

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
May 3 – 9, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

May 9, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1600 GMT, 9 May 2010)

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani alleged that “Israel is exercising Medieval-style tyranny in the occupied territories of Palestine.”
- Larijani made the remarks upon his arrival in Istanbul to attend emergency meeting of the Islamic Inter-Parliamentary Union to study the practices of the occupying regime in Palestine.
- Speaking to reporters, he said that “Palestine has turned into a painful issue which is of prime importance for the Islamic countries.”
- “[V]arious issues such as the international opposition to construction of new Jewish settlement in the occupied lands and the compulsory migration of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank will top the agenda of the emergency meeting.”
- "The inhuman measures are regarded as the biggest tyranny in the 21st century modelling upon the Medieval era."

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1440 GMT, 9 May 2010)

- Members of the Women's Islamic Coalition have met with Deputy Majlis Speaker Mohammad Reza Bahonar to discuss women-related issues, announced Fa'ezeh Hashemi.
- "We held discussions over the Articles 23 and 25 of the Family Protection Law (which allows men to remarry while they are married to a woman) and the plan that envisages that women work part-time," Fa'ezeh Hashemi told the Mehr New Agency.
- The coalition felt that women's rights are in danger and some laws discriminatory, so it decided to hold talks with officials, the former lawmaker stated.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0629 GMT, 9 May 2010)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad alleged that “the West is trying to tarnish Iran's image and portray it as a backward country, opposing its progress in all fields.”
- "They are opposed to Iran's progress in all fields. They do not want the world to believe that Iran has reached its summits of progress," Ahmadinezhad said
- He added that Iran is among very few countries in the world whose economy is growing fast: “The first point is about Iran's progress. Today, the progress caravan of the Iranian nation is moving forward at an increasing pace. Reports issued by centres related to international powers, have clearly and repeatedly stated that Iran is one of the few countries - they said eight countries - that is developing fast...”
- “...today the Iranian nation has many friends in the world. Most nations in the world are Iranian nation's friends and share a wide range of values with the Iranian nation. Many governments in the world are deeply fond of the Iranian nation and government and support them. This is what the enemy is trying to take away from us.”

- “The entire world will come to understand that the only way to happiness and having a peaceful life is not through the material world. And a human being can believe in divine values and revolutionary ideas and reach economic, technical, scientific and industrial progress. They are strongly against this.”
- “A major part of their opposition regarding our nuclear energy is due to the same reason. They don't want the world to believe that the Iranian nation has conquered the peaks because if the world accepts this then they will reach the end. And of course, by God's grace, I would like to say this in your presence, by God's mercy, they have all failed [in achieving their objectives].”

May 7, 2010.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0118 GMT, 7 May 2010)

- Iran has strongly condemned the "barbaric attacks" on mosques and desecration of Muslim holy sites in the occupied Palestinian territories by Israeli settlers.
- “The silence and inaction of the Arab states and international organizations will only "embolden the Zionists to accelerate their illegal actions" Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said.
- "Undoubtedly, silence in the face of these inexcusable actions will increase hatred towards Israel and strengthen the resilience and resistance of the Palestinian nation," IRNA quoted the spokesman as saying on Thursday [6 May].
- Mehmanparast called on the Muslim world to find a permanent solution to put an end to such attacks.

May 6, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1025 GMT, 6 May 2010)

- First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi addressed the issue of the production of nuclear weapons noting that the “production of nuclear and biological weapons is a treason against humanity”
- He alleged that “US forces have so far killed over 1.5 million innocent people across the world under the pretext of anti-terrorism campaign, while Iran arrested the terrorist gang leader Abdolmalek Rigi without hurting anyone”.

(Source: Iranian news website Parleman News, in Persian 0918 GMT, 6 May 2010)

- A prominent reformist figure criticized Tehran's Friday Prayer Imam Seyyed Ahmad Khatami for saying that the reformist Participation Front had intended to "overthrow" the system.
- According to the reformist website, Parleman News, in a letter addressed to the conservative cleric, the former secretary-general of the Islamic Iran Participation Front, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Khatami, said: "Mr Seyyed Ahmad Khatami! You are the interim Friday Imam of Tehran. The most important qualities that a Friday Prayer Imam should possess are fairness and piety. You have lost both of those qualities with what you have said. We hope that, at least, you already had them. "
- Khatami then added: "You claimed the Participation Front intended to overthrow [the system]. On the basis of what documents do you make such claims? Maybe you have seen the unfair sentences issued by the so-called courts for our friends who spent

months in solitary confinements and were under severe psychological pressures and at times tortured; and you know that none [of them] was tried and found guilty under such a charge [overthrowing the system]."

