

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
NOVEMBER 15 – 21, 2010
STACY TOPOUZOVA

NOVEMBER 21, 2010

STATE FACILTIATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0818 GMT, 21 November 2010)

- Tehran Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Commander Hoseyn Hamedani announced that 1,500 members of Basij Resistance Force have been trained as "cyber commandos", Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) reported.
- According to ILNA, in his comments on soft warfare, he said that: "media, cyber space and weblogs are the soft war tools... In confronting soft war, defense leads to defeat and one has to attack... Our cyber council is the best in Tehran and it has trained more than 1,500 cyber commandos."

NOVEMBER 20, 2010

STATE FACILTIATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English, 2228 GMT, 20 November 2010)

- A senior Iranian lawmaker asserted that "the recent Western-sponsored UN draft resolution, which accuses Iran of human rights violations, is non-binding and is just a propaganda move against Iran".
- "These resolutions and votes against the Islamic Republic are used as propaganda and are non-binding", MP Mostafa Tabataba'inezhad told IRNA
- The draft resolution was sponsored by Canada and supported by the United States, the European Union, and other Western countries.
- "More than 100 states have abstained or voted against the resolution of the Third Committee of the UN on alleged violations of human rights in Iran, North Korea, and Myanmar," Tabataba'inezhad added.
- "Only the domineering powers imposed their votes through Canada, and this indicated that there was no consensus on the issue," Tabataba'inezhad stated.
- "Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we have seen many of these resolutions, but we are not worried because they are politicized moves meant to pressure Iran in the international arena," he added.

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in Persian 1717 GMT, 20 November 2010)

- Two Kurdish civil activists Behruz Lajvard and Firuz Maleki were detained by security forces in Salmas. According to Kordestan Human Rights Watch, the families of the civil activists said that: "Despite the fact that almost three weeks have passed since their arrest, they have made no phone calls home and we have no information as to where they are being held."

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1346 GMT, 20 November 2010)

- An Iranian rights official has called on the US government to stop torturing and mistreating Iranian inmates in the country and allow them to exercise their legal rights.
- "The US government must allow these individuals to have access to lawyers," Javad Larijani said.
- "We have [received] reports that they have been under severe tortures, gone through long periods of interrogation, and their fate is still unclear," he added.
- "Of course we have a strong memory that over the past 30 years the UN has always acted in favor of the West," he added.
- "This means that the West has always used this organization (UN) to serve its own interests, and, hence, we are seriously determined to prevent this," said the top human rights official.

- Larijani went on to say that Iran stresses importance on issues of human rights.
- "The human rights issue is a serious and very important matter for Iran," he said.
- "Iran is determined to press ahead with the human rights issue and use it to set the stage for developing cultures, especially the Islamic culture, which is the basis of our civil-political establishment today," the senior human rights official said.

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian, 1059 GMT, 20 November 2010)

- The official websites of [Hushang] Golshiri [prominent writer 1937-2000] Foundation and Ahmad Shamlu [prominent poet, 1925-2000] has been blocked.
- In an interview with ILNA, Farzaneh Taheri (the head of Golshiri Foundation) confirmed the report and added: "I have personally heard from the media and my friends that the website had been filtered and I do not know the reason."
- Taheri added: "The website was not updated frequently. Sometimes, special issues [presumably newsletters] were released on the website."
- "The officials have not given us any information for the filtering of the website. I basically do not know how should I follow up the filtering of the website. However, since we are not able to launch a new website, we will follow up our activities through the same website."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0634 GMT, 20 November 2010)

- The judiciary chief in Iran's East Azerbaijan Province has said that no order has been issued yet to execute the sentence handed down on Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani, a woman sentenced to stoning on charges of murder and adultery, Fars news agency reported
- "If finalized, the stoning verdict for Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani will be enforced," Fars news agency quoted Hojjat ol-Eslam Malek Azhdar-Sharifi as saying. He added that adultery had become popular in the world and Ashtiani was sentenced to stoning for betraying her husband.
- The chief of the East Azarbayjan judiciary said that Ashtiani's case was currently being examined by judiciary officials in Tehran, Fars reported.

NOVEMBER 18, 2010

PRIVATELY FACILTIATED MEDIA SOURCE

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

- The sister of imprisoned journalist Abdolreza Tajik has been sentenced to a year and a half in prison.
- According to the Free Journalists website, Judge Moqiseh of branch 28 of Tehran's revolutionary court has sentenced Parvin Tajik to a year and a half in prison, based on charges of "acting against the establishment and creating anxiety for public opinion."

(Source: Reporters Sans Frontieres press release, Paris, in English 18 November 2010)

- The world's youngest detained blogger, 18-year-old Navid Mohebbi, is currently being tried behind closed doors before a revolutionary court in the northern city of Amol.
- His lawyer is not being allowed to attend the trial, which began on 14 November.
- Arrested at his home in Amol on 18 September by eight intelligence ministry officials, Mohebbi is facing the possibility of a long prison sentence. A women's rights activist who keeps a blog called "The writings of Navid Mohebbi" (<http://navidmohebbi3.blogfa.com/>), he had been summoned and questioned several times by various intelligence services in the past year.
- Mohebbi has been accused of "activities contrary to national security" and "insulting the Islamic Republic's founder and current leader (...) [Ellipsis as published] by means of foreign media." He has also been accused of being member of the "One Million Signatures" movement, a campaign to collect signatures to a petition for changes to laws that discriminate against women.

