

The following is a translation of the "Radio Farda" Persian program which was broadcasted via satellite on July 9, 2007 at 1500 UTC.

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[Female voice]

The latest news [on] Radio Farda

[Host Mr. Tabhaz]:

- This morning, all of the members of the Office to Foster Unity (Daftar e Tahkim Vahdat) were detained.
- The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency says that Tehran has reduced its nuclear activities.
- The Union of Sunni insurgents in Iraq, has threatened Iran with a fierce war.

It's 18:30. It's 6:30 p.m. in Tehran.

Today is the 18th of Tir, 1385 and the 9th day of July, 2007. Good evening!

Today is the eighth anniversary of the attack on Tehran University. Eight years, with many ups and downs in Iranian history, with changes in the structure of the Iranian administration, the student movement, the 2nd of Khordad, and ...

First, let's look at the headline news. Then, the first part of this edition will be dedicated to the July 9th event. Good evening to you, Niusha Boghrati!

[Niusha Boghrati]

Good evening to you, Mr. Tahbaz, and hello to the listeners of the Evening Edition!

I'll start with the developments in Iran. Today, on the eighth anniversary of the July 9th, 1999, attack on Tehran University's dormitories, all of the members of the Office to Foster Unity were detained. According to Advar News site, which is affiliated with the Alumni Association of the Office to Foster Unity, at 7:30 a.m., uniformed personnel and plain clothed agents, detained members of the Office to Foster Unity, who were participating in a sit-in in front of Polytechnic University on Vali e Asr Avenue. They were taken to an unknown location. Eyewitnesses told Avar News that the police clashed with students.

The Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamad ElBaradei, says that the Islamic Republic of Iran has slowed down its nuclear activities. He told reporters today, in Vienna, that based on observations from the Agency's inspectors, the use of centrifuges for uranium enrichment in Iran has slowed down. Centrifuges can turn uranium to fuel, to produce energy, or if enriched at higher concentrations, can produce the material necessary for the production of nuclear weapons.

In another development, the leader of a group affiliated with al-Qaeda, in Iraq, warned the Islamic Republic of Iran to abandon its support of Iraqi Shiites - or expect a fierce war. Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the leader of a group called the Islamic State of Iraq, in a videotape distributed on Sunday, July 8th, said that he will give Iranian leaders two months to abandon their support of the Shiite administration in Iraq, or they can "expect a harsh war." The authenticity of this video has not yet been confirmed. The Islamic State of Iraq is a coalition of Sunni forces, headed by al-Qaeda.

Today, Monday, a court in the United Kingdom, convicted three men accused of bombings in London, two years ago. The three men, Mukhtar Saeed Ebrahim, Yassin Omar, and Ramzi Mohammad, were found guilty of conspiracy to commit murder. The failed bombings in the London public transportation system, in July, 2005, took place two weeks after several suicide bombings on a bus and on a subway in that city, resulted in 52 deaths.

According to reports today, the International Atomic Energy Agency ratified the start of inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities. According to diplomats, this decision came after a meeting between the members of the Agency's Board of Governors, held in Vienna. According to the same reports, the Agency's inspections are scheduled to resume in about a week, with the goal of evaluating Pyongyang's nuclear disarmament. Mr. Tahbaz.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

Thank you, Mr. Boghrati. Now, the Evening Edition of Radio Farda.

[Audio Clip]

Today is July 9th, the anniversary of the attack on Tehran University's dormitories.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

Eight years after the Tehran University events, [we see that] students who were participating in a sit-in at Polytechnic University, have been detained.

[Male voice]

...with guns, pistols, shooting...they had three minibuses and they closed the gates.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

Jaffar Kiani and the stoning that wasn't supposed to happen. However, the news is different!

[Female voice]

We are witnessing events that are not tolerable on the international stage, in the 21st century.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

EI Baradei says that the process of uranium enrichment in Iran has slowed.

Stay tuned to the Evening Edition.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

Concurrent with the anniversary of July 9th, all members of the Central Council of the Office to Foster Unity, and a number of alumni of Islamic Iran, were detained by law enforcement and security officers.

Let's hear more from Saeedeh Hashemi.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

A group of students were arrested this morning in front of the Amir Kabir University entrance, and at the headquarters of the Office to Foster Unity. Hojat Sharifi, a member of the Office to Foster Unity, in an interview with Radio Farda, said that six students were arrested, among them Abdullah Momeni, the spokesman for the organization.

Mr. Sharifi quotes the witnesses regarding these arrests.

[Hojat Sharifi]

The alumni of the Office to Foster Unity, the students' parents were present also...with bullets and guns, shooting, breaking door locks by shooting them, and by burning three minibuses. They also sealed the doors of the Alumni Association of the Office to Foster Unity.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

It is said that the mother of Mohammad Hashemi, the Secretary of the Office to Foster Unity, was also among those arrested at the headquarters. She was later released.