May 5, 2010

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1630 GMT, 5 May 2010)

- Students from across the country staged a rally outside the United Nations office in Tehran this morning in protest at the disrespectful and scurrilous position of the American president calling for nuclear strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- The students voiced slogans and carried posters condemning the American president's speech and expressed support for the [Iranian] president's revelatory speech at the NPT review conference at the United Nations in New York.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1345 GMT, 5 May 2010)

- [Ahmadinezhad]: "Threats and insecurity are rooted in the actions of certain governments and the weakness of controlling measures and organizations. Nuclear weapons are one of the key factors in the issue of threats and insecurity. Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons made and used so far and have been extensively stockpiled by those who have such weapons."
- "More than 40 years of international efforts to carry out nuclear disarmament didn't work and today, we can see that such weapons are proliferated to some rogue countries that do not respect any international law or regulation - these are the countries whose nature is warmonger-ism, aggression and occupation."
- "Not only do they consider themselves beyond those obligations, but also they believe they have the right to impose their own demands and views on the international community. Therefore, the last six conferences were not successful."
- "As I said, during the conference, the Islamic Republic of Iran offered clear suggestions to amend the treaty and to materialize disarmament."
- "Of course, we continued to witness that certain governments, particularly the American government, insisted on the failure of the conference or tried to divert the objectives of the conference. The Americans were and are still keen to divert attention from the issue of disarmament to vague and fake issues, which suddenly appear and disappear in the media for a few weeks but yet influence the decision-making atmosphere."
- "We believe that if the American government agrees to disarm, others that possess nuclear weapons will cooperate too."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1225 GMT, 5 May 2010)

- Iran's Representative to UN Mohammad-Reza Sajjadi alleged that "Spain should be held accountable for violation of human rights before world public opinion.". The issue was raised during a working group meeting on status of human rights in the world dubbed as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

- The Iranian envoy sharply criticized various cases of human rights violations in Spain and called for “immediate action by the Spanish government to this effect.”
- “Based on documented reports, Spain's airports as well as the country's air space are involved in a clandestine programme for arrest and handing over of terrorist suspects, he said and called for comprehensive and independent investigations to this end.”
- He also cited “cases as long term solitary confinement, tortures, harassment, ethnic and religious discriminations and trafficking of women and girls.”

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0720 GMT, 5 May 2010)

[Correction: Changing "US Jewish community" to "US anti-Zionist Jews" in headline; a corrected version follows:]

- “Iran's President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad met and conferred with a number of leaders of the US Jewish community here on Tuesday evening [4 May].” The president arrived in New York Monday to attend the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference at the UN headquarters.
- “The president appreciated efforts made by the Jewish group to uncover the real face of those who were trying to damage the religion for their own benefit through deceitful measures. President Ahmadinezhad called on all faith seekers across the globe to be united in order to build a world full of peace and tranquillity.”

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2305 GMT, 4 May 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad in an interview with US TV network "ABC" stressed that “Iran does not accept hard and illegal words.”
- He said that “the fact that certain countries which have atomic bombs want to stop Iran's peaceful nuclear programme is against NPT and international laws and they cannot deprive Iran of its legitimate right by force and threat.”
- "We are friends of the US nation, but when a country with 10,000 bombs in its arsenal is trying to place pressures on others and even on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), then we are against it."
- Iranian president added that “:according to NPT, those countries which own atomic weapons must be disarmed and according to the Article 4 of the treaty, all members are obliged to give enrichment technology and necessary materials to other members without condition and there is no reason to prevent enrichment and this is the exact text of the NPT and political pressures have no place.”
- "Those countries which stockpile bombs and threaten others are playing with fire. Who has atomic bombs? Who used it and who is threatening others? Iran or USA? Who is more dangerous?" the president asked.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2115 GMT, 4 May 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad in an interview with US daily "Boston Globe" on Tuesday [4 May] stressed that “the emergence of another resolution in the UN Security Council against Iran is equal to closure of Iran-US ties for ever.”

- "You do not know Iran. Iran is a big country and in our military doctrine, the Zionist regime has no position."
- Concerning relations between USA and Iran, he said that "in case of fair conditions with respect for us, we will be for recovering relations" [sentence as published].
- "We sent them good indications for recovering ties, but the response was not appropriate."

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1610 GMT, 4 May 2010)

- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast criticized the US secretary of states remarks at the NPT Review Conference in New York.
- "Clinton's remarks are meant to change the main subject. Those who have stockpiled thousands of nuclear weapons and threaten others with them make these remarks in order to change the subject," Mehmanparast told reporters at his weekly press briefing on Tuesday [4 May].
- "Escaping the stage does not solve any problems with regard to global security" he added.

