

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2010
STACY TOPOUZOVA

OCTOBER 24, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1645 GMT, 24 October 2010)

- Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i urged the Basij volunteer forces to avoid carrying out extremist actions: "It is essential for Basijis to refrain from extremism in practice, because extremist action is as harmful as inaction," the Leader said in an address to a gathering of Basij members in Qom on Sunday [24 October].
- The revolutionary zeal of the Basiji youth should grow every day, but they should be careful to use it appropriately, he stated.
- "Today, one of the main objectives of the enemies, in line with their soft war, is distorting the truth about the country," he said.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1505 GMT, 24 October 2010)

- Asadollah Badamchiyan, the deputy head of the Principle-ist Islamic Coalition Party, has said if the government seeks to restore national unity, opposite [opposition] voices should be also heard.
- "We can listen to dissenting voices. If officials want to impose their views on people and do not listen to (criticisms), the unity is undermined," Badamchiyan told Mehr News Agency in an interview published on Sunday [24 October].
- "Our faith in God and preservation of unity were the causes of the victory of the (Islamic) Revolution."
- "Unfortunately, some people shout the slogan of unity, but in practice do not keep to their word."

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0600 GMT, 24 October 2010)

- After the EU renewed efforts to resume long-stalled nuclear talks with Iran, an Iranian lawmaker recommended that the West accept the Islamic Republic's preconditions.
- "The West should know that Iran is not after nuclear weapons at all and will never give up its nuclear rights and the suspension of uranium enrichment," IRNA quoted Vali Esma'ili as saying on Saturday [23 October].
- "So, the West had better accept Iran's preconditions for nuclear talks," he further explained.
- Esma'ili added that the Islamic Republic would accept no preconditions but would set conditions which should be the base for future talks on the nuclear case.

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

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

- According to the Free Journalists website, Mahsa Amrabadi, wife of imprisoned journalist Mas'ud Bastani has been sentenced to a year in prison by unit 28 of the Revolutionary Court

headed by Judge Moghiseh. Amrabadi is being charged with acting against the Islamic establishment through "interviewing and reporting."

- Amrabadi's husband Mas'ud Bastani has been in prison for more than a year without a single day of leave. He has been sentenced to six years in prison and a fine of more than 36,000 dollars.

OCTOBER 23, 2010

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran, in Persian 0943 GMT, 23 October 2010)

- The defense lawyer of the three Americans [Mas'ud Shafi'i] accused of espionage confirmed that the trial of these three Americans accused [of espionage] will be convened on 6 November at Bench 15 of The Revolutionary Tribunal presided over by Judge Salavati.
- According to the basis of Article 188 of the Penal Code, all court cases, apart from those in exceptional circumstances, have to be open. Given the peculiarities of this case I think that it will be closed.
- Espionage and illegal entry into Iran are the charges that have been served against these three individuals.

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 23 October 2010)

- Two Kurdish citizens have been sentenced to prison for collaborating with anti-regime groups. The Saghez Revolutionary Court has sentenced Diyako Sattari and Amir Amanian to prison.
- Reports indicate that the two individuals who are held in Saghez Central Prison have been convicted of collaborating with anti-regime groups.

OCTOBER 22, 2010

PRIVATELY-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1145 GMT, 22 October 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad told the Saudi Arabian king that the aim of his visit to Lebanon last week was to invite Lebanese to maintain unity.
- Ahmadinezhad described King Abdallah's visit to Lebanon in July as "positive", saying "we too travelled to Lebanon so the efforts to create unity and solidarity there are complete."
- "In this trip, I talked to all of our Lebanese brothers about maintaining unity and they welcomed it," Ahmadinezhad explained.

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0800 GMT, 22 October 2010)

- The Greater Tehran Police chief confirmed that more than 20,000 "illegal and indecent" CDs have been seized and a police operation is still under way.
- "Tehran Police has recently intensified its measures because of an increase in anti-cultural activities in the capital Tehran in the current year."
- "An Iranian national as well as two nationals of Bangladesh have been detained in connection with the case, and 30,000 pieces of satellite equipment have been seized from them.
- "During an operation more than 20,000 illegal and indecent CDs were found and 11 people were arrested in connection with the case."