In addition, at 3:30am this morning, Monday, the members of the Central Committee of the Office to Foster Unity, who were gathered in front of the main entrance of Amir Kabir University, in Tehran, to commemorate July 9th, were arrested by uniformed police officers and plain clothed agents. The number of detainees of the Central Committee of the Office to Foster Unity is said to be six, including Mohammad Hashemi, the Secretary of the Office to Foster Unity. Early this morning, in an interview with Radio Farda, Abdullah Momeni, a member of the Central Committee of the Office to Foster Unity, said, "...Committee members were gathered in front of Polytechnic University on Vali Asr Avenue, for a symbolic sit-in to commemorate July 9th. Our goal was to win the release of the detained Polytechnic students. After they gathered in front of Polytechnic University, students were confronted by police and plain clothed agents, which resulted in the detention of all of the members of the Central Committee of the Office to Foster Unity."

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Reports from Iran indicate that following this interview, Mr. Momeni, and a number of other members of the Alumni Association of the Office to Foster Unity, were arrested by security forces. During this morning's interview, Mr. Momeni said he had no information about the students who were detained early this morning.

[Mr. Momeni]

There is no information regarding the location of the detainees of the Office to Foster Unity. Their families and their attorney's are unhappy and have followed up by going to the prosecutor's office.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

According to Advar News, the students who participated in the sit-in were protesting the continuing detention of eight students of Amir Kabir University, in Tehran. In their statement, published for the occasion of July 9th, they demanded the release of the students.

The eight students were arrested earlier, following the publication of four student newsletters at Amir Kabir University. According to University authorities, the newsletters contained material insulting to religious values, and to the Leader of the Islamic Republic.

Although the student editors denied the authenticity of the four, calling them fraudulent, all four editors were arrested. They were transferred to Ward 209 of Evin Prison, which is run by the Ministry of Information.

The condition of the eight students who have been in prison for more than 60 days, is still unclear. Not even their lawyers have been able to visit them. Meanwhile, the rounding up of student activists at other universities in Iran, continues. In a report on July 9th, human rights activists in Europe and North America have set the number of students detained during the last year, at 70. According to the report, in the year ending July 9, 2007, 70 students have been arrested, and 46 students from various Iranian universities have been questioned.

The report also finds that during the same period, 33 students were summoned to court, 21 of whom have been tried. In addition, 26 students have been sentenced by the court.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

That was Saeedeh Hashemi, reporting about the anniversary of July 9th, and the arrest of the student members of the Office to Foster Unity. On this eighth anniversary of July 9th, let's hear more from Farin Assemi, Niusha Boghrati, and Behrouz Karouni.

[Farin Assemi]

July 9th, 1999, two years after the reformist victory in the presidential elections, police and undercover agents unexpectedly attacked the Tehran University dormitories. An attack that, a few days later, became the backdrop for the most widespread popular demonstrations since the 1979 Revolution.

[Niusha Boghrati]

The attackers who, according to the Iranian media, consisted of uniformed police and undercover agents, as well as security forces, broke down the doors of the dormitories, scattering the students' belongings and tearing up their books. The attackers injured and beat the students, a large number of whom were hospitalized. In the meantime, Ezat Ebrahimnejad, an armed forces draftee and a former student, who was visiting friends and former classmates at Tehran University, was killed by a bullet.

[Behrouz Karouni]

Mehdi Aminizadeh, a student activist and member of the Selected Council of Students, who participated in a sit-in at the university in 1999, discusses his experience and the background of the attack on the university campus.

[Mehdi Aminizadeh]

On the night of July 8th, the students were demonstrating against the restrictions imposed on the press, and the ban of *Salaam* newspaper. They arranged the demonstration in front of Tehran University, continuing on Kargar Street and Jalal Al Ahmad Express Way. As they returned to the university dormitories, they were confronted by the police, headed by Mr. Amir Ahmadi, who had a previous role in suppressing the students. From 10am July 8th, to 4am July 9th, the "pressure forces" attacked the university dormitories.

[Audio Clip]

[Host Mr. Tahbaz:]

During the demonstrations that lasted until July 14th, students demanded prompt investigations into the night attack on the university dormitories, and punishment of the perpetrators of [the attacks].

Ali Afshari, the student political activist, discussing the roots of the July 9th events, says to Radio Farda:

[Ali Afshari]

The roots of that movement should be considered on two levels: One is the process of reform itself, meaning the persistence of the obstacles and the resistance against the goals of the reform movement. The second level goes back to the student movement itself. From the start, the students were fighting against the imperious system.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

However, the unrest and the attacks were not limited to July 9th. They continued into the following days, with student sit-ins and demonstrations. Mehdi Aminizadeh.

[Mehdi Aminizadeh]

The gathering at Tehran University started at 9 a.m. The professors [started the protest]. Afterward, the students joined them. Later the police encircled the university. They clashed with students and used tear gas. The demonstrations lasted through the night.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Republic, likened the attack on the campus to breaking into people's houses.

