

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
OCTOBER 25 – 31, 2010
STACY TOPOUZOVA

OCTOBER 31, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in Persian 1347 GMT, 31 October 2010)

- Iran's Revolutionary Court sentenced a lawyer and founding member of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre to nine years imprisonment
- Mohammad Seyfzadeh was sentenced on 30 October to nine years of imprisonment and 10 years of disbarment on charges of "acting against national security" and establishing the Defenders of Human Rights Centre, the report said.
- The Defenders of Human Rights Centre was founded in 2002 by a number of prominent Iranian lawyers. The centre defends political prisoners of conscience and is critical of human rights violations in the country. The centre also supports the families of detained political activists, the website said.

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in Persian 0855 GMT, 31 October 2010)

- A court in the Iranian city of Shiraz, capital of the southern Fars Province, has sentenced to death three people for "waging war against God", the Human Rights House of Iran (Rahana) website reported on 31 October.
- The three are members of the Roushanfekr [Intellectual] network, the website said. They committed an armed robbery in 2005. Following an investigation, they were found guilty of being "mohareb" (a person waging war against God) and were sentenced to death, the report said.

OCTOBER 30, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1806 GMT, 30 October 2010)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that his recent visit to Lebanon has changed political balances in the region.
- "I think that first of all the visit has consolidated the unity among the nations in the region. The pace of regional integration has accelerated in the region among both the governments and nations. It [visit] displayed the power of the nations in the region to the enemies. In fact, it changed all political balances of power in the region."
- "The people of Lebanon were in fact the embodiment of the people in the region. The visit has changed all [political] balances. They [the big powers] have realized and become sure that they have no place in our region. They have to withdraw from the region as well as from other places in the world."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 0559 GMT, 30 October 2010)

- Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyni has said that the launch of numerous channels in Persian is a new Western method in the soft war against Iran, Fars new agency reported

- "The enemies of Islamic Iran have inferred that the launch of political Persian-language channels has no effect on the Iranian nation. Thus, they intend to undermine people's faith gradually by establishing channels that air films and serials in Persian," Hoseyni said at a meeting in Khuzestan Province to commemorate Iran-Iraq war victims on 29 October. "This is a graphic example of the soft war launched against our country," he said.
- The establishment of Persian-language channels is the West's strategy, and cultural figures bear huge responsibility for defending the country from the "soft war", Fars quoted him as saying.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0445 GMT, 30 October 2010)

- Tehran Police Commander General Hoseyn Sajedinia has reported on the beginning of the neighborhood watch plan since this morning in 800 places in Tehran.
- He said: So far 2,000 places have been identified where criminals are active at the neighborhood level.
- Concurrent to the start of the neighborhood watch plan in Tehran on Saturday [30 October] morning, Sajedinia said: The neighborhood watch plan has started in 800 places in Tehran with the deployment of operational forces. People want crimes to be controlled at the neighborhood level and therefore they have asked for the implementation of the neighborhood watch plan in the second half of the year.
- During today's plan, more than 2,000 neighborhoods will be purged of active criminals.

OCTOBER 28, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCES

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in Persian 1208 GMT, 28 October 2010)

- The 26th branch of the Revolutionary Court, presided over by judge Pirabbasi, has sentenced human rights activist Parisa Kaka'i to six years in prison.
- Parisa Kaka'i has been sentenced to 5 years in prison for "participating in gatherings and conspiracy to disturb the national security" and one year imprisonment for "anti-regime propaganda".
- Parisa Kaka'i was detained on 1 January after being summoned to the Intelligence Ministry and was released on 17 February from the Evin Prison.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0835 GMT, 28 October 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said Thursday [28 October] that change of international systems was a must for materialization of Iran's 20-year Development Plan.
- He made the remarks in his address to a national gathering on the role of strategic management in actualization of the 20-year Development Plan. "Materialization of this plan depends on Iran's progress and Iran's progress depends on the progress of other nations. These two issues are intertwined," the President stressed.

