

The following is a translation of the “Radio Farda” Persian program, which was broadcast via satellite on September 8, 2007 at 0330 UTC.

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[Female voice]
Radio Farda News.

[Host Jean Khakzad]
The latest news from Radio Farda.

Radio Farda News:

-The United States is studying bin Laden’s latest video.

-The President of the United States says that bin Laden’s video reminds us that the world is still in danger.

-The Commander of American forces in Iraq called the political trend in that country disappointing.

Good morning, our friends, and welcome to the “Morning Magazine” of Radio Farda on this first day of the week. Today is Saturday, the 17th of Shahrivar, year 1386 on the solar calendar, or September 8th, 2007. I am Jean Khakzad, and I, along with my colleagues, Elaheh Ravanshad, and Shaheen Bashiri, will be your host on this “Morning Magazine” from Radio Farda.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]
Good morning, dear friends! Today, too, we have tried to collect a variety of reports that we will present to you in this program.

[Host Jean Khakzad]
All over Iran, wherever you are listening to Radio Farda, we wish you a happy day and please stay with us.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]
First, listen to the latest news from my colleague, Shaheen Bashiri.

[Shaheen Bashiri]

Good morning, dear listeners!

Officials in the United States say they “are busy analyzing bin Laden’s latest video to discover leads for a possible attack by al-Qaeda against targets in the United States.” The video was released several days in advance of the sixth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack. In that video bin Laden says that in spite of military and economic power America is still vulnerable.

He also has invited America to embrace Islam and asked for an ending to the war in Iraq. So far, the latest reports confirm that there is neither threat nor promise of a new attack in that video. The latest reports, quoting an intelligence official, confirm the authenticity of the al-Qaeda leader’s voice. It is the first time in three years that the al-Qaeda leader has appeared in a video. On Friday Michael Hayden, head of America’s Central Intelligence Agency, said, “Experts and analysts believe that al-Qaeda is preparing for a large attack on American targets.”

George Bush, President of the United States, says that Osama bin Laden’s new video proves that the world is still in danger and America has the right to move firmly in the war in Iraq. Mr. Bush, who is in Australia on an official visit, mentioned that the war in Iraq is part of the fight against radicals and said, “The United States should act with resolve and determination in eliminating al-Qaeda sanctuaries.”

The Senior Commander of US military forces in Iraq said that despite the surge in American forces [intended] to bring stability to Iraq, the efforts in creating national reconciliation have been disappointing. General Petraeus, addressing his subordinates, said that in the last few months the US military has established significant security [improvement], and that the rate of attacks has diminished.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Thanks to Mr. Bashiri, who informed us of the latest important news. We will be standing by in the Radio Farda studio for any fresh news you may have.

[Shaheen Bashiri]

With pleasure.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

We will continue with our “Morning Magazine.”

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Muhammad ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, says, “In order to prevent war and confrontation, agreement with Iran is very important.” We have a report by Maryam Ahmadi.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

The Islamic Republic of Iran has executed 41 people in one month.

[Nasser Zarafshan, on the phone]

Eliminating, killing, executing, and showing claws and teeth, without eliminating conditions [leading to commission of] crimes, will change nothing.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Mahin Gorgi talks with Nasser Zarafshan, human rights activist.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Reporters without Borders once again protested the wave of journalists’ arrests in Iran. We have a report by Roya Toloui.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

The Persepolis Soccer Team is still in the front line of the Iran Premier Soccer League. My colleague, Habib Roshanzadeh, will give us the latest in “Sports World.”

Stay with Radio Farda.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Muhammad ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, says, “In order to prevent confrontation that can lead to war, agreement with Iran on its nuclear facilities inspection is very important.” Mr. ElBaradei, at the end of August, came to an agreement with Iran on a timetable for answering charges about its nuclear status. The agreement is also faced with some criticism. Maryam Ahmadi reports.

[Maryam Ahmadi]

Mr. ElBaradei, in reaction to criticism against him with regard to Iran's cooperation agreement with the Agency, called his critics back seat drivers. He accused the American media of discrediting him. According to an agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran, which took place on August 21, Iran would, based on an approximate timetable, answer questions about its nuclear program. Mr. ElBaradei has said that he is waiting for Iran to show goodwill by the end of this year regarding its promise of cooperation.