[Ali Khamenei]

...attacking a group's residences, especially at night or during the communal prayer...

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

And then, in reaction to Ayatollah Khamenei's message, as well as the propaganda of Iranian state TV, a series of demonstrations were scheduled to prove the solidarity between people and the Islamic regime.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

However, student activists such as Ali Afshari, believe that after July 9th, the student movement became more radicalized, separating itself from the government.

[Niusha Boghrati]

Abdullah Momeni, a member of the Alumni Association of the Office to Foster Unity, tells Radio Farda, that in fact, suppressing the students in 1999 and in the following years was linked to widespread cultural-social repression.

[Abdullah Momeni]

The attack on the Tehran University campus was connected to other problems and challenges that activists and critics faced in other areas: problems for journalists, political and civic activists, political parties and

groups. It was a program to neutralize and marginalize the regime's critics, to suppress the forces that played a major role on May 23rd (the 2nd of Khordad), 1997, and that attempted to advance democratic reforms and national demands.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Later, the court convicted a low-ranking law enforcement officer on the charge of stealing a razor [from the student dormitory]. General Nazari, the then-Commander of Tehran Law Enforcement, was acquitted of all charges. Ahmad Batebi is still in prison. Officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran declared that Ezatollah Ebrahimnejad, a guest on campus, was the only person killed in those events. It never became clear who was responsible for blinding one of the students, and what the students in the dormitories wanted to say.

[Niusha Boghrati]

What were the consequences of the July 9th incident? Ali Afshari, a student and political activist tells us what he believes.

[Ali Afshari]

A decrease in the level of joy and dynamism inside universities was the impetus of this event. The ill-fated dormitories incident, turned the event on its head. In the end, the students were found guilty. Unfortunately, the demands of the students to end their oppression were not addressed. Instead, they faced a subordinate court, and endured a show trial which did not meet any standards of justice. In the end, the incident was reduced to the conviction of a soldier charged with stealing a razor. Later, the students' first sparks of doubt concerning the effectiveness of the May 23rd reform movement, appeared.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Ali Nikounespati, a member of the Central Committee and the head of public relations of the Office to Foster Unity, says that the unity that appeared among the students after July 9th, was promising.

[Ali Nikounespati]

A growing unity appeared between various factions. A problem that we repeatedly faced after May 23rd, 1997, was how to get the different factions to work together. Fortunately, now we see that those who have different identities can work together and have the minimum agreement [needed to

cooperate]. Ultimately they don't destroy each other and that's very promising.

[Niusha Boghrati]

Fatemeh Haghghatjou says the events of July 9th, especially the dormitory attacks, lead to a change in perspective of the students involved in the movement.

[Fatemeh Haghghatjou]

These events caused the student movement to become disaffected with the possibility of fundamental reform in the country, and they began to feel that religious democracy is meaningless, and a government based on religion is meaningless. It caused the major part of the student movement to adopt a secular view, seeking a separation between religion and state.

[Niusha Boghrati]

Mehdi Zakeri, the student activist, says the July 9th movement showed that the May 23rd movement is fearful of mass movement and withdraws in response. Taking this issue into consideration, we should consider the July 9th event as a blatant defeat for the May 23rd movement, because [the latter] was not able to defend the students who supported it.

[Mehdi Zakeri]

The July 9th event was one of the reasons people abandoned the May 23rd movement, and its leaders. The May 23rd movement revealed its ineffectiveness in supporting the masses that had supported it. It was a great weakness indeed!

[Niusha Boghrati]

After the protests, other people and non-student youth, joined the movement in large numbers. Reza Delbari, a member of the Alumni Association of the Office to Foster Unity, was another student activist present at the campus dormitories that night.

[Reza Delbari]

When I was there for a day or two, people would make food and bring it to the dormitories. Whenever *Ansar-e Hezbollah* ["Supporters of Party of God"] or the Special Unit forces attacked the students, trapping somebody in a dead-end alley, the doors of all the houses would open. In those days, there was a real revolutionary atmosphere.

[Niussha Boghrati]

Since then, the chasm between the student movement and the Iranian government has grown. Last year's protests at Tehran's Amir Kabir University, against the newly elected President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is one example of the widening chasm.

[Audio Clip]

Ahmadinejad speakingstudents shouting slogans

[Niussha Boghrati]

Ali Nikounespati, the spokesman for the Office to Foster Unity, was arrested this morning, Monday, along with other members of the organization's Central Committee, in front of Amir Kabir University. Before being arrested, he spoke to Radio Farda concerning the students' situation *before* and *after* Ahmadinejad came into office:

[Ali Nikounespati]

The student movement, both before and after the Ahmadinejad Administration, has always been a critic of the regretful situation in Iranian society. The problem after Ahmadinejad came to power, is that we have witnessed a large scale assault against the movement. On the other hand, the students themselves have gradually established more extensive connections with other social movements, including those of workers, women, etc., which gladdens us.

