

Iran Election Update

May 30, 2013

- Presidential candidate Hassan Rouhani [spoke](#) to an audience of women from Quranic institutions in the northern Tehran neighborhood of Gholhak. Rouhani said, "If there wasn't a way to solve the country's problems, I would not have become a candidate." After saying this, the audience began to chant, "Greetings Rouhani and hail Hashemi (Rafsanjani)!" At one point, a female audience member interrupted Rouhani and said, "If you aren't going to be able to do anything you should just say so and be loyal to yourself. I won't say that I am disappointed, but why are our people so upset? If we weren't Iranian and ready to sacrifice we would deserve these hardships, but we live in Iran, a place where the land is rich." After explaining to the audience his economic plans Rouhani said, "My motto is to save the economy." Mehr news posts [photos](#) of the female audience members, and even a photo of Rouhani at one point wiping [tears](#) from his face.
- In an Op-Ed, Alef News [warns](#) that "The election is not a referendum on the nuclear negotiations." The article cites the two presidential frontrunners Saeed Jalili and Hassan Rouhani as the current and former Iranian nuclear negotiators and their recent defense of the nuclear negotiations during interviews in the current campaign period. Jalili has been promoting his hardline stance while Rouhani has revealed openings of negotiations during his tenure as nuclear negotiator. The author concludes, "The candidates should not attract voters this way as this debate benefits no one and jeopardizes national security...This is a lose-lose situation. The sooner it ends the better."
- Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili posted a picture of [himself](#) on his Instagram account meeting with staff and provincial officials. Jalili's Twitter account also [tweeted](#) a link to a song made by a campaign supporter titled "A Bright Tomorrow."
- ISNA [posts](#) photos of presidential candidate Ali Akbar Velayati opening his new campaign headquarters in Tehran. During a press conference with clergymen at the shrine of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran, Velayati [declared](#), "The Islamic world, whether it be Shia or Sunni, does not have a safe sanctuary except for Iran, and everyone tells us this." Fars News also posted [photos](#) of Velayati making a campaign stop in the city of Qazvin.
- Presidential candidate Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf [said](#), "The people do not need a president who just says slogans and whose opinions are theories. Today, people expect that the president needs to talk about his work and service for the people, and this is the demand and right the people." ILNA posts photos of [Qalibaf](#) meeting and speaking to a large crowd at the Haydarian Maryer Sports Complex in the city of Qom. Qalibaf also made a campaign stop in the northwestern city of Ardabil and Fars News published a series of [photos](#) of a large crowd welcoming and greeting him.

- Tabnak News posts photos of presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaei [meeting](#) with supporters in multiple cities in the southwestern province of Bushehr. During his campaign stop in the industrial port-province, Rezaei [repeated](#) his “determination to provide all the required means for the development of provincial economies and pledged to support Iran’s maritime imports and exports more effectively.” Rezaei also [asked](#), “Why are poor people found in the Islamic Republic of Iran? In order to eradicate poverty in Iran, there needs to be a program and a balanced look at the towns and villages between the people and the government.”
- ISNA posts photos of presidential candidate Mohammed Aref [