Otherwise, any basis for future trust would fade. The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, talking to reporters in his Vienna office, said to his critics: "Leave the driving to us. We will tell you where we are in November. We have a timetable that gives us the possibility, in November and December, to clearly evaluate Iran's goodwill in and readiness for cooperation with the Agency." Mr. ElBaradei added that "Based on evidence, we cannot say that Iran is a clear and present danger [that would] call for using means beyond diplomacy." The Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency said, "I hear the sound of the war drum that is pounded by people who want a quick solution and say that Iran should be bombed."

Gregory Schulte, US ambassador to the IAEA, who had said earlier that Iran's goal in negotiating with the Agency is buying time, on Friday said that Iran's latest agreement with the IAEA has potential for transparency and cooperation with regard to its nuclear program. Mr. Schulte told reporters, "The draft agreement, in case Iran fully cooperates, has important potentiality for answering old questions. However, the draft is about old questions and, in defiance of the Security Council's wish, is silent with regard to the current uranium enrichment program." Mr. Schulte said that the Agency will make it clear [that] if Iran wants international trust it should not only answer questions about old programs, it should completely shut down its uranium enrichment program and cooperate unconditionally with the Agency. Mr. Schulte's suggestion for unconditional cooperation is a warning to Iran, which has said if Iran were threatened further, it would cancel its agreement with the Agency. Western powers believe that Iran has agreed to cooperation with the Agency under the pressure of two previous resolutions [of the Security Council].

You were listening to Maryam Ahmadi report from Radio Farda.

[Female Announcer]

You are listening to Radio Farda's "Morning Magazine."

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Emadeddin Baghi, a political activist in Iran, in an open letter addressing political and civic activists in Iran, has criticized them for their silence about widespread executions in the country. Mr. Baghi called last month's execution of 41 people a great tragedy. He has said their penalties are not in proportion with their crimes, and according to government administrators, it is only done to scare people. You will hear my colleague Mahin Gorgi's conversation with Nasser Zarafshan, a human rights activist.

[Mahin Gorgi]

Emadeddin Baghi, a political activist in Iran, in an open letter addressing political parties, has asked them to show reaction to the collective executions in Iran. Mr. Baghi, in pointing to a 100 percent increase in the number of executions in Iran, said that only last month 41 people had gone to the gallows. This political activist called the silence of elites, political parties, and civic organizations in Iran, along with the indifference of public opinion about these executions a tragedy and says that most of these executions, according to government administrators, are carried out just for intimidation. Nasser Zarafshan, a human rights activist in Iran, says in a conversation with Radio Farda that these executions are only for strangling the [political] environment.

[Nasser Zarafshan]

If you [were to] gather all criminals and throw them all into the sea at the same time, the society would produce the same numbers of criminals from good people. It means that in reality eliminating, killing, executing, and showing claws and teeth, without eliminating the conditions [leading to commission of] crimes, would change nothing. A clear example is the execution of drug smugglers that [began] from the start of the Islamic Republic [and used a] very strict penalty system and executions, as we all remember.

They were promising to dry up the source of drugs in Iran. You see, what is the result after 30 years? Did drug smuggling decrease? Did the number of drug addicts decrease? It is clear that in the last 20 years it has increased, even with the showing of claws and teeth by the authorities. Now, if the issue is only the enforcement of law, that is something else. Laws should

be enforced anywhere, any time. I should say that showing claws and teeth is only for strangling the [political] environment and, in reality, is a kind of intimidation.

[Mahin Gorgi]

Mr. Zarafshan, in reference to the execution of Judge Ja'farpour's killer, which took only one month from the start to carrying out the verdict, [and suggesting] that these kinds of treatments have the opposite effect:

[Nasser Zarafshan]

Execution of Judge Ja'farpour's killer, from the day it happened until the carrying out of the verdict, took less than one month. Meaning that from the day the judge was killed until [the condemned] himself was executed [it] took one month. Normally, death penalty cases do not [reach completion] in one month. Those kinds of executions have very little effect on deterring others [Note: Translator uncertain of exact meaning of this sentence].