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

- "Mas'ud Babapur a university student from the city of Garmsar, has been sentenced to two years in prison."
- According to the Daneshjoo News website, Babapur who has been in prison since 27 November 2009, was sentenced yesterday [3 May] to two years in prison by Judge Moghiseh. Babapur is a student activist and industrial engineering student at the University of Garmsar.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Tehran Provincial TV, Tehran, in Persian 1400 GMT, 4 May 2010)

- "Members of the General Assembly of commanders of the Tehran Student Basij Organization [paramilitary force] held a meeting today at the spy nest - the former US embassy in Tehran - with the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council [Sa'id Jalili] in attendance. The best attendees of Jihad and physical training camps were awarded during the meeting." [Paragraph as published]
- Jalili said that "the most important duty of the Student Basij Organization is to safeguard and expand this ideology".
- He described "Western media's interference with the aim of ascribing [to Iran] possession of nuclear weapons, support for terrorism, opposition to global peace and resistance to democracy and human rights as some of soft activities of enemies".
- He called on the Student Basij Organization to be "vigilant regarding these activities".

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1600 GMT, 3 May 2010)

- Ahmadinezhad began his [Nuclear Non-Proliferation] speech by noting that "Iran had accepted the nuclear swap proposal from the very beginning".

- "I want to tell them and you that we had accepted the swap from the very beginning, and I am announcing now that we accepted the swap," he said.
- "Unfortunately, since some states are distancing themselves from the teachings of divine prophets, the threat of nuclear bombs is looming over the world, and no-one feels secure," the Iranian president added.
- "The nuclear weapons, despite all the excuses with which it is produced and stored, are very dangerous, which makes the country that produces and keeps them insecure," Ahmadinezhad said. "The nuclear bomb is fire against humanity and not a defensive weapon. Having the nuclear bomb is not a source of pride, it is reprehensible and disgraceful, and it is even more disgraceful to threaten to use it and use it," he said.
- "Today's intellectual atmosphere of society is strongly influenced by the sense of threat and insecurity. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation failed, and the International Atomic Energy Agency failed in implementing its duties," he said.
- "Unfortunately, the American government has both used nuclear weapons and has threatened some countries, including my country, with them," Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said. "The Zionist regime also constantly threatens the countries of the Middle East," he added.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1600 GMT, 3 May 2010)

- In a speech at the UN NPT Review Conference in New York on 3 May, Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad noted: "The power of logic will overcome the logic of power, and bullying and bullies will have no place [in the world] in future. World nations have started their general movement in making fundamental reforms in international relations based on monotheism and justice. I invite Honourable American President Obama to join this humane movement today if he still abides by his motto of change, because tomorrow would be too late."

(Source: Iranian news website Kaleme in Persian 0632 GMT, 3 May 2010)

- Iran's opposition leader, Mirhoseyn Musavi, has said that "the reformist Green Movement will lift the veils of ignorance", Musavi's website, Kaleme reported
- The reformist leader reportedly commented on a number of issues including "new ways for connecting the body of the movement to the [reformist] leaders, the reformist parties' interaction with the people and specific regional issues."
- Concerning the media, Musavi said: "I am not optimistic about [the likelihood of any] opening in the atmosphere for [the activity of] free media." He reportedly considered internet as the most appropriate means for the exchange of information under the current conditions.
- The former prime minister of Iran commented on some of the accusations raised against the reformists and said: "they [presumably the principle-ists] are not realistic and are bugged down by the claims they have made themselves. They say the protesters are connected to foreigners and they conduct interrogations with the same attitude. This attitude might unify them at the moment. However, it cannot prevent the reality from becoming evident; as [their attitude] is not based on the truth."
- Elsewhere in his remarks, Musavi said: "It is impossible to deny the roots of this movement. This movement will lift the veils of ignorance. The greatest achievement

[of the reformist movement] is when [we see that] the nation reaches a consensus on various occasions. What matters is that this idea has been born."

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0155 GMT, 3 May 2010)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad alleged that "there is no need for Tehran to gain the trust of Western nations since Iran abides by international regulations."
- Iran has "practical, impartial and clear proposals for this conference" to help the "global security and disarmament," the president said on Sunday [2 May] upon his arrival at JFK airport.
- In response to a reporter's question on ways to gain the trust of Western nations on the nuclear question, Ahmadinezhad emphasized, "we should not offer ways to obtain their trust as Iran abides by the international law and acts within its framework," IRNA reported.
- "Disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy are two most important global issues," he added.
- "Under the pretext of nuclear non-proliferation, certain countries exert political pressure on those merely seeking to pursue peaceful enrichment activities," said the Iranian president.