- He is serving a one-year sentence on charges of "disseminating false information attacking the government" and "discrediting the Shiite clergy." He went on hunger strike last year in protest against his prison conditions and sent an open to UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon.

NOVEMBER 17, 2010

STATE FACILTIATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English, 1040 GMT, 17 November 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad conferred with his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev on issues of mutual interest:
- In the meeting, the Iranian president called on the two countries to adopt a unified stand in dealing with regional and global developments.
- "I am quite confident that the visit will help deepen and broaden amicable ties between the two nations," he said. President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad left Tehran for Baku on Wednesday morning to attend the summit of Caspian Sea littoral states. Heads of Caspian Sea littoral state in their third meeting in Baku try to draw up a suitable legal regime for the Sea in order to make proper use of natural resources for these five littoral states.

NOVEMBER 16, 2010

STATE FACILTIATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Tabnak news website, in Persian, 1850 GMT, 16 November 2010)

- The website of the US-based Farsi one channel has been hacked by the Iranian state "cyber-army" the Iranian Tabnak website reported
- "The report was attached with a picture published on the Farsi1 website by the Iranian cyber army. The picture with the green background and Iranian flags captioned Iranian Cyber Army in both Persian and English languages."
- "It contained the Id al-Adha congratulations and an address: Robert Murdoch, the Mohseni family and their Zionist partners should know: They will take to the grave the desire of demolishing the basis of families in Iran"

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1355 GMT, 16 November 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad called for the restoration of security in Pakistan. He noted that it is of "prime importance and all should strive to help replace extremism with genuine Islamic way of thinking inspired by Great Prophet Mohammad (PBUH [peace be upon him])."
- "The Islamic Republic of Iran fully backs Pakistan and during the recent massive floods which devastated the country, Iran extended humanitarian assistance and is willing to continue with helping the victims in the future," President Ahmadinezhad said.
- "Iran and Pakistan would cooperate on international issues and helping the oppressed nations worldwide."

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English, 0855 GMT, 16 November 2010)

- Speaker of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Ali Larijani alleged that foreign powers were not after restoring peace and security to the region.
- Commenting on the Western troops' presence in the region, Larijani said that "the latest terrorist acts in Pakistan have become 'an excuse for foreign powers to meddle in' the regional affairs."
- The speaker stressed that "regional countries with joint historical roots and a history of lasting democracy should have further cooperation in the field of security affairs in order to help restore peace and security to the region."

(Source: Iranian news website Parlemannews, in Persian, 0440 GMT, 16 November 2010)

- According to Parlemannews, the spokesman of the Majlis minority faction (also known as Followers of Imam's Line) Daryush Qanbari, confirmed that the members of the pro-reform parliamentary faction met with a group of the relatives of political prisoners and the families of the 2009-post-election detainees on 15 November.
- Qanbari said: "Unfortunately, the rights of the detainees are not appropriately observed and they are unofficially exposed to lots of psychological pressures. Many of the detainees who suffer from physical problems are not even allowed to receive medical treatment, and such cases raise concern."
- The MP added: "More than a year after the [presidential] election in Khordad 88 [June 2009], no sentence has been issued yet for many of the detainees, and the families of these detainees have asked the Faction of the Followers of Imam's Line to report the situation of the detainees to legal sources and to pursue their cases."
- "It is an inalienable right of someone who is charged to know what his offence is and, unfortunately, this right is not observed in Iran."

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

STATE FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: ISNA website, Tehran, in Persian, 0645 GMT, 15 November 2010)

- Tehran's prosecutor Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi has defended granting leave to political prisoners, ISNA reported on 15 November.
- ISNA, Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi said: "The policy of Tehran's Prosecutor office in granting leave [to the detainees] is in accordance with the judiciary's laws and directives, and when they [detainees] ask for leave, their behavior is examined. We need to consider the behavior of those who are on charge in order to take corrective steps. For instance, we need to see if they have acted in accordance with their promises. When it is confirmed that an individual or individuals [detainees] have returned to the cycle of corrigibility and when they admit that they had been following the wrong direction, the prosecutor can help them therefore, granting leave to detainees - and specifically to the security-related detainees who have stepped onto the path of repentance and corrigibility - not only is not incompatible with the law, but also is a policy that can separate the detainees from the camp of sedition [post 2009-election protests] and counterrevolutionaries."
- Tehran's prosecutor added: "Some of the detainees are currently used as an instrument for countering the Islamic Republic and we can foil their [the enemies'] plan by separating this group from the sedition camp."
- Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi also said that seven individuals on espionage charges are waiting for their trial. He also commented on the "rumors" about Mehdi Hashemi (son of the Expediency Council's chief, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani) who is said will be arrested as soon as he enters Iran. Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi said: "His case is open in the Martyr Moqaddas Prosecutor Office and if he returns to Iran he will be definitely arrested and put on trial"

(Source: Iranian news website RAHANA, in Persian, 0533 GMT, 15 November 2010)

- The chairwoman for youth affairs under the headquarters of Iranian reformist leader Mirhoseyn Musavi was detained in Fars Province on 14 November, the Human Rights News Agency of Iran reported on 15 November.
- Zeinab Bahreini was arrested in Shiraz, centre of Fars Province, at her flat.