[Mahin Gorgi]

In the last few months the Islamic Republic Justice authorities have executed 41 people, naming them ruffians and rascals. According to human rights activists, most of those were sentenced without giving them [access] to a lawyer or a chance for appealing their cases. Mr. Baghi, in his protest letter, called this method of legal procedure a great tragedy. Earlier, Amnesty International named Iran the second leading country in the world, [that is] after China, in executions. At present, 90 percent of executions in the world take place in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and America.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

My colleague, Mahin Gorgi, was talking with Nasser Zarafshan, human rights activist, on the latest large scale executions in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ms. Ravanshad, the organization Reporters without Borders, in a published statement has protested against threats targeting the press by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran. Is that correct?

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Yes, it is correct. The statement says that Reporters without Borders announces its apprehension with regard to Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's threatening remarks against the press. In its statement

Reporters without Borders writes, “Remarks of Ayatollah Khamenei in themselves prove the censorship and strangling environment that is forced on independent journalists and press who do not accept the ‘black censor’ imposed by the authorities. What is left of freedom of expression in Iran today? We are worried that these remarks would order a new attack on the press.” In the spring of 1379, the last time the leader of the Islamic Republic criticized the press, a large wave of journalists’ arrests and newspaper shutdowns started. The organization Reporters without Borders adds that on Thursday, the 15th of Shahrivar [September 6], Ayatollah Khamenei, in a speech to members of the Council of Experts, strongly attacked the press. He called some domestic press immoral and accused them of supporting enemy propaganda.

After the election of Hashemi Rafsanjani as chairman of the Assembly of Experts, many news agencies in their analysis and commentaries called his election a sign of weakness of Ayatollah Khamenei supporters and the Mahmoud Ahmadinejad government in the Assembly [Majlis]. Those remarks came at a time when last week more than 150 Iranian journalists in a published statement protested censorship and shutdowns in the press.

The organization Reporters without Borders, which protects journalists’ freedom of speech all over the world, adds in another place, “The latest news is that one of the judicial authorities has asked editors of several newspapers to avoid covering student related news, particularly news related to the three students of Amir Kabir University who are in prison now.” This happens at a time when some authorities had already persuaded newspaper editors to publish one sided ‘recommended’ things. Last week, Saeed Mortazavi, Tehran’s Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor, summoned some newspaper editors and warned them about publishing forbidden news.

The statement adds that on Monday, the 12th of Shahrivar [September 3rd], Parnaz Azima, Radio Farda reporter, was summoned by officials of the Information Ministry and was told to get her passport and leave Iran. Her case is still open in the court. Parnaz Azima, an Iranian [and an] American citizen, was interrogated at the airport on the 5th of Bahman [January 25, 2007] upon entering Iranian soil, and security officials confiscated her travel documents. However, Azima traveled to her country only to visit her sick mother.

Finally, Reporters without Borders mentions that with 10 journalists in prison, Iran is the largest prison of journalists in the Middle East. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President, and Ayatollah Khamenei, leader of the Islamic Republic, are among 38 heads of state in the world that are considered enemies of freedom of the press by Reporters without Borders.

In another statement, Reporters without Borders has welcomed the end of the hunger strike by Adnan Hassanpour and Hiva Botimar, two Kurdish journalists sentenced to death, and has asked Islamic Republic Justice authorities to cancel their death sentences.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Thanks to my colleague, Elaheh Ravanshad, for informing us of the Reporters Without Borders statement, live from the Radio Farda studio. We should mention here that the wave of journalists' arrests in Iran, as you have heard, has brought reactions from many human rights organizations, including Reporters without Borders. A young journalist, Soheil Asefi, has been in prison for more than 40 days and security officials are preventing his mother, Mrs. Nahid Kheirabi, from visiting him. Mrs. Kheirabi, in conversation with my colleague Roya Toloui, talks about pressure on her son.

