

IRANIAN DOMESTIC MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 3, 2010

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OCTOBER 3, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1520 GMT, 4 October 2010)

- Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani called on Iranian officials to “maintain unity and refrain from issuing divisive statements.”
- “Given the current circumstances, the country will stand to lose from any dispute over unimportant issues, and thus officials should try to avoid making statements that would create discord”, Larijani said in the northern city of Qaem-Shahr, Mazandaran Province
- He went on to say that the economic sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear program should be viewed as an opportunity to make up for shortcomings in the country.

(Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1630 GMT, 3 October 2010)

- Iranian Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Amoli-Larijani reacted to recent reports on the alleged research conducted in the 1940's by an American public health specialist in Guatemala, involving "deliberate exposure of individuals to sexually transmitted diseases"
- "What kind of human rights is this when they create ballyhoos about it and are claimants of it [human rights] but expose thousands of people to worst kind of microbes to test if he penicillin they had discovered worked or not. "One truly feels sorry to see so much double standards and hypocrisy in their behavior and manners. And apparently, there are no moralities in their deeds."

(Source: Al-Alam TV, Tehran, in Arabic 1452 GMT, 3 October 2010)

- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinezhad alleged that “Washington considered Tehran an enemy because of the defeats it received as a result of the steadfastness of the Iranian people”.
- During the inauguration of housing projects in the suburbs of Tehran, Ahmadinezhad said that it was “not [possible] to stop asking the USA to reveal the details of the 11 September events.” He added that “the USA had taken these events as an excuse to invade Iraq, Afghanistan and to establish a foothold in the region.”
- He said that “the USA used media outlets to twist facts and improve its image despite its massacres against the people of the world.”

OCTOBER 2, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1440 GMT, 2 October 2010)

- The Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance lifted its ban on the production of Separation of Nader and Simin.
- The decision to lift the ban was made by Deputy Culture Minister for Cinematic Affairs Javad Shamaqdari and Culture Ministry Supervision and Evaluation Office Director Alireza Sajjadpur, the public relations department of Shamaqdari's office announced in a press release on Saturday [2 October].

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1015 GMT, 2 October 2010)

- Tehran, 2 October: Without any details, Intelligence Minister Heydar Moslehi announced on Saturday [2 October] that a number of nuclear spies have been arrested.
- Commenting on the cyber warfare campaign by the enemies against the country, Moslehi told the MNA [Mehr news agency] that the ministry has an absolute control over the virtual networks and will foil all acts of sabotage.
- According to the Associated Press, a complex computer worm dubbed Stuxnet has recently infected some industrial sites in Iran and is capable of taking over power plants.

OCTOBER 1, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: *Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 2320 GMT, 1 October 2010*)

- IRNA: Head of outlawed Freedom Movement Dr Ebrahim Yazdi and another top member of that group, Hashem Sabbaghian, were arrested in Isfahan at a friend's house Friday [1 October].
- Yazdi was earlier in the year arrested in the course of the Ashura day unrests in Tehran [27 December] and freed on bail after signing a letter in which he had vowed not to get involved in politics. He had served as the Islamic Republic of Iran's minister of foreign affairs in late Engineer Mahdi Bazargan's interim government in early years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, in which Sabbaghian, too, had served as the interior minister.

(Source: *Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1655 GMT, 1 October 2010*)

- Vocal legislator Ali Motahhari called on the judiciary to prosecute all instrumental figures behind the 2009 sedition.
- In a letter to Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani, Motahhari stated that prosecution of the seditionists would verify the independence of the judiciary.
- Instead of dealing with people behind the unrest of 2009 presidential elections, efforts have been made to alienate the public, the letter said.

(Source: *Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1520 GMT, 1 October 2010*)

- The Iranian minister of culture and Islamic guidance has demanded that Iranian artists, particularly cineastes, desist from intervening in political issues.
- "Some people in the name of their guild have engaged in partisan activities," Mohammad Hoseyni said on the sidelines of a press conference on Thursday [30 September].
- "It is not appropriate for someone wearing a green wristband to appear on stage one year plus after the episode of the election," he added.
- "Now, it is meaningless if someone wants to revive the dead 'green movement'" Hoseyni noted.
- "If someone wishes that a counterrevolutionary like Mohsen Makhmalbaf and his family would return to Iran and expect us to roll out the red carpet for them, then this certainly would no longer be merely a cinematic issue," Hoseyni said.
- He said that Farhadi is not their problem, adding, "Our problem is those persons who are systematically undermining Islamic values."

