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Tue Aug 11, 2009 | 15:36

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General calls for Mousavi, Khatami, Karroubi prosecution

Sun, 09 Aug 2009 18:30:20 GMT

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As Iran moves to squelch opposition to the disputed June presidential election, the stage has been set for the judiciary to try two defeated candidates and a former president.

A senior official with Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Sunday accused Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, two defeated candidates whose supporters took to the streets to protest the official vote result, as well as former President Mohammad Khatami of inciting the unrest.

Brigadier General Yadollah Javani, head of the IRGC's political bureau, said it was absolutely vital to defend the integrity of the 30-year-old Islamic Revolution

amidst a "Western-backed plot to topple the government through a 'velvet coup'," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday.

"The question is who were the main plotters and agents of this coup. What is the role of Khatami, Mousavi and Karroubi in this coup?" he wrote in an article in the weekly IRGC journal.

The official outcome of the presidential vote, which saw President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad win by a massive margin, provoked unprecedented, widespread protests.

The crackdown against the street demonstrations resulted in the arrest of thousands of opposition figures, protesters and journalists -- who have been put on trial on charges of plotting to topple the government --, and the deaths of at least 30 people.

During their hearings in the Revolutionary Court, many of the defendants have confessed to aiding foreign countries in the post-vote developments.

Iranian authorities blame world powers, particularly Britain and the US, for the turmoil, and accuse them of instigating the unrest in line with staging a "velvet revolution" in the country.

The trials have raised the ire of the opposition with their public symbols, Mousavi and Khatami, terming the prosecution as a "sham" and claiming the confessions were extracted under torture.

However, the IRGC official believes the affirmation of guilt can be used by the judiciary to convict those who are truly to blame for the "failed coup."

"If Mousavi, Khatami, [Ayatollah Mohammad] Mousavi Khoeiniha (Iran's prosecutor general after the victory of the revolution in 1979) and Karroubi are the main suspects believed to have been behind the velvet coup in Iran, which they are, we expect the judiciary ... to go after them, arrest them, put them on trial and punish them according to the law," Javani was quoted by IRNA as saying.

The remarks also echo increasing pressure by the ruling system on the opposition who alleges that the June 12 election was rigged and continues to defy the result.

The vote, hailed by President Ahmadinejad and the Guardian Council, the body tasked with overseeing elections, as the "healthiest" vote in the history of the Revolution, has also presented an influential critic.

Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the head of the Assembly of Experts and Chairman of the Expediency Council, has denounced the government's handling of the controversy over the election and urged officials to release the protesters still in custody.

However, Rafsanjani, who is to deliver a sermon at the Tehran University prayer hall on Friday, has been harshly criticized for his stance by supporters of President Ahmadinejad and a number of officials in the Principlist camp.

An Iranian lawmaker, Nasrollah Torbani, on Sunday moved to quiet the criticism by boasting the credentials of Ayatollah Rafsanjani and the leaders of the opposition.

"It has taken years and a vast amount of political capital has been spent on the likes of Mousavi, Hashemi-[Rafsanjani], Khatami, Karroubi and [Hojjatolislam Ali-Akbar] Nateq-Nouri to grow and serve the Revolution," Torbani was quoted by *Parleman News* website as saying.

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"Why is it that the trust of the people is not regarded as the most valuable treasure in the country?" he queried.

Ayatollah Rafsanjani had said during his Friday Prayers sermon on July 17 that the ambiguities surrounding the presidential election had led to the distrust of the Iranian nation in the establishment.

"Doubt has been created," he said. "There are two currents; one has no doubt and is moving ahead. And the other is a large portion of the wise people who say they have doubts. We need to take action to remove this doubt."

MD/HGH

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Western question

Tue, 11 Aug 2009 09:39:40 GMT

Do the initials of the "Revolutionary Guards" IRGC stand for "Insane Rapist Group of Criminals"?

Tue, 11 Aug 2009 07:15:52 GMT

I say just one thing to all of these Khameini ball's leakers. PLEASE CHECK YOUTUBE TO REMIND YOURSELF OF HOW SADDAM HOUSAIN WENT TO HELL.

Tue, 11 Aug 2009 05:01:30 GMT

YOU SHOULD KNOW IRANIN SUPORTED ITS MOSSADEGH AND THEY WOULD NOT BE FOOL AND REPEATED HISTORY MISTAKE AGAIN FOR ITS COUNTRY.LONG LIVE IRAN AND DEATH TO ITS ENIMIES

Tue, 11 Aug 2009 04:27:41 GMT

I love to watch these Vatan Froush in court with their leader Rafssanjani.LONG LIVE AHMADINAJAD AND KHMANEHEI ,LONG LIVE MY IRAN

Tue, 11 Aug 2009 03:54:27 GMT

Long live Ahmedinejad, long live Iran down Mousavi, Mohammad Khatami and Karroubi.

Tue, 11 Aug 2009 03:47:30 GMT

I salute you General Yadollah Javani, you are wright these three Mounafiq must be prosecuted for the peace and order in the Rep. of Iran, if these three stooges did not prosecuted they will continue working for the enemy of Iran and Islam like Western Union Countries and Israel.

Yawar Rizvi(Pakistan)

Mon, 10 Aug 2009 20:41:48 GMT

Brutal death to all Zionist ,down with Israel !!! This is there way of showing FAKE and EVIL freedom by showing a green garden of happiness to the youth, putting un Islamic fashion and western media . into social lives of Iranian. Right now I think this is the only country in the world who shows the finger to USA and Israel

FROM SAUDI WITH LOVE

Mon, 10 Aug 2009 18:03:30 GMT

NOW USA, ENGLAND AND FRANCE ARE ACCEPTING THERE INVOLMENTS..... SECURITY FORCES OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC DESERVES OUR SALUTE...."JOB WELL DONE BROTHERS".

SHARIF

Mon, 10 Aug 2009 17:03:18 GMT

IRANIAN PRESTIGE THAT DEVELOPED IN THE EYES OF UNBIASED OBSERVERS AS A RESULT OF A SELF SUFFICIENT IRAN RAISING FROM THE RUINS OF THE TRAITOR SHAH TO A STRONG POWERFUL EDUCATED COUNTRY THAT HAS TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE FOR HER ENEMY,THE EVIL ZIONIST

SHARIF

Mon, 10 Aug 2009 17:01:26 GMT

IRANIAN PRESTIGE THAT DEVELOPED IN THE EYES OF UNBIASED OBSERVERS AS A RESULT OF A SELF SUFFICIENT IRAN RAISING FROM THE RUINS OF THE TRAITOR SHAH TO A STRONG POWERFUL EDUCATED COUNTRY THAT HAS TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE FOR HER ENEMY,THE WVIL ZIONIST

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