[Nahid Kheirabi]

It has been 40 days that my son, Soheil Asefi, is in solitary cell number 209 of Evin prison. This arrest of a journalist, I mean temporary detention, is illegal. [All] the first week we completely did not know where he was and in what situation he was in. However, after the first week he had two or three short telephone calls, and after that visiting him was prohibited and he was in a solitary [confinement] cell. In the last few days his father was allowed to have two meetings with him in the presence of interrogators.

It is said that because Soheil Asefi's mother is knocking [on] doors here and there for her son's freedom, she is not given permission to visit him. The issue that bothers me is that I have tried every organization in the country, like [the] Judiciary, [the] Assembly's various committees, the Ministry of Justice, and every organization, but did not get any result. They did not even tell us on what charges he is being detained "temporarily" for such a long time. Because of his 40 days detention in a solitary [confinement] cell and being under a lot of mental stress and psychological

torture he is worn out and very tired. I am worried about my son's physical and mental health.

[Roya Toloui]

When his father met Mr. Asefi, [what was] his condition?

[Nahid Kheirabi]

He was very tired, worn out, weak, and ill.

[Roya Toloui]

Do you think he has been mentally or physically tortured?

[Nahid Kheirabi]

He is certainly under mental and psychological torture. As for physical torture, I have no accurate information. We could not tell if he was tortured physically with only his forehead visible [to us] – and [we] can't really have a conversation there [in the prison with guards present]. However, yes, mental and psychological torture does exist. He has been shut off from the whole world for 40 days, lives in a solitary [confinement] cell with no ventilation.

[Roya Toloui]

Have the charges against him been provided to you in writing?

[Nahid Kheirabi]

No, neither his family nor his lawyers know about the charges and reasons for his detention.

[Roya Toloui]

Nothing [has been] said to [Mr. Asefi] himself, so he could inform you?

[Nahid Kheirabi]

No, we have no information.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Mrs. Nahid Kheirabi, journalist Soheil Asefi's mother, was talking with Radio Farda.

[Female Announcer, Music]

From "In the Press."

[Host Jean Khakzad]

The time is 7:22 and we will have a look at today's newspapers in Iran.

The daily *Kayhan* has headlined Ali Khamenei, the leader of the Islamic Republic's, warning to the press.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Keyhan Daily, in today's leading article, has introduced the names of media warned by Ali Khamenei. That newspaper claims that some domestic newspapers and websites, like the ones connected to the Kargozaran and Mosharekat parties, and sites under the control of these two parties, like *Roozna*, *Asreh-now*, *Baztab*, and *Aftab*, along with *Kargozaran* and *Etemade Melli* newspapers, are [accused of being] domestic shadows of the enemy and [are] evidence of foreign media, [so] the leader of Islamic Republic gave them warning. *Keyhan* explicitly threatened those newspapers with dire consequences regarding publishing anything related to the Assembly of Experts.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Tehran Daily has reported on contradictory statements made by Iranian and Russian authorities with regard to the start of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

According to this newspaper, Atom Stroi Export Company, original builder of the first nuclear power plant in Bushehr, did not confirm the Iranian side's reports about an agreement on a new timetable for the start of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr. A spokesman for Atom Stroi Export Company said, "We do not confirm that we have come to an agreement with our Iranian colleague on the issue of a final timetable for the start of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr."

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Etemade Melli Daily has reflected upon Emadeddin Baghi's request from and criticism of political parties and reformist organizations.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

According to *Etemad-e Melli* Daily, Mr. Baghi has written in part of his letter that, "In the last days and weeks, we were witness to a great tragedy, and

the political parties, and the reformists [and] activists were absent from it.” The mentioned tragedy is last month’s 41 executions; and [more prisoners] were saved only at the time of execution [at the last minute]. According to *Etemade Melli*, Mr. Baghi, in his letter criticizing reformist parties’ silence, has written that a tragedy larger than the successive executions is the silence of the elites, the political parties, and Iran’s civic organizations on one hand, and the indifference or submission of public opinion with regard to the state media’s one-sided propaganda and claims on the other hand.