(Source: *Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 1030 GMT, 1 October 2010*)

- The head of the Law Enforcement [Esma'il Ahmadi-Moqqadam] was present at the pre-sermon address in Tehran this week where he talked about the implementation of Social Order plans [Islamic code of conduct including the dress code] throughout the country in the near future.

He added that "Soon, our Social Order plans which are coordinated by the judiciary and enjoy their support will be implemented. This is so that the criminals who have been somewhat emboldened can be put in their place. The judiciary will act speedily, through resolve and firmness to punish them.

- "We do not intend to do this through uproar. It is intended that guidance, public information and direction would be used as means. This will not be extended to those who are emboldened and who insist on continuing their deviant behavior."

SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: *Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1400 GMT, 30 September 2010*)

- First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi said on Thursday [30 September] that the Islamic Republic of Iran has powerfully turned the sanctions imposed by the enemies into opportunities to advance national aspirations for the country's development and independence.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: *Iranian news website Shafaf.ir in Persian 1639 GMT, 29 September 2010*)

- Shafaf.ir: While during the American presidential elections [in 2008] certain nasouls were of the view that Obama is really with us [Persian: Oo Baa Mast] this president of the United States has presented a totally different picture of himself in the past few days.
- He has adopted the most incredible and harsh decision on Iran.
- A few days ago when he held an interview with BBC Persian, he conducted open meddling in Iranian affairs. A few hours ago however, he ordered the blocking of the assets of certain Iranian officials in connection to what he has called the abuse of human rights.
- This is the first time that the ruling regime in America conducts such action for such reason [abuse of human rights].

(Source: *Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1519 GMT, 29 September 2010*)

- Iran's President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad described his interviews during his US trip as 'war,' calling American journalists the representatives of Washington officials.
- "These interviews were in reality war and true battles because despite their claims about the freedom of press, they (the reporters) talked on behalf of American officials," Ahmadinezhad said in the gathering of Friday Prayers leaders on Wednesday [29 September].
- "They intend to crush us through psychological war and to do this they exploit the statements used by certain people in the country in their efforts" Ahmadinezhad said.
- "But the [Islamic] Revolution's true followers will undoubtedly prevent the enemy from realizing its objectives."
- "Therefore, we announce that the sanctions have had no effect on the Iranian nation, and whatever audacity you want to commit two years from now, do it now," the Iranian president said in reference to enemy threats to attack Iran in two years if sanctions fail.

(Source: *Press TV website, Tehran, in English 0236 GMT, 29 September 2010*)

- A senior Iranian lawmaker has urged Western states to take practical measures for establishing a nuclear-free Middle East and pursuing global nuclear disarmament.

- Chairman of the Majlis (Iran's Parliament) Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Ala'eddin Borujerdi told Fars news agency on Tuesday [28 September] that, "If Americans and Europeans have serious concerns about nuclear weapons, they should take practical steps in this regard."
- Touching on the issue of Israel's nuclear warheads, he called for Israel's nuclear decommissioning as a prerequisite for establishing a nuclear-free Middle East, calling Israel a serious threat to regional and international peace.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1526 GMT, 28 September 2010)

- The Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has granted a production license to a film entitled "The 9/11 Black Box".
- The film will be produced and directed by Mohammad Reza Eslamu, the Culture Ministry Supervision and Evaluation Office announced in a press release on Monday [27 September].
- No more details were given about the film in the press release.
- However, the film's title obviously refers to the term of "9/11 black box", which has frequently been used by President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad over the past week, including in his latest speech at the UN headquarters in New York.