A true example of this is the wide-spread student objections to the verdicts issued for female activists, who joined the movement while studying. They are now active members of the movement. This gladdens us.

On the other hand, we must point out the heavy price paid by students during this period.

[Niussha Boghrati]

Regarding the particular characteristics of the student movement, Mr. Nikounespati says:

[Ali Nikounespati]

One point which is a source of joy, is that during the last year, the various reform movements have almost reached collaboration. At least [inaudible] ... They have concluded not to try to destroy each other. A tolerance threshold has appeared among them. The inability to work together was a problem we faced during the reform period. Sometimes, we engaged in intense confrontations. In contrast, the opposing front [i.e. the government] was so disciplined and powerful. Unfortunately, it was a unified force against us.

Fortunately, many of the student groups understand each other now. They avoid confrontation. If there is criticism, it is really intended as constructive, something needed against the opposing forces in order to remain a unified front. This is indeed a source of happiness.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

In an interview with Radio Farda, Mohammad Hashemi, Secretary of the Office to Foster Unity, said the student movement had many ups and downs, leading to its maturity.

[Mohammad Hashemi]

The student movement in Iran has a 50-year-old history. In these 50 years, it has had many ups and downs. It has experienced revolutionary movements and [during the early years of the Revolution] it was part of the government as well. In 1997, and later, it pursued reforms and for a period it came close to turning into the opposition. In general, we can say that these ups and downs have been a very precious experience, something that has definitely affected the student movement.

Taking this history into account, as well as the maturity that I witness in the university [students], I foresee a bright future for the student movement. A future in which the movement will conclude that it should *never* engage in political games, or define itself as a political player. It should maintain its independence from the parties and groups affiliated with the government, keeping an appropriate distance.

[Niusha Boghrati]

Mehdi Zakeri, a student activist in Tehran, believes that there is no difference in the student movements between the periods before and after Ahmadinejad Administration.

[Mehdi Zakeri]

At least two or three years before the victory of the Ninth Administration, and of Ahmadinejad, an undercurrent appeared in the student movement. It gradually distanced itself from the May 23rd movement. Before the attack [on the campus dormitories], the influence of May 23rd on the student movement was completely noticeable. I mean that the student movement was connected to the May 23rd movement.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

I asked Ali Nikounespati if pressure from outside sources have affected the student movement.

[Ali Nikounespati]

These pressures do not last long. If you consider Iran's history, there have always been sources that exerted pressure on the movement.

[Niusha Boghrati]

Mr. Zakeri considers the defeat of the reformers, and the victory of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the presidential elections, two years ago, to be a sign that people are moving away from the reformers.

[Mehdi Zakeri]

This issue was completely conceivable in the movement. The atmosphere was like that of May 23^d. On July 9th, it was clear that the opposing forces [i.e. government security forces] would act. After these currents began to spread, the government decided to confront them, fearing that the May 23rd movement could become a mass movement. As with every reform movement, [the government] is afraid of it becoming a mass movement and tries to avoid it and fears it.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Mohammad Hashemi, the Secretary of the Office to Foster Unity, says that the July 9th [events] caused the student movement to have a better understanding of political activism, and the need to know their own strengths, in order to be effective.

[Mohammad Hashemi]

July 9th was a turning point for the university. It can be viewed from two aspects. The first is the short-term consequence of the event, which was the change in the relationship between the student movement and the

reform movement. The [student movement] originally defined itself as part of the reform movement. The July 9th [events] helped the student movement to better understand the political activists. They found that their views and ideals were different from those of political activists, and thus the movement could not enter into a long-term coalition with them.

On the other hand, it was shown that blind radical movements, movements without any plan for the future, and protests that do not consider costs of [inaudible], that don't consider the student movement's strength, cannot be very effective.

[Niusha Boghrati]

And, today, it has been eight years since the July 9th incident. An incident whose influence was not limited to the student movement in Iran. An incident that still attracts a large amount of discussion and analysis.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

That was Saeedeh Hashemi, Niusha Boghrati, and Behrooz Karooni, with a look at what happened eight years ago, at the campus dormitories.

Now let's go to Turkey, where today, on the anniversary of July 9th, tens of Iranian student asylum-seekers held a demonstration in front of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, in the city of Van. Ali Javanmardi reports from Ankara.

[Ali Javanmardi]

At 2:00pm, on Monday, July 9th, corresponding with the 18th of Tir, 1386, upon an invitation from the honoring committee of the July 9th catastrophe, dozens of Iranian student asylum-seekers held a demonstration in front of the U.N., in this city.

[Demonstrators]

The fighting student! We support you!
The political prisoner should be released!

[Ali Javanmardi]

The demonstration, which included shouting slogans and carrying placards in support of Iran's student movement, ended after an hour, following the reading of a declaration. In the declaration, students demanded that the UN human rights organizations, and independent international entities, not

forget the violation of human rights and liberties of Iranian citizens, by the Islamic Republic of Iran and, support the democracy-seeking movement in Iran.

