation."
- "Therefore, today, you, the Iranian nation and you, the young people who are the salient and intellectual people of this nation's young generation, the dear young men of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], create hope in the hearts of the

nations. Many governments have hope in you, too. They look upon you. Even though they know that the Islamic Republic does not favor meddling in others' affairs but the nature of these messages, the nature of this resistance, the nature of this spiritual power which shows itself in all arenas gives them hope. It makes them resist.”

- “You and the young people in the army, the young people in the Law Enforcement Force and the divine and purified public Basij have opportunities in this spiritual land that had not been available to the talented and pious young people. Take benefit from these opportunities.”

(Source: Iranian news website Fararu, in Persian 1227 GMT, 24 May 2010)

- A meeting to discuss the performance of Farsi-language satellite channels, with particular focus on the performance of BBC [Persian TV] network, was held (3 Khordad [24 May]) at the Strategic Studies Centre of the Expediency Council. At the meeting, the approach of Iranian statesmen towards satellite [TV channels] was reviewed.
- Speaking at the meeting, [university professor] Sadeq Zibakalam said: “On the issues of Farsi-speaking satellite channels, the problem starts with the fact that we describe them as foreign media. This adjective comes from in a historic, political and ideological approach that is rooted in silly conspiracy theories. This is while we should ask ourselves the question whether the BBC or Voice of America [VOA] are honestly reporting the events or they are the ones creating those events and incidents.”
- He added: “The political approach towards satellite TV channels and the attention paid to their political intentions have led to other cultural and social features of these channels to be overlooked and their cultural effects to be ignored. A similar approach exists in the Voice and Vision Organization [state TV and radio] and most of the programmes of the organization against satellite TV channels are made to solely disclose their political will.”

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0544 GMT, 24 May 2010)

- “No one can regard a system lacking the political participation of parties and freedom of expression as just.”
- Ali Larijani made the above comment during a seminar called "the Iranian-Islamic model of progress", the Iranian Labour News Agency reported on 24 May.
- Larijani underlined that “Iran needs to define development based on its own principles”. He criticized the “imitation and implementation of Western models of progress.”
- Larijani said: "In the political domain, there should be freedom; and no one can claim he has established a fair system when it lacks the political participation [of parties] and freedom of expression. Of course when freedom of expression is allowed, other aspects of progress must also be taken into account."
- "If oil and gas resources are handed out in the same way that [alms are handed out by] relief committee [presumably the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee], the society will remain static and will not move [forward]. In such a situation it will not make any difference if oil is sold at seven dollars [per barrel] or 120 dollars [per barrel],

because nothing will be important but oil and gas, and agriculture and farming will be neglected."