(Source: Javan newspaper, Tehran in Persian 28 October 2010, p 2)

Text of short unattributed report under Urgent column headlined "Dastgheyb's scenario for showing himself as oppressed" published by Iranian newspaper Javan on 28 October

- “The agents of the sedition think-tank recently gathered at the Qoba Mosque in Shiraz, which is affiliated to Ali-Mohammad Dastgheyb, to plan a scenario that would weaken the Basij [Iran paramilitary troops] in the public opinion. However, they failed.”
- According to Javan's report, the think-tank of sedition agents in Shiraz planned a scenario on the basis of which a group of Qoba Mosque agents would carry out a mock strike. During the process, a group similar to the appearance of the Basiji would hit at these Qoba Mosque's agents. Two other people would film the fake strike by a professional camera from the overpass nearby. However, due to the awareness of the security officers, all the agents of the scenario have been arrested.
- It is noteworthy that they were going to send this video to the BBC and counter-revolutionary network of Voice of America [VOA].

OCTOBER 27, 2010

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1852 GMT, 27 October 2010)

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i has said that "the enemies" are trying to transform the city of Qom into a base for anti-revolutionaries. Addressing members of the Iranian cabinet and provincial officials in the city of Qom on 27 October, the leader talked about the importance of serving the people and making an Endeavour to resolve their problems. Khamene'i also warned against the "enemies' plots" against the city of Qom. The following is the text of the leader's comments a recording of which was broadcast by state-run Iranian TV channel one on the same day:

- Over the years of the [1979] Revolution, one of the propaganda plans that the enemy tried to implement was to undermine the signs and symbols of the revolution and Islam. They tried to undermine everything that represents Islam and the Revolution on a national scale. That is why they undercut and mock the clerics. That is why several people undercut, scorn and distort lots of the Islamic teachings. And that is why they [the enemies] undercut Qom. They have plans for Qom.
- As I said in another meeting yesterday [26 October], the enemy had decided to make the antithesis of the revolution here and to turn Qom into a base for counter-revolutionaries. They worked hard and made plans for this purpose. They tried various ways and methods. They tried to influence the thoughts and emotions of the people of Qom. They assumed they could quell the flame of people's emotions or dampen their feelings.
- Over these years, many plans have been carried out. The fact that you see people have reacted to these numerous hostile plans and attempts with such passion - an example of which is the legend that the people of Qom created during these few days [presumably, he means their enthusiasm in welcoming the leader] -is because they are vigilant. This is a sign of the power of religious faith in their hearts. As for the enemy, they tried every way and every means they could think of to undercut you.

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1135 GMT, 27 October 2010)

- A senior Iranian lawmaker has dismissed as baseless a US media report claiming that Iran sent "bags of money" to Afghan President Hamed Karzai to secure his loyalty.

- "The United States tells big lies in a bid to harm the Islamic Republic's relations with its neighbouring states", Head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Iran's Majlis (parliament) Ala'eddin Borujerdi told reporters
- "We welcome the increase of aid to Afghanistan because it will reduce the Afghan immigration rate," he continued.
- The Iranian politician reiterated that the bribery report has been refuted both by the Afghan government and the Iranian embassy in Kabul.

(Source: Jam-e Jam website, Tehran, in Persian 27 October 2010)

- The prosecutor of Tehran Abbas Ja'fari-Dowlatabadi pointed to the case of two spy case files that were prepared to be sent to the court
- "Besides the five cases of spies, which were announced earlier, these two cases are also ready to be sent to the court. These two individuals have had links with the intelligence agencies of the Zionist regime and had received some money to transfer information to these agencies."
- "Another one was involved with some domestic issues and I cannot reveal more details here. He was arrested for security reasons and therefore, I cannot reveal the details related to this issue."

OCTOBER 26, 2010

STATE-FACILITATED MEDIA SOURCE

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1445 GMT, 26 October 2010)

- Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i has said that the nation should be vigilant and insightful because the enemy is still seeking to undermine the Islamic system.
- "When the global arrogance continues to hatch plots (against the Islamic system) despite back-to-back defeats they have suffered, it shows that the bullying powers are not still disappointed," Ayatollah Khamene'i said in an address to a gathering of university students and professors in Qom on Tuesday [26 October].
- "And some people in the country intentionally or unintentionally repeat and relay the enemy's propaganda," he added.