[The speaker in the demonstration]

We, students and freedom seekers exiled in Van, Turkey, ask human rights entities, including the U.N.'s Human Rights Commission, the European Human Rights Council, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch: Do you remember the tragedy of July 9th, the imprisoning of Iranian students and freedom seekers, the torture and murder of the brave student Akbar Mohammadi, in Evin Prison, as well as [the murder of] Ezat Ebrahimnejad and Feiz Mahdavi? Do you still remember the murder of those who thought differently [A term used to identify oppositionists inside Iran] - writers, journalists, and political activists? Do you remember the barbaric murders of [the Shah's last Prime Minister] Dr. Shapour Bakhtiar, [the Kurdish leader] Dr. Abdulrahman Ghasemlou, [the Kurdish activist] Sadegh Sharafkandi, Kazem Rajavi, [the Iranian singer Fereidoun] Farokhzad, as well as the murder of thousands of brave Iranian officers in the early years of the Revolution? Do you remember the murder of thousands of prisoners in 1989, as well as the barbaric murder of Shaneh Ghaderi, in Kurdistan?

Today, in commemoration of the July 9th tragedy, Iranian freedom fighters, especially the suffering students, declare once again that we defend the rights, honor, and human dignity of Iranian women, students and workers. We ask the world human rights entities to break their silence, and protest the breach of human rights in Iran with a loud voice, to assuage the pain and suffering of the Iranian people.

[Ali Javanmardi]

Reza Ashrafpour, a member of the honoring committee of the July 9th tragedy, and one of the organizers of the event, spoke to Radio Farda about the reasons for commemorating this tragedy.

[Reza Ashrafpour]

The goal of this event is to show that the Iranian youth, whether in Iran, in exile, or anywhere in the world, are dissatisfied with the Islamic Republic. They never forget their exalted goals of freedom and democracy. Our most important goals are, freedom, democracy, and the release of political prisoners from the clutches of the regime.

[Ali Javanmardi]

The commemoration of July 9th, held in front of the U.N.'s office in Van, Turkey, ended without police interference. Ali Javanmardi, Radio Farda, Ankara.

[Music Clip]

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

It's 7:00 p.m. Once again, good evening! Stay tuned to us. First, let's have a look at today's world news, read by Niusha Boghrati.

[Niusha Boghrati]

Once again, good evening! Hello and greetings, dear listeners of the Evening Edition.

On the eighth anniversary of the July 9th attack on Tehran University's dormitories, in 1999, today, Monday, all members of the Office to Foster Unity were detained. They were participating in a sit-in to protest the continuing detention of the eight students from Polytechnic University, when they were arrested.

The Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamad ElBaradei, says that the Islamic Republic of Iran has slowed down its nuclear activities. Today, in Vienna, he told reporters that based on observations from the Agency's inspectors the use of centrifuges for uranium enrichment in Iran has slowed down.

The leader of a group affiliated with al-Qaeda in Iraq, warned the Islamic Republic of Iran to abandon its support of Shiites in Iraq, and to cease its interference in Iraq, or expect a fierce war. Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi, the leader of a group called the Islamic State of Iraq, in a videotape distributed on Sunday, July 8th, said that he will give Iranian leaders two months to abandon their support for the Shiite administration in Iraq, or they should expect a harsh war. The Islamic State of Iraq is a coalition of Sunni forces, headed by al-Qaeda.

Today, Monday, a court in the UK, convicted three men accused of failed bombings in London, two years ago. The three men, Mukhtar Saeed Ebrahim, Yassin Omar, and Ramzi Mohammad, were found guilty on

charges of conspiracy to murder. Presently, the jury of this court is deliberating on three of the accomplices in this case.

According to reports, today the International Atomic Energy Agency ratified the inspections of the North Korean nuclear activities. According to diplomats, this decision came following the meeting of the Agency's Board of Governors, in Vienna. The reports announced that the agency's inspections are scheduled to resume in about a week, with the goal of evaluating Pyongyang's nuclear disarmament.

Today, while the Pakistani President, General Pervez Musharraf, met with senior government officials to find a solution for the Red Mosque crisis, in Islamabad, the shootings around the mosque resumed. The Pakistani clergies say that they are preparing a final proposal to prevent an attack of government forces on the armed men entrenched in the Red Mosque.

The commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), headed by NATO, says that the number of foreign militias in Afghanistan is increasing. American general, Dan McNoon, told France Press that the insurgents are much more fanatic than the Taliban extremists.

