

Iran Election Update

May 29, 2013

- Speaking to members of the Parliament, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei [said](#), "Active participation in the elections would ensure the immunity, strength, and security of the country and would also deter enemy threats." He also asked the candidates to refrain from mudslinging against their rivals and "not to distort the social realities in order to gather more votes." ISNA posted [photos](#) of the meeting.
- Khabar Online posted a [schedule](#) of all the presidential candidates' programs broadcast on state media with a chart illustrating the TV channel as well as the time the program will be aired.
- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was asked about the possibility of his government supporting candidate Saeed Jalili and he [answered](#), "I have never heard of this." He was also directly asked whether candidate Jalili would be his choice in the presidential election and Ahmadinejad answered, "Forget about it." Another reporter asked him if he wanted to defend his policies that have been greatly criticized by the final candidates during their campaigning to which he [responded](#), "Do you have any other questions?"
- During a meeting with the principlist Front of Epic-Makers, presidential candidate Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel [spoke](#) about the economy and warned that there are critical days ahead. When he was asked whether he wanted to create an economy like an "Islamic Japan," Haddad-Adel answered, "They labeled me with that during the 6th Parliament. I want to build an Iranian model (of economy) that is above all the other countries so that they will want to be like us."
- ILNA posted [photos](#) of presidential candidate Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf making a campaign visit to a mosque in the northwestern Iranian city of Zanjan. Some of Qalibaf's female supporters [held](#) up a campaign sign that said, "Until we make progress, there won't be justice."
- Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili took his second trip to the city of Qom and photos [reveal](#) it was bigger than the first as he spoke to a large number of his supporters at the Imam Hasan al-Askari mosque. One of Jalili's supporters held up a sign that [illustrated](#) Saeed Jalili's shoe stepping on the written words of "Netanyahu, sedition (term used for Mousavi supporters), 5+1 negotiating team, the MEK, FOX News, VOA News, BBC News, CNN and Al-Arabiya News," among others.
- ISNA posted [photos](#) of Mohammed Aref speaking to supporters at the Medical School of Shahid Beheshti University. Aref was also photographed [walking](#) the streets of Tehran and engaging with people.
- English News PressTV [reports](#) presidential candidate Mohammad Gharazi saying that he will form an anti-inflation administration if he is elected. He also proposed that he would divide Tehran (province) into six small provinces and allow all of them to choose their own governors.
- Presidential candidate Hassan Rouhani used his Twitter account today to post a two minute YouTube clip with English subtitles that [explains](#) his views on the house arrests of Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, as well as other political prisoners.
- Tabnak news posted [photos](#) of presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaei making a campaign visit in the city of Qarchak where he spoke with supporters in the street and at the local mosque.
- English News YJC reports about a Mehr News [survey](#) in which 1500 respondents in the city of Tehran were asked who they favored in the election. Tehran Mayor Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf received the most votes with 35 percent, followed by Saeed Jalili with 11 percent. Mohammed Aref, Hassan Rouhani, and Mohammad Gharazi were least favorable.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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Election date is June 14, 2013.