

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
SEPTEMBER 13 – 19, 2010
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SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

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

- Journalist, blogger and civil rights activist Hamid Mafi has been sentenced to five years in prison by the Qazvin Revolutionary Court.
- In addition to the five-year prison term, the Qazvin Revolutionary Court had sentenced Hamid Mafi to eight months in prison.
- According to the Committee of Human Rights Reporters, Mafi had been arrested on 9 February at his work in the Island of Qeshm. He was released on a 100,000-dollar bail after 13 days.
- He had also been arrested on 11 March 2008 and was released after 10 days on a 50,000-dollar bail.
- Hamid Mafi was born in 1979 and has graduated with a degree in industrial management. He started his career in journalism with Hadis, a local publication in Qazvin. He had also written for Farhang va Ashti and has published many articles in Sharq, E'temad, Kargozaran and E'temad-e Melli newspapers.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0845 GMT, 17 September 2010)

- "An Iranian internet group, Ashyaneh, hacked a group of US official websites following torching of copies of Holy Koran by an extremist group in the US and desecration of Islamic sanctities there". (Direct excerpt)
- "The website says since interest in Islam and Islamic ideology has been growing worldwide over recent years, enemies turned to burning the holiest divine book, Koran."
- "Such an act will not dishearten Muslims the least, rather will make beliefs in the book firmer and more attentions will be shifted towards it as a result." Director of Ashyaneh website said the project has started from Thursday [16 September] and will go on until Friday afternoon.
- "Thus far we have been able to hack more than 500 US official websites, the most important of which being Florida State official website (where church of Terry Jones is located)," said the official, adding that Ashyaneh Group will by late Friday infiltrate into more than 1,000 US official websites.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1815 GMT, 16 September 2010)

- Khamene'i addressed the public and noted that "the situation in the country is satisfactory", but the officials should "not ignore the sound of alarms and disregard awakening events such as the recent insults to the holy Koran".
- Referring to post-election protests, he said that the "post-election events were also an alarming sound warning the government against dangers". He urged officials to "remain vigilant".
- "The West feels that its dominance over Muslims has been shaken."
- "Iran has been under numerous attacks against its identity in the past three decades". He said "organized efforts have been made to create doubt in the people about the principles of the Revolution. However, the people and the officials have resisted and won", he added.

- The leader reiterated that “Pressures from the enemies and difficult situations have not weakened the country” ...”Western pressures are futile and "doomed to failure" ...”Clerics and the elite have a duty to keep the people's hopes alive.”
- Finally, Khamene'i talked about the “importance of culture”, stressing the promotion of “accountability, discipline, cooperation, avoiding waste, honesty, Islamic solidarity”...He stressed that “the media are important in promoting culture but [that] it is the duty of clerics and seminaries to carry the torch.”

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 2359 GMT, 15 September 2010)

- Iranian Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki stressed that “enhanced cooperation between Iran and African countries can help establish peace and security in the world.”
- He said that various areas of cooperation between Tehran and the African countries were studied during the two-day forum and called “for the gathering a creative step towards the development of relations.”

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1355 GMT, 15 September 2010)

- Iran's Cartoon House called on world cartoonists to participate in an online exhibition, which aims to censure the desecration of the Koran in the US
- The exhibit will be held on the themes of "devil against holy books", "devil against human nature" and "Terry Jones".
- "The exhibit was arranged to invite cartoonists from all over the world to give a firm response to their brazen repugnant act," Masud Shoja'i Tabataba'i, director of Iran's Cartoon House said in a press release on Wednesday [15 September].

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0610 GMT, 15 September 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad called “Iran-Sudan relations deep, brotherly, and strategic,” adding that “Iran will defend rights of Sudanese nation and government everywhere.”
- According to the report of Presidential Office website on Tuesday [14 September], on the sidelines of Iran-Africa Forum, President Ahmadinezhad received Sudanese Foreign Minister Ahmad Ali Karti and told him that “Iran condemns colonial views of hegemonic powers in Sudan and believes that former colonialists are still following the same aims of the past with claims on human rights”. He said that “hegemonic system will never want to see any powerful and big country in the world, so, with different methods they confront independent and freedom seeking nations.”

(Source: Iranian news website Rahana, in English 15 September 2010)

- In the past week, five Kurdish activists have been arrested in Ravansar and transferred to an unknown location.
- According to RAHANA reporter, the whereabouts of the five are unknown and thus far, family members have not been able to visit them.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1801 GMT, 14 September 2010)

- Iran's envoy to Baghdad has stressed that “Tehran backs the swift formation of a new government in Iraq, dismissing allegations of Iranian interference in the war-torn country.”

- "The formation of a government in Iraq is an internal affair and we are not meddling in it. We hope that the new Iraqi government is formed as soon as possible," Mehr news agency quoted Hasan Dana'ifar as saying on Tuesday [14 September].
- "Iran has no red lines over the ascension of al-Iraqiyah alliance leader Iyad Allawi to the post of prime minister," he added. "Iran does not object to the formation of a government in Iraq, but supports it."

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 1702 GMT, 14 September 2010)

- An Iranian top cleric suggested that the country's president be elected by the parliament or the Assembly of Experts rather than by direct public voting.
- The proposal came from Ayatollah Shahrudi, a cleric considered to be close to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i, on the first day of the two-day session of the Assembly of Experts, a deliberative body charged with electing and removing the supreme leader, Mehr news agency reports.
- Another issue discussed during the session was a statement made by the presidential aid Rahim-Masha'i about a month ago. Rahim-Masha'i called for the promotion of Iranian school instead of Islamic school. Speaking at the session, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bahrami and Ayatollah Beheshti criticized his idea, Mehr reported.
- "The notion of Iranian school, instead of Islamic school, is a perpetuation of ideas that seek to belittle the role of the Islamic Republic in the country's progress," Bahrami was quoted as saying.

(Source: Al-Arabiya TV, Dubai, in Arabic 1015 GMT, 14 September 2010)

- "Reformist [Opposition leader] Musavi's office manager has been arrested," an Al-Arabiya caption read at 1015 gmt.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1654 GMT, 13 September 2010)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad has said that the world is still ruled by former colonialists and slaveholders, Fars news agency reported.
- "Governance of the world is under the control of a limited number of countries which have a dark past in the era of colonialism and slavery, and today, too, they oppose the progress of independent states and have formed all international structures on this basis," Mahmud Ahmadinezhad said at a meeting with his Malawian counterpart.
- "Iran and Malawi can expand ties in the economy, industry, science, agriculture and health and cooperate within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement and other independent international organizations" Fars quoted Ahmadinezhad as saying.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1140 GMT, 13 September 2010)

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani threatened that "the US must wait for a crushing response by the world Muslims in case sacrilege to the Islamic sanctities continues."
- In a message to his Muslim counterparts all over the world, he strongly criticized "the insult to the holy Koran. If Washington does not abandon support for these savage acts, it must expect a crushing response by the world Muslims", he added.