What has been called "history's most extensive multi-national naval maneuver in the Black Sea," started today, Monday, in the vicinity of Ukraine. The maneuver, called "Sea Breeze 2007," will continue for two weeks, and will consist of ground and naval forces from 13 countries, including the US, NATO countries, and Ukraine. Mr. Tahbaz

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

Thank you, Mr. Boghrati. For the first report, we go to Iran to hear about a stoning verdict. According to the *Meidan-e Zanan* website, reliable news sources indicate that last Thursday, July 5th, Jafar Kiani was stoned to death in a village in the proximity of Takistan.

Jafar Kiani and his accomplice, Mokaram Ebrahimi, were sentenced to death on charges of adultery, after spending 11 years in Qazvin Prison. Mrs. Ebrahimi's lawyer is concerned about the case of his client, and the possibility that the same verdict will befall her as well.

[Mariam Mazuri]

According to reports on the *Meidan-e Zanan* website, which is provided by Iranian women activists, at 11:00am, Thursday, July 5th, 2007, Jafar Kiani was stoned to death in the village of Gharachekan, in Takistan. The *Etemad-e Melli* Newspaper also verified this news, in its Monday edition. The newspaper reported that the agents and the judge responsible for the verdict, executed it in front of residents of Aghchekan village.

The news of the stoning of Jafar Kiani was published in domestic and foreign media, three days after the execution. So far, no formal judicial source has verified or denied the news of the stoning.

Despite many efforts [to contact him], Hassan Basseri, the head of the Qazvin Province Judiciary, did not return phone calls. One of the employees of Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, the head of the Judiciary Branch, said that he had not heard this news. The Qazvin Judiciary said the same thing to Radio Farda. Mr. Afshari, Editor of *Hadis-e Qasvin*, told Radio Farda that, if executed, this verdict was legitimate. On the other hand, the informal reports received from the prison and the courthouse, verify that the stoning verdict was carried out.

At the same time, *Etemad-e Melli* Newspaper wrote that the people of the village, as well as a source close to one of the representatives of the region, have verified and support the verdict.

Shirin Ebadi, a lawyer and a member of the “no-stoning-law” campaign in Iran, in an interview with Radio Farda, said the following:

[Shirin Ebadi]

I'm very sorry for the execution of this verdict. The verdict does not correspond to international laws, or with the international commitments of the Iranian government. Mr. Shahroudi has had many directives opposing stoning. I don't know if they were real, or if Mr. Shahroudi *really* wanted to prevent this. If the verdict was simply a formality, we are sorry to be witnessing such behavior on the international stage in the 21st century.

[Mariam Mazuri]

More than two weeks ago, the stoning verdict for Mokrameh Ebrahimi and Jafar Kiani, was suspended in the face extensive reaction from women and human rights activists, in Iran and around the world. The suspension was ordered by the head of the Judiciary, one day before it was scheduled to be

carried out. It was expected that this case would be re-examined. At that time it was learned that the couple condemned for adultery, was to be stoned in the Takistan cemetery.

Shirin Ebadi considers the elimination of that penalty from the law, to be the only way to halt stoning in Iran. She says the issuance of case-by-case directives from the head of the Judiciary, will not bear any fruit.

[Shirin Ebadi]

If Mr. Shahrودي does not approve of stoning, instead of issuing directives, which the judges do not seem to take seriously anyway, he should propose a law that imposes an imprisonment term for the responsible parties, and eliminate stoning as an option. As all of the members of parliament belong to a faction that supports Mr. Shahrودي, he can be assured that they will ratify such a law. The Guardian Council will ratify it also. This is the legal and logical solution for the prevention of stoning.

[Mariam Mazuri]

According to the *Meidan-e Zanan* website, no news is available regarding Mokarameh Ebrahimi. She is in Qazvin prison. Despite numerous attempts, the volunteer lawyers have not been able to review the content of the case. Saeed Eghbali, one of those lawyers, expressed his concern regarding the execution of the verdict. He says the staff involved in the case, including the judge, insist on carrying out the verdict. It is said that a great number of people in Aghchekan village have witnessed the verdict, filming the event with their mobile phones.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

The news of the stoning of Jafar Kiani, reported by Mariam Mazuri.

Mohamad ElBaradei, the head of the IAEA, reports Iran's uranium enrichment program has significantly slowed down. Speaking to reporters at IAEA headquarters, in Vienna, Mr. ElBaradei called it "a positive development" in the Islamic Republic nuclear crisis. More information from Radio Farda's Alireza Taheri:

[Alireza Taheri]

IAEA's Chairman, quoting the Agency's inspectors in Natanz, told reporters that the use of centrifuges for uranium enrichment in Iran has "been significantly reduced."

Indicating the sensitiveness at this stage in the Islamic Republic nuclear crisis, Mr. ElBaradei welcomed the reduction in Iran's nuclear activities, calling it "a positive development."

Mr. ElBaradei said that at this sensitive stage, Iran should by no means expand its nuclear activities.

[Mr. ElBaradei]

At this sensitive stage, my utmost hope is that Iran stops what it is doing now, as well.

