

Iranian Domestic Media Monitoring Report
September 5 – 12, 2010
Stacy Topouzova

September 12, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Sources

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1520 GMT, 12 September 2010)

- Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki has described the Koran-burning plan as a Zionist-orchestrated scheme.
- "Koran-burning project was a brazen, divisive, Zionists-backed scheme." Mottaki said in a joint press conference with his Malawian counterpart Etta Banda.
- The Westerners have "sown the seeds of hatred" and will certainly face the repercussions of their heinous move, he asserted.
- "The stance of the Muslim world and the Islamic Republic of Iran on this heinous and sacrilegious act is clear. We see the Zionists' hands behind this insulting act", he stated.

(Source: Mehr news agency, Tehran, in English 1500 GMT, 12 September 2010)

- President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad confirmed that "the administration has plans for every second of the three remaining years of his presidency."
- "The Iranian nation's determination for progress and the administration's motive for serving the nation increase as days pass along," the president said on a TV programme on Sunday [12 September].
- Asked about the changes he has undergone over the past five years, the president said, "The passage of time and acquiring experience make changes in human beings. To sum it up, I would say my beliefs have changed the most."

(Source: Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), Tehran, in Persian 0809 GMT, 12 September 2010)

- Ahmad Tavakkoli, the MP for Tehran, has criticized President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad for the recent decisions taken by the government, the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) reported on 12 September.
- In a critical letter to the president, Tavakkoli criticized Ahmadinezhad for "reducing working hours during the month of Ramadan, announcing Saturday (11 September) as public holiday, and for a number of appointments by the president."
- "Despite continuous cautions issued by well-wishers, unfortunately you continue to break and disobey the law. Even when the supreme leader [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i] intervenes, you do not attempt to correct your ways," Tavakkoli said in the letter.
- The senior MP added that reduction of working hours during the month of Ramadan (12 August - 10 September) was against previous ratifications of the Majlis and an "injustice" to workers.

September 11, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Islamic Republic News Agency website, Tehran, in English 1726 GMT, 11 September 2010)

- The first Kurdish language news agency in Iran named Kurdpress International News Agency started its professional work here on Saturday [11 September].
- Managing Director of the private news agency Ali Hadifar told IRNA, the news agency will work in the framework of Iranian laws and regulations and aims to reflect news and events with priority of Kordestan area.

(Source: Mehr News Agency, Tehran, in English 1215 GMT, 11 September 2010)

- MPs from the Majlis academics faction have praised Science Minister Kamran Daneshju for his diligent efforts in Islamizing the universities.
- "The Science Ministry has made notable moves to Islamize the universities," said MP Ahmad Ali Moqimi, a member of the Majlis academics faction.
- "With respect to the universities, Islamization is the main issue," Moqimi said after MPs member to the parliamentary faction met with the science minister last week.
- "In Islamization of the universities, some factors such as (selection of) professors, (admission of) students, texts, and curriculum planning should be taken into consideration, but professors are more important," opines MP Sattar Hedayatkah, a member of the faction.
- Those professors who are committed to Islamic teachings should be employed, Hedayatkah added.
- MP Hasan Nowruzi also praised the performance of the science minister. "We support the removal of the university chancellors (who were not devoted to Islamic and revolutionary principles)."
- "We hope that the science minister continues his efforts to create Islamic atmosphere in the universities," Nowruzi added.
- MP Ali Karimi-Firuzjani also approved of the science minister's decision to fire any university chancellor that allows a "non-Islamic atmosphere".

(Source: Iranian News website Rahana, in English 11 September 2010)

- Judge Kavusi has sentenced Hoseyn Qabel to one year of suspended imprisonment which has to be served in 4 years and has banned him from using a cell phone and participating in the gatherings for 4 years.
- Student activist Hoseyn Qabel was detained near the house of Ayatollah Sane'i during Ashura and was confined in the Security Ward of Mashhad Prison for 31 days. Judge Kavusi of the 5th branch of the Mashhad Revolutionary Court sentenced Hoseyn Qabel to one year of suspended imprisonment which has to be served in 4 years and banned him from using a cell phone and participating in gatherings for 4 years.
- He is an electrical engineering student in Mashhad's Ferdowsi University and has been in the editorial board of several reformist publications such as Jaj, Tak and

Risheh. He had been charged with anti-regime propaganda and insulting the Supreme Leader but he does not accept the charges.

