

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT
SEPTEMBER 20 – 26, 2010
STACY TOPOUZOVA

September 26, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1700 GMT, 26 September 2010)

- Senior lawmaker Mohammad Reza Bahonar leveled allegations against the administration, alleging that it “resorts to every available means to evade an implementation of laws it does not like.”
- The veteran MP made the remarks at a meeting of the Islamic Society of Engineers late on Saturday [25 September].
- Bahonar went on to say that the changes made by the special Majlis committee to the Fifth Development Plan (2010-2015) were “actually intended to realize the goals of the subsidy reform plan, Article 44 of the Constitution, and reformation of the consumption patterns.”

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1053 GMT, 26 September 2010)

- More than 600 contract [Kharid Khedmati] teachers gathered outside the Majlis this morning [26 September] in protest against the Education Ministry's refusal to renew their contracts.
- The teachers protested against the Education Ministry's new policies regarding the issue of validation document [este'lam] and the management of human resources.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1010 GMT, 26 September 2010)

- A senior member of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) cautioned that “a probe into the 9/11 events would benefit the US.”
- "If the US prevents an investigation into the 9/11 terrorist attacks, it will put under question the performance of Washington and the Zionist lobby," Head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Ala'eddin Borujerdi told IRNA.
- He made the remarks in response to the recent proposal of President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad at the UN General Assembly on September 23. The Iranian President argued for the “formation of a fact-finding committee to probe into the 9/11 events” and emphasized that “some segments of the US government could be involved in the terrorist attacks. “

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0812 GMT, 26 September 2010)

- Following the Iranian president's comments on the need for a 9/11 inquiry, a top military adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution alleged that “the CIA and Mossad were involved in the attacks.”
- "The US and the Zionists developed the strategy of the September 11 attacks in an effort to counter the Islamic vigilance and to control energy resources in the Middle East," IRNA quoted Brigadier General Yahya Rahim-Safavi as saying on Saturday [25 September].

- He further added that “Al-Qa'idah and its leader Usamah Bin-Ladin did not possess the essential intelligence capacity anywhere near the level of CIA, Pentagon and the FBI in order to conduct the surprise attacks against sensitive centres in the United States on September 11.”

September 25, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0812 GMT, 26 September 2010)

- Iran's interior minister cautioned that “the enemies of the country are trying to harm the sacred establishment of the Islamic Republic through creating religious and tribal discord”.
- The enemies are trying to create a rift among people and damage their solidarity by raising issues such as Shi'i and Sunni, Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar said on Saturday [25 September].
- "The enemy does not know that such criminal actions only increase the unity and solidarity of the people with the establishment," ISNA quoted Mohammad-Najjar as saying.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1540 GMT, 25 September 2010)

- Deputy Culture Minister for Cinematic Affairs Javad Shamaqdari confirmed that “Asghar Farhadi's latest remarks forced them [the authorities] to revoke the production license for his film Separation of Nader and Simin.”
- "He was given a one-week opportunity to retract his remarks, but he refused to do so and consequently, the decision was made about his film," Shamaqdari said.
- He added: "People deserve to know why a filmmaker is encouraged and why he or she faces a ban," Shamaqdari noted.

Privately-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: The Green Voice of Freedom website, en.irangreenvoice.com, in English 25 September 2010)

- The so-called “Iranian Cyber Army” confirmed that it “has been able to hack the domains of two major opposition websites Kaleme and Jaras.”
- The official website of opposition leader Mirhoseyn Musavi and another popular Green Movement website Jaras were hacked by a group called the Iranian Cyber Army, they confirmed.
- Radio Zamaneh had also been previously hacked

September 24, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 1632 GMT, 24 September 2010)

- President Ahmadinezhad criticized US statesmen “for trying to shape public opinion through pressurizing the media.”
- In remarks made at a press conference in New York on 24 September and broadcast by the Iranian state TV's news channel, Ahmadinezhad said: "I have great respect for you, reporter, those involved in the media, and for those who participate in the valuable task of information dissemination. However, during this trip, as one of my friends pointed out, I

had interviews with some of the American media. I know that reporters are after the truth and like to publish the truth... I also know that there are people at media centers who decide what news should be published and how they should be published; even what questions should be asked. You might find it interesting to know that in all the interviews I had with the America media, the questions were the same only in different orders. I would like to ask those who are responsible not to pressurize reporters and media and avoid imposing their views on the media. The interesting thing was that the questions were coordinated with the stances of the American State Department. Can we believe that there will be freedom of speech and media in America one day?... I am addressing those who are sitting in rooms and think that they should shape public opinion. Instead of reflecting public opinion, they want to shape public opinion. This is very bad but I think that the time for this kind of behaviour has come to an end. The era of an official making a decision and then imposing his decision through media pressure has come to an end. Like the war in Iraq... "