[Alireza Taheri]

According to Mr. ElBaradei, by showing its willingness to obey the UN's Security Council resolutions, and halting its enrichment program, the Islamic Republic will have a positive impact on the Council's future decisions regarding Tehran's government. It will pave the way for resuming negotiations by the parties involved.

In his remarks today, the IAEA Chairman asserted once again that face-to-face talks between Tehran and Washington can be substantially effective.

[Mr. ElBaradei]

If we are able to move on these issues, clarifying them, so we can be assured about Iran's nuclear programs, this will affect the Security Council's measures, as well as the measures adopted by all of the member countries, and hopefully will facilitate the resumption of negotiations.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

For some time, the IAEA's Chairman has been trying to call a "recess" in regards to the nuclear crisis, between the Islamic Republic and the international community; so that group discussions and behind-the-scene negotiations can lead to a resolution.

In pursuing this policy, Mr. ElBaradei noted that the Islamic Republic should use whatever it has at its disposal to find a way to put out the flames of this crisis, and reduce the heat of the present differences.

[Mr. ElBaradei]

We are sending a mission to Iran tomorrow, to negotiate with the Islamic Republic's officials regarding ways to resolve the remaining issues related to Iran's nuclear programs.

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

The international community is suspicious of Iran's nuclear activities, given approximately twenty years of clandestine nuclear activities in Iran, which came to light only about four years ago. They insist that these activities should be suspended until the international community is confident of Iran's peaceful intentions.

In spite of two UN Security Council resolutions, as well as the sanctions imposed on Tehran's government, the Islamic Republic insists that its nuclear activities are peaceful, and so far has refused to stop the uranium enrichment program.

Mohammad ElBaradei, the IAEA Chairman, says Iran's uranium enrichment program has slowed down. A report....

[Audio Clip]

This is the Evening Edition of Radio Farda.

[Unknown voice]

The report you heard was presented by Alireza Taheri. Together we will visit the world with The New Outlook. We will join Mohammad Zarghamian and The New Outlook.

[Mohammad Zarghamian]

Greetings to listeners of our program. The New Outlook will be with us shortly! But if you want to see what we'll be talking about, wait and listen!

[Audio Clip]

Tonight, first we'll go to Germany and talk to Saeed Farajpouri, the distinguished player of *kamancheh*.

[Audio Clip]

And of course, we haven't forgotten July 9th. We'll hear a musical version of July 9th by the author of the famous poem, My Elementary School Friend, Mansour Tehrani, who currently lives in Sweden.

Saeed Farajpour is a permanent member of the *Dastan* Group. Perhaps we can say this is one of the Persian musical groups with worldwide fame that has been able to introduce our music to nations that appreciate our musical history.

Mr. Farajpour's specialty instrument is the *kamancheh*, a modern version of the *robab*. It is a completely Iranian instrument that in ancient times was known as a Parsi sitar. Mr. Farajpour started his career with groups like Sheida, Aref, and Ava, and played along with such great figures as Mohammad Reza Lotfi and Homayoun Payvar. He has also worked with such singers as Sima Bina, Mohammad Reza Shajarian, and Parisa.

Sometime ago, when we were having a gathering with friends in a café in Prague, we noticed there was music from all around the world, except Iran. This was a question asked by my colleague Shahram Mirian, when visiting Saeed Farajpour. The famous musician tells us his painful story.

[Saeed Farajpour]

The globalization [of Iranian music] has always been an issue for people and artists as well. I think, in the last two decades, for example, Iranian music has been presented to the world many times. It is not supposed to be like western classical music, for example, but as global music.

Naturally, we preserve our identity when we present our work. We wish to appear on the world stage, and preserve our culture as well as our music. Fortunately, we have taken important steps in this regard. We had concerts in places where we were not able to go before.

For example, we had three concerts with the Cologne Philharmonic last year. Our next concert is with Berlin's Philharmonic, a very important place. We have had many performances at cultural centers in Europe, the US, Canada, and Asia.

We have a section called "combining music," in which we combine our orchestration with western orchestration. We are scheduled to do more programs like this in the future. To make this happen, there have been talks

between the *Dastan* group and the Liege Philharmonic, in Belgium. Mr. Darvishi is ready to perform there. The contract has been signed and Mr. Shajarian is scheduled to participate.

[Mohammad Zarghamian]

So, Mr. Farajpouri, Iranian musicians traveling abroad, are able to both introduce the Iranian music to foreign listeners and help that music become global. Is that correct?

[Saeed Farajpouri]

Exactly! I think the relationship between the musicians [inside the country] with those outside, as well as familiarity with the music of other countries, plays a significant role in globalizing our music. That can be a factor for more movements and far-reaching measures to gain new resources on the global music stage.

[Audio Clip]

[Mohammad Zarghamian]

Mr. Farajpouri, what are the problems and limitations of the youth that have turned to music?