OCTOBER 21, 2010

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 21 October 2010)

- The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Iranian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LDDHI) make public today a report on discrimination against ethnic communities and religious minorities in Iran.
- The report, entitled "The Hidden Face of Iran", highlights an unknown aspect of Iran: the severe discrimination faced by ethnic communities and religious minorities in every domain/area.
- "Iran is a real mosaic: the country has many minorities - Azeris, Kurds, Arabs and Baluchis, among others constitute the population of entire provinces of the country, although there are no official statistics on the composition of the population; such a subject is taboo for the authorities," said Karim Lahidji, vice-President of FIDH and President of LDDHI.
- "Religious minorities also face discrimination in addition to being victims of persecution such as through arbitrary detention, extrajudicial executions, destruction of cemeteries and holy places," he added.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0249 GMT, 21 October 2010)

- According to the report, Ahmadinezhad referred to the proximity between the stands of Tehran and Caracas on governing inside their own countries, as well as the world management, arguing, "The significance of such shared and close stands is doubly as important keeping in mind that the hegemonic powers are moving fast towards a fast downfall."
- He added, "Both sides on the one hand are resisting against the bullying of the global oppression and on the other hand determined for overthrowing the unjust ruling system of the world and the establishment of a new world order based on the rules of justice."
- He added, "Through such cooperation we are expanding the dimensions of our unified will towards the establishment of a new world order based on justice and equality of all nations."
- Iran and Venezuela signed 11 agreements in Tehran late Wednesday [20 October]

OCTOBER 20, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Sistan-Baluchestan Provincial TV, Zahedan in Persian 1850 GMT, 20 October 2010)

- The governor-general of Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province alleged that foreign military presence in neighboring countries is the main factor undermining security in the province. He noted that Iran's "most dangerous enemies" are based in neighboring Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- "The situation in the world and in neighboring countries is not secure, especially in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Our most dangerous enemies and people who are hostile to us are based behind our borders," Azad said at a ceremony to commemorate the first anniversary of the 10 October 2009 bomb attack which killed several top military officials.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1839 GMT, 20 October 2010)

- "The Americans easily worked in Afghanistan and Pakistan, NATO set up bases there and many intelligence services have been active in this region," he said.
- Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the resistance of the Iranian nation against the arrogant powers derives from their "feeling of strength" and national self-confidence.
- He also noted that Iran's success is the result of the might which has been attained through belief in martyrdom and sacrifice, not through the possession of money, financial resources, or nuclear weapons.
- Pointing to the plots devised by Iran's enemies since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the leader said their plots failed in the past and will fail in the future.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1530 GMT, 20 October 2010)

- A top official of the Islamic Azad University has announced that several secularist professors of the university have been identified and removed.
- "We had received some reports about these faculty members and advised them against (this approach), but they did not change their behavior and removed them," Karim Zare', the representative of the Islamic Azad University in the Majlis, told the Mehr News Agency on Wednesday [20 October].
- The official emphasized that the university will increase its control over the performance of professors to make sure they do not deviate from the right path.
- He also called on students not to accept the views of the professors who promote secularism in classes.

OCTOBER 19, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1455 GMT, 19 October 2010)

- The Intelligence Ministry will deal with attempts aimed at disrupting the national economy, Deputy Intelligence Minister Majid Alavi has said.
- "Today's priority is identifying those people who seek to disrupt the economy" Alavi said
- "Today, enemies have targeted the country's economy by imposing sanctions and putting Iran under economic pressure" he noted.
- "In many cases, those involved in corruption have political justifications "and it makes legal proceedings on the corruption cases lengthier and more difficult" he explained.

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0230 GMT, 19 October 2010)

- At a meeting with the deputy secretary-general of Syria's Ba'ath Party, the chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said that resistance was the only way for the people of Palestine to attain their rights. He added that the aim of the reconciliation talks was to strengthen the position of the Zionist regime in the region.
- Ali Larijani noted growing Islamic awakening among Muslim nations and the concern of arrogant powers about this process, saying that the resistance and strength of Iran and Syria play a special role in changing the situation in favour of the Resistance front and in establishing stability in the region.

- Two Baha'i citizens were detained in the city of Tonekabon: Vahid Salim-Ighani and Mr. Qaderi were detained in the morning by the Tonekabon Intelligence Ministry authorities. They were transferred to the Prosecutor's Office and interrogated by the security officials.
- They were transferred to the Sari Prison after the interrogations and there has been no news as to their condition since then.
- The two citizens have not been indicted and nothing has been announced to their families in regards to the charges.

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 19 October 2010)