Privately-Facilitated Media Source

The following is the text of a letter by the reformist detainee Abdollah Mo'meni to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamene'i. In his letter, Mo'meni asked Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i to form a probe committee to investigate the events that followed the disputed 2009 presidential election. He also explained about various kind of "tortures" used against him in the prison. A copy of the letter was published in English by Iranian pro-reform, English-language website The Green Voice of Freedom on 10 September 2010.

- "...Our crime has been and continues to be the fact that we believe reform and democracy to be the most appropriate strategies for improving the conditions of our nation. Our crime is that we advocated limits on the boundless powers of undemocratic institutions. My question is this: is the act of supporting the demands of the Iranian nation for democracy deserving of such inhumane and unjust treatment? Have we not reached the point of accepting that the expression of beliefs of individuals or groups should not be subjected to persecution?"
- "...In cases where torture has been proven to have taken place, is the expectation that the torturer be brought to trial, an unrealistic expectation? If we are to rid ourselves of injustice and those who carry out injustices, then bringing torturers to trial can be an important step in promoting effective strategies for implementing justice. Reducing injustice and despotism can facilitate the implementation of justice and the rule of law."
- "...In the end I do not know what the aim and logic of the torture inflicted upon me and my family was? I do not even expect a response to this question, because the "Elders can discern that which is in the best interest of their nation." What I do know and believe is that these behaviours do not correspond with the concepts of justice and fairness nor are they justifiable by law or through religious teachings. I continue to hope that with the establishment of a truth commission we will be freed from these clear examples of injustice and move closer to justice."

September 9, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Press TV website, Tehran, in English 1436 GMT, 9 September 2010)

- Iran's Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki alleged that "Western countries' support for an Iranian woman convicted of adultery and complicity in murder shows their double standards."
- Mottaki dismissed as propaganda "the Western countries' efforts to defend Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani", saying the move was "politically motivated".
- Mottaki also slammed "the double standards" adopted by the West, saying those countries that violate the basic rights of humans in prisons like Guantanamo and Abu Ghurayb should not portray themselves as advocates of human rights.
- "Ashtiani's case is clearly a scenario written by the West to pressure Iran," he said.

- "They have tried to exploit this case, politicize it and turn it into a political charade."

(Source: Iranian news website, RAHANA, in Persian 0001 GMT, 9 September 2010)

- Reformist detainee, Abdollah Mo'meni, has asked Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i to form a probe committee to investigate the events that followed the disputed 2009 presidential election.
- Iranian website, Rahana, published the text of Mo'meni's letter on 9 September.
- Mo'meni has said that he decided to write a letter to the leader after he heard that in a post-election speech, Ayatollah Khamene'i had said: "The confession of any convict at court and before TV cameras and the eyes of millions of viewers is religiously and rationally valid."
- In a part of the letter, Mo'meni said: "I decided to write you this letter as you might not receive news on detention centres and you may not know that apart from Kahrizak [the controversial detention centre that was closed down upon Khamene'i's order], a prisoner's minimum rights are not observed in Evin prison too and he is under the most severe mental and physical pressures that are exerted in order to assassinate his character and to force him to make confessions."
- Mo'meni expressed hope that "a probe committee would be formed to investigate what happened to him as an Islamic Republic's prisoner during his detention, interrogation and trial during Ayatollah Khamene'i's rule".

September 8, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Network 2, Tehran, in Persian 1818 GMT, 8 September 2010)

- The guests of the program included university lecturer, Mohammad Hadi Hodayun, and Dr Martino, based in London.
- Asked why the Koran was targeted this time, Dr Hodayun said that "the Koran symbolized Islam as all Muslims believed in the book". He added that "Islamophobia and hostility against Islam were the main cause of such an action". He said that the West was feeling the power of Islam and its strengthening in the world, and was trying to stir a war similar to the crusades.
- Asked about the reason why a radical priest was suggesting the burning of the Koran, Dr Hodayun said that "this was a part of the Armageddon project pursued by the West". He added that the apparent opposition of Western governments with the burning of the government was "only to show respect for religions and to win the votes of the people". He said the Western officials were "nonetheless in control of Western media and were behind the entire scenario."
- Dr Hodayun said that he believed that the 9/11 was orchestrated by the "Zionists", as it was becoming clear that John F Kennedy was also assassinated by the "Zionists". He added that the media and Western government officials were also involved in the story.
- Dr Hodayun claimed that "apart from the media, nobody had ever seen any aircraft hit the buildings during the 9/11 incident" He added that: Michael Moore was also

involved in the entire scenario and his opposition to the Bush administration was allowed to continue despite all security concerns at the time.:

- Asked whether 11 September was designed to attack Afghanistan and Iraq, Dr Homayun said that it seemed that “11 September was designed to target Iran and its revolution.”
- Dr Martino said that a “limited number of radical people in the West were attempting to provoke Muslims”.
- Asked what the Islamic countries should do in the face of Islamophobia, Dr Homayun said that “the only duty of Muslims was to act like Muslims, i.e. act with kindness and fairness, object to oppressions and stand up for justice”. He said that Muslims “should only attempt to enlighten others through their appropriate acts. He said that despite all what had happened, the world had become more inclined towards understanding Islam.”
- Dr Homayun said that he did not think that “the burning of the Koran would take place and if it did they would stop it quickly as the West was aware of the sensitivity of Muslims to the actions of the West in Iraq, Gaza and other places in the world, and did not need to test Muslims again. He said that however the West was after starting a third World War against Muslims to weaken all religions once and for all”.

(Source: Iranian News website Saham News, in Persian 8 September 2010)

- Mehdi Karrubi, one of the leaders of protests against the results of the presidential elections in Iran, said on Monday evening, 6 September 2010, after known forces in plain clothes attacked his house: "I am not going to leave my house under any circumstances. In order to protect the rights of the people, I am ready to give up anything, including my life."
- Speaking at a meeting with a group of Iranian journalists and political activists, Karrubi said: "What bothered me more than an affront to myself and my family was that after raining the most vulgar insults on me and my wife, the assailants began a mourning ceremony and started to read the Koran in front of my embattled house."
- Known forces in plain clothes last week staged a rally in front of Karrubi's houses for five consecutive nights and attacked his house several times.
- He added: "In response to them, I said that protecting the rights and security of citizens, both Muslim and non-Muslim and even infidel, is one of the highest duties of the government and therefore, I am not going to leave this place under any circumstances."

September 7, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0533 GMT, 7 September 2010)

- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast has urged Western countries to respect values of Islam and other religions.
- "The actions that are taking place in Western countries to desecrate Islamic objects of worship and even the values of other religions are not correct, and they can

create sensitive situations between public opinion and Muslims," Mehmanparast said while commenting on the planned burning of the Koran by a Florida church to mark the anniversary of the 11 September attacks.

- "We recommend that all Western countries interpret the issue of freedom within the framework of their own values, prevent abuse of this issue and do not allow objects of worship to be desecrated in the name of freedom," Mehmanparast said at his weekly news conference which was broadcast live by Iran's central news channel IRINN.

September 6, 2010

State-Facilitated Media Source

(Source: Javan, Tehran, in Persian 6 September 2010, p 8)

The following are direct excerpts from an article published by Javan on September 6th, 2010:

- The US Treasury Department announced that the properties of Muhammad Abdallah Hasan Abu-al-Khair, Al-Qa'idah Leader Usamah Bin-Ladin's brother-in-law, have been seized on charges of him being an Al-Qa'idah financier.
- "In addition to seizing of US properties of this person, who is originally from Saudi Arabia and the punishment announced against him by the US Treasury Department, a ban on US citizens' relations or cooperation with him is worth consideration."
- "...With the investigation of the roots and reasons of 11 September 2001 incident, one understands very well that those who caused and carried this event, that is Bin-Ladin and the Al-Qa'idah network were people who had all been trained and coordinated by the American intelligence services, especially the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] in the past."
- "...Certainly, in the first place, the Americans' main goal in intelligent coordination and training of Bin-Ladin and the Al-Qa'idah network was for fighting against the former Soviet Union's presence in Afghanistan. In the second place, [they aimed at] creating a movement against the Islamic Republic of Iran during the end of the 1970s."
- "...In line with this, in addition to Americans, some of their Arab and even Western allies have aided the progress and formation of this movement [Al-Qa'idah] a lot and have provided intelligence support."
- "In fact, it became the inventor of a pretext called "international terrorism" and the same Americans became the lone riders in the international arena to realize military or non-military attack on any country they wished."