[Saeed Farajpouri]

We have many problems in Iran. After so much effort, [when] the youth want to present their work, going on stage and gaining some experience, there is very little opportunity for them. Of course, famous musicians and singers have more opportunities because they are well-established.

Regarding the younger generation, unfortunately, I don't see a good future for their professional activities. Compared to past musicians, these kids work much harder. However, they have a tough situation in respect to performing their work, because experience is gained through performance. For a musician, the experience of going on stage is vital.

[Mohammad Zarghamian]

Do you mean that there is a shortage of venues, or there are regulations restricting your young students?

[Saeed Farajpouri]

Both factors are very important. The problem is how to provide an unknown group with an auditorium. On the other hand, for them to be able to work, and to become established, promotion is another important factor.

[Audio Clip]

[Mohammad Zarghamian]

Before continuing with the interview between Shahram Mirian and Saeed Farajpouri, a brief look at the musical news in Iran gives a complicated picture. For example, last Wednesday, the newly-established Council on Musical Guidance ordered the elimination and closure of the only women's music festival, *Go/ -e Yas* ["Jasmine Flower"]. Also, last Monday, Fars News Agency, quoting a manager of a tv program, announced the removal of a new singer named Mohsen Namjou. The Iranian broadcasting authorities gave no reason for this action.

Hearing this news, in addition to the prohibition of showing the playing of instruments, even *Iranian* instruments, on Iranian state TV, has significantly affected the musical atmosphere in the country. Let's see how our guest feels about this.

[Saeed Farajpouri]

We have been facing this problem for years and it has not yet been solved. In any case, three decades after the Iranian Revolution, the problem still persists. Musicians are complaining about this issue, because music has been stuck between [religiously] *legitimate and illegitimate*.

[Shahram Mirian]

Mr. Farajpouri, in your last interview you indicated that for you, playing an instrument is a kind of worship.

[Saeed Farajpouri]

Exactly! I am always being asked to give an interview. The fact is that I am tired of interviewing. We are musicians. A performer is supposed to play an instrument. How long should we talk? How long should we *defend* music, something that should exist? A big part of our lives is spent defending it.

[Audio Clip]

[Mohammad Zarghamian]

Let's go to Sweden, where the author of the famed poem, *My Elementary School Friend*, lives, sharing his work through the press and on radio programs, avoiding any fuss. Eight years have passed since this poem entered the students' literature texts, during which time it has been used in various contexts. Maybe many of us want to know more about the verses of this poem. Mansour Tehrani reports:

[Mansour Tehrani]

In fact, composing this poem was initiated by a film called "Three Elementary School Friends," in 1979. I composed the poem and the song for the film, which fit very well. Although the film screening was soon stopped, this was before [the establishment of the Ministry of] Guidance's censorship. The film was well received in the short time it was playing, especially the song, which was sung by Mr. Fereidoun Foroughi.

[Audio Clip]

[Mansour Tehrani]

This song became a source of pride for me when the dear students sang it together in Laleh Park. In this poem, in fact, there is a kind of search for justice and anger. This was a few months after the Revolution. It had become clear that many elements of a free society were absent. So this poem made an impression on me.

[Shahram Mirian]

Apparently, after the poem became so popular among the students, the government authorities tried to take possession of it.

[Mansour Tehrani]

As you know, Mr. Ahmadinejad, the Iranian President, used this poem in his presidential campaign, and it was performed by a chorus by boys and girls. I wish that Mr. Ahmadinejad liked the Iranian people as much as he likes this poem.

[Audio Clip]

[Shahram Mirian]

This song has been sung by many singers. There have been many performances. As the creator of this work, which one do you prefer?

[Mansour Tehrani]

To tell you the truth, the one performed by Fereidoun Foroughi, when he sang it in the studio, had a special feeling and fit the film perfectly. It was part of a scene in which a man is looking for his friend. The character fades away, but the song and the melody persist, “beating the scene” so to speak. The voice of Mr. Foroughi was so moving, that it was not allowed to stay on for long. One of the grievances of the late Foroughi was that the song with his voice never received a distribution permit.

[Shahram Mirian]

Our time is almost up, but I would like to ask this question: In the social history of Iran, especially in the post-Revolution years, there were many songs with social and political messages. However, a limited number of those songs ever became so popular. How does a social-political song blend language and time together, and have a lasting legacy?

[Mansour Tehrani]

Sometimes, one cries out with all of his emotions and one receives the same response in return. However, if you write a cliché or idea dictated [by the government] in a poem, even though it's political and intended to arouse emotions, it will have a transient effect.

I should remind you that there is another poem from this time period that is still very popular. It was written by our great Lady of Poetry, Mrs. Simin Behbahani, called, *I will Rebuild You [My] Country!* Performed by Daryush. I personally like this song very much.

[Audio Clip]

[Host Mr. Tahbaz]

You can call us at 0042-02-21124114 and leave us a message. If you have a topic in mind, propose it and we will address it. Goodnight till next week.

TRANSLATION ENDS HERE