September 23, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2014 GMT, 23 September 2010)

- New York, 23 September: Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad said in his address to the 65th UN General Assembly today that occupation of other countries under pretext of imposing freedom and democracy is an 'unforgivable crime'...that "the world needs logic of kindness, justice and public cooperation instead of logic of power, monopoly, unilateralism, war and threat"...
- "...the United Nations is considered as the most important coordinating centre for joint global management," adding that "the UN should be restructured in such a way that all independent governments and nations have an active and constructive role in the global management."
- "...the Zionist regime has so far imposed five all-out wars on its neighbors and the Palestinian nation."

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0028 GMT, 23 September 2010)

- Iran signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which seeks to ban the use of children in armed conflicts.
- The Protocol serves to ensure that nobody under 18 will be forced to fight in war or be pressed into military service.
- "As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the signing of the Optional Protocol demonstrates Iran's commitment to defending children's rights within the framework of Islamic and local regulations," Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki said at the treaty signing ceremony on Tuesday [21 September].

September 22, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Javan, Tehran, in Persian 22 September 2010, p 2)

- Seyed Mohammad Khatami, stressing on the need for separation of the Reformist Front from the Green Movement, discussed his latest strategies with his advisors.
- According to a report by "Javan" [newspaper], Seyyed Mohammad Khatami emphasized that "revival of reforms" is the most important and most effective measure to consider for the reformists to continue with their activities in the political and social spheres.
- He explained that reconstruction of the reformists' forces in the political arena must be considered seriously. He also said that till now, [Mirhosyen] Musavi and [Mehdi] Karrubi have stained the Reformists Front's integrity in a huge way and that separation from these two people is a measure that needs to be taken by the reformists to prevent what he called "wastage of capabilities".

September 21, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ardabil Provincial TV, Ardabil, in Persian 1445 GMT, 21 September 2010)

- "Through showing support for the cruel Zionist regime [reference to Israel], arrogant powers are nurturing plans to rule the world."
- The representative of the supreme leader to the province Hojjat ol-Eslam [Hasan] Ameli said that "the arrogant powers were seeking to dominate over the world".
- "They have started an extensive propaganda against Muslims the world using the media empire of the West. Koran-burning in America is an example of such actions," he said.

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1015 GMT, 21 September 2010)

- Iran's President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad condemned the "unreal slogan of the so-called advocates of human rights in the West and regretted that currently 53 women are expecting death penalty in the US prisons."
- "The Western media all the time talk about democracy and human rights while such a motto is a sheer lie", he said, adding that "currently 53 women are expecting death penalty in the US but the Western media have made huge hue and cry over the case of Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani whose case has not been finalized yet".
- He said, "In the September 11 incident some 3,000 people were killed and we are regretful about it but 110,000 innocent people have so far been murdered in Afghanistan and it is not known until when the massacre will continue."

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0930 GMT, 21 September 2010)

- [Newsreader]: The secretary of the public culture council [Mansur Va'ez] has said that new occasions have been added to the national calendar or removed from it. They will be implemented from the next year [starting on 21 March 2011]. In an interview with my colleague Aliniya, Mansur Va'ez said:
- [Va'ez]: Six occasions will hopefully be added to the calendar in 1390 [Iranian year starting on 21 March 2011].
- [Reporter]: Apparently, a number of occasions are going to be removed from the calendar on 1390 onward. What are they?

- [Va'ez]: ...The day of dialogue among civilizations [21 September] has also been removed because it has no sponsor to mark the day [the day had been introduced by former president Mohammad Khatami]...The day of accommodating disabled people and elders, 20 Mehr [12 October] has been removed. The fifth of Dey [26 December], which was the national day of protection against earthquake, has been removed from the calendar as well.

September 20, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1015 GMT, 20 September 2010)

- A top Iranian lawmaker lashed out at the US over the death sentence of an American woman with borderline mental retardation, alleging that “the US is the symbol of human rights violation.”
- "This is not the first time that the US which claims to defend human rights is clearly violating human rights," he said.
- The Iranian lawmaker added that lack of the US government's commitment to international laws has led to the issuance of the death sentence for a woman who suffers from mental retardation.