[Host Jean Khakzad]
And finally, the daily, *Etemad*.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]
The daily *Etemad* has noted Ahmad Shirzad’s – member of the sixth Assembly [Majlis] with a PhD in nuclear science – reaction to the latest statement of Ahmadinejad. Quoting him, the Daily writes, “If Mr. Ahmadinejad really has documents and evidence, he is obligated to reveal the names of those individuals.” According to this newspaper, Mr. Shirzad, in relation to the latest assertion of the Islamic Republic’s President, who claims that eight to 10 individuals have been giving the country’s internal intelligence to Westerners, said, “With all the propagandistic means at Mr. Ahmadinejad’s disposal for the last two and a half years, [still] during all that time the President only promises the people to reveal their names.” According to this member of the Central Council of Mosharekat Front, the threat of revealing Mr. Ahmadinejad’s list is not limited to the nuclear case, as it also includes other areas like the economy as well. However, so far Mr. Ahmadinejad has not fulfilled his promise with regard to revealing the list.

[Host Jean Khakzad]
The time is 7:26. Let us take a break and go the world of Sports. [Here’s]
Habib Roshanzadeh.

[Music intro, Male announcer]
The world of Sports.

[Habib Roshanzadeh]
The Persepolis soccer team, with its forth successive win, stands alone atop the Premier Soccer League of Iran’s clubs. On the fourth week of the Premier League, Persepolis, with 60 thousand in attendance in the Azadi

stadium, defeated Peykan 2-1 and became the only team with 12 points on the table. Apart from Persepolis, the only other host winner was Kerman's Mess [copper], which defeated Esteghlal of Ahvaz, 2-1. Other hosts remained winless yesterday. Abadan's San'at-e Naft was defeated by Anzali's Malavan, 2-1, in Abadan. Saipa, last season's champion, tied Isfahan's Zob-e Ahan [Steel Mill], 1-1, in Karaj. Bargh of Shiraz in Hafeziyeh got the same result with Hamadan's Pas. The game between Pagah and Abu Muslim in Mashhad ended without a goal. Right now, at the end of the fourth week, Persepolis is the only team that won all four games and with twelve points is at the top. Sepahan has 10 points. Malavan and Saipa both have eight points and are third and fourth respectively. Tehran's Esteghlal, Bargh of Shiraz, and Hamadan's Pas all have 7 points. They are fifth, sixth, and seventh respectively.

The Iran Men's National Volleyball Team, after four successive losses to South Korea, Japan, Australia, and China, gained its first win in the Asian Championship. The volleyball teams of Iran and Thailand played in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia. With five games played, Iran defeated Thailand three to one. Iran's next games will be played today and tomorrow against Indonesia and Taiwan.

Twenty preliminary soccer games of the European Nations Cup from the seven groups will be played tonight in Europe. The game between France and Italy, 14 months after the 2006 World Cup in Germany, is an important game [that will] be played in Milan. France has won the home game three to one in Paris. Right now, in the second European group, France, with 18 points, is number one. Italy, with 16 points, follows France. In group five, Britain's National Soccer Team has a critical and vital game against Israel's National Soccer Team in London. The [last] game of these two teams ended tied 0-0 in Israel. If England does not win tonight's game it will lose hope for entering the final round in the European Nations Championship. In that group, group five, Croatia and Israel have 17 points, Russia 15 and England has 14 points.

In New York, the \$20 million Women's US Open Tennis competition is in the final stage. Belgium's Justine Henin is winning against American Venus Williams, [and] Russia's Kuznetsova winning against her fellow countrywoman, Chakvetadze, walked into the final. The match between Kuznetsova and Justine Henin will take place in today's, Saturday's, final.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

With the familiar voice of Iran's Sports, Habib Roshanzadeh, we are nearing the end of "Morning Magazine" of Radio Farda. Ms. Ravanshad, if friends want to go through filters in order to get to the Radio Farda Website in Iran, what address they should go to?

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

The latest filter breaking address for Radio Farda is Saaniyeh.com.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

Can you spell it?

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Sure. It is: S A A N I Y E H .com. I will repeat it. It is: S A A N I Y E H.

[Host Jean Khakzad]

With all of my colleagues, Elaheh ...

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