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To Mr./Ms. _____

Dear subscriber, we are pleased to present the May issue of IRAMONIT to you. As a valuable resource worth adding to your personal library, our new report, which includes the comprehensive analyses of the developments in Iran as well as the notable developments at the regional and international level, has been prepared on the basis of both primary and Iran-based resources, just like our previous issues.

Our eleventh issue enriched with infographics and a monthly chronology of the developments regarding Iran contains nine articles and a comprehensive special file. The titles of the articles are as follows: **“Iran’s Foreign Policy Highlights in May, Iran’s Nuclear Deal Talks and Its Reflections on the US Domestic Politics, Is the Explosion at Natanz Cyber Sabotage?, Understanding the Eastern Mediterranean in the Context of Great-Power Competition, New Oil and Natural Gas Projects of Iraq, Iran’s Cryptocurrency Equation, Factors Determining Intergenerational Voter Behavior in Iran, The Generation Gap in Iran: The Cultural Change and Its Political Reflections, and Turkey in the Persian-Speaking Media Outlets; The Example of BBC Persian Based on the First Three Months of 2020”**.

This month’s special file titled **“The Basij Organization: An Exceptional Security Unit of Iran”** examines Iran’s paramilitary Basij organization. The Basij, whose institutional and motivational roots began to form during the Iranian Revolution of 1979, became one of the most significant parts of the Iranian state structure after the Islamic Revolution. The Basij adopted the mission to prevent the possible counter-revolution attempts against the new political system as an institutional duty in its early years after the establishment, but its scope of responsibility and mission expanded in the following years. Furthermore, the Basij organization, which was effective particularly in suppressing the dissident groups during the student protests that took place in 1999, clearly demonstrated that it was also active in controlling the social movements during the 2009 Presidential Elections. Lastly, the Basij played a critical role as an intervening force in suppressing the public protests that took place in December 2017, January 2018 and November 2019. This study analyzes the factors that had an influence on the establishment of the Basij Organization, which attracted the attention to itself due to its role during the mass movements but whose function has gone beyond this role in terms of the Iranian state structure. Besides, the organizational structure, functions, and the extra-territorial influences of Basij as a phenomenon are also discussed in this paper. I hope that this month’s report will be useful for you and your institution. Finally, I wish you a month filled with good health, peace, and success, and hope to see you in our next issue.



Dr. HAKKI UYGUR
President of İRAM

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SPECIAL FILE



THE BASIJ ORGANIZATION: AN EXCEPTIONAL SECURITY UNIT OF IRAN



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