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 1, Tehran, in Persian 1031 GMT, 28 September 2010)

- [Presenter] Today, His Eminence Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah [Ali] Khamene'i met Friday prayers leaders of the country and clarified the important effects of Friday prayer sermons in personal, social, political, religious, and international aspects. He said that the main duties of the Friday prayer leaders are to pay more attention to this supreme position [of Friday prayer sermons], to update society on daily realities, not to ignore the enemy's plans, to have close and friendly relations with the youth and to use their [youth] initiatives and capabilities.
- He said: Those who are receiving the blessings of the invocation of God will not be worried by enemies' uproar and threats, because the oppressors and arrogant elements according to their greedy seek to manipulate and control all capabilities and financial sources of all countries and never respond the slogans on justice-seeking, freedom-seeking of human beings and supporting oppressed people.
- He added that in contrast to their slogans the arrogant and greedy elements of the world want to limit the power and wealth in the interests of a limited few and their close allies.
- "We should not be scared of any threats and this is the thing that Koran and Islam expect us. In the verse of Badr [from the Holy Koran], He says: [read Arabic verse from Koran], the invocation of God has this kind of feature. In this huge field, the invocation of God is needed for people and it will help human beings. It should be stated in Friday prayer sermons."

(Source: Iranian news website Mashreqnews, in Persian 0910 GMT, 28 September 2010)

- An informed source in the judiciary announced: The court's verdict against Hoseyn Derakhsan, the counterrevolutionary blogger, has been conveyed to him.
- In an interview with Mashreq, the informed source said: "According to the verdict issued by Bench 15 of the Islamic Revolution Court today headed by Judge Salavati, Derakhshan, who had been arrested in Mehr 87 [October 2008], was sentenced to 19.5 years in prison, banned

from joining any party or media, and ordered to reimburse 30,750 euros, 2,900 dollars, and 200 pounds under the charges of cooperation with hostile governments, propagation against the Islamic state, propagation in favour of counterrevolutionary grouplets, defiling sacred issues, and launching and managing obscene websites."

(Source: *Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 0253 GMT, 28 September 2010*)

- Iran's Army Commander Brigadier General Ahmad-Reza Purdastan commemorating 8-year defence martyrs on Army Day said here Monday [27 September] US would never achieve its colonialist objectives in this region.
- According to an IRNA reporter, the Iranian Army commander who was addressing a commemoration service for the veteran pioneers of the sacred defence at Bahman 22nd Hall of the Iranian Army said, "Saddam launched the Iraqi Army's attack against our country on a personal order from the US president at the time."
- "By encouraging Saddam to invade Iran the United States was after annihilating the idea and mentality of the Islamic Revolution and its founder, the late Imam Khomeyni (P)."
- "Among the other objectives of the enemy in launching that vast scale invasion was halting the progress and expansion of the revolution into the other regional countries."

(Source: *Iranian pro-Mehdi Karrubi and the official website of the National Trust Party Sahamnews in Persian 0001 GMT, 28 September 2010*)

- Iranian Press Supervisory Board has revoked the licenses of two papers for publishing articles which "were against public morals and insulting officials of the country", pro-Mahdi Karrubi website Sahamnews reported on 28 September.
- According to the report, the licenses of Bahar-e Zanjan weekly and Andisheh Now (New Thought) newspaper were revoked upon a decision made by the supervisory board. "The license of Andisheh Now newspaper was revoked. The license of Bahar-e Zanjan weekly, whose managing-director is Rahmatollah Bigdeli was also revoked because of publishing articles which were against public morals and insulting officials of the country," Mohammad Ali Ramin, the deputy culture minister was quoted as saying.

(Source: *Iranian news website Rahana, in English 28 September 2010*)

- The Revolutionary Court of Saqez has sentenced two Kurdish residents: Jamal Amini and Mohammad Moniri to prison.
- Their lawyer Seyyed Vafa Hoseyni confirmed the report and stated that the appeals court has upheld the three year prison sentence of Jamal Amini issued by the 1st branch of the Saqez Court. He had been charged with anti-regime propaganda and collaborating with anti- regime groups.
- According to the Mokrian News Agency, his other client Mohammad Moniri had been sentenced to four years in prison for anti-regime propaganda and collaborating with anti- regime groups and the appeals court reduced the sentence to one year of imprisonment.
- The two residents had been arrested by the security forces and released on bail.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: *Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1655 GMT, 27 September 2010*)

- Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani has received a death sentence for committing murder and this sentence has precedence over her crime for doing adultery, announced National Prosecutor General Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i.
- "According to the court's ruling, she is convicted of murder and her death sentence has priority over her punishment (for committing adultery)"; Mohseni-Ezhe'i told a press conference on Monday.
- The prosecutor's remark means that Mohammadi-Ashtiani will not be stoned to death for committing adultery, because she should first be executed for murder.
- "The issue should not be politicized and the Judiciary will not be influenced by the propaganda campaign launched by the Western media; added Mohseni-Ezhe'i who also serves as the Judiciary spokesman.
- "The Mohammadi-Ashtiani case has been hyped by the Western media outlets."

(Source: Iranian news website Javan Online, in Persian 1438 GMT, 27 September 2010)

- A university in Iran's Qom Province has established "suspicious" ties with foreign centers, the Iranian news agency Javan Online reported.
- The agency says that the "suspicious" ties between Mofid University in Qom and foreign university officials and a number of foreigners have taken on "new dimensions". A group of 15 reformists visited Australia some time ago to attend a special language training course, the agency said.
- It quoted an informed source as saying that eight people from Mofid University visited Ireland in 1388 (from 21 March 2009 to 20 March 2010). "Several people adhering to the 'flow of sedition' were included in the delegation visiting Ireland for 20 days in order to participate in a forum, and their expenses were covered by foreigners, too," it said.
- "It seems that the activities of Mofid University in the foreign sphere might be broader than reported," the agency added.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in Persian 1432 GMT, 27 September 2010)

- Iranian Prosecutor-General and Spokesman for the Judiciary Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i in his press conference held on 27 September referred to the case of Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani's, the woman who has been sentenced to death by stoning for adultery, and has called for the "sedition leaders" to be tried. The following is some of the points Ezhe'i has made during his press conference:
- On Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani's trial, Mohseni-Ezhe'i said that the judge investigating the case will decide independently and Iran's judicial body will never make decisions based on political tendencies but according to religious and Islamic values. He said: "Ignoring West's media propaganda the judiciary will make a decision and try Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani according to the Koran, religious thoughts, and Islamic punishment laws."

(Source: Fars News Agency website, Tehran, in Persian 1326 GMT, 27 September 2010)

- Iranian Prosecutor-General and Spokesman for the Judicial System Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholamhoseyn Mohseni-Ezhe'i has commented on a number of issues in his presser held on 27 September, Fars News Agency reported. Some of the points were as below:
- Kahrizak detention centre: According to Fars, in response to a question on why officers involved in Kahrizak incidents were still holding their jobs, he said: "Supreme leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamen'i] has given strict instructions for following up the Kahrizak prison's issue. The accused have been tired and 12 of them have been convicted, and two of these 12 individuals

have been sentenced to blood-vengeance. The case is going through its final revision and has been sent to the Supreme Court for a judicial review."

- Transfer of government bodies out of Tehran: Responding to a question on whether government employees could file a complaint against their transfer out of Tehran or not, Ezhe'i said the government had announced that the transfer could be voluntarily and a complaint could not be filed by an individual employed for a certain place while there were no obligations for his transfer but if they were transferred against their will then the judiciary would pursue their complaints.
- Sarah Shourd, Clotilde Reisse: Commenting on the cases of the US freed citizen, Sarah Shourd and the French citizen Clotilde Reisse, and the fact that they had been released on bail and left Iran, he said: "Any released prisoner would not be necessarily banned from leaving the country. Writs are issued as per the crimes and if a judge bans an individual from leaving the country it has nothing to do with judiciary."
- Dissolution of Participation Front, Organization of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution in Iran: Regarding dissolution of the reformist Islamic of Iran Participation Front and Organization of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, he said: "It has been stated in Article 16 of parties law that if a certain party or group violates one of the points mentioned in the related law, then accordingly, the commission for parties article which has representatives from the three powers [Judiciary, Executive, Legislative] can cancel that party's license." He added that the two parties were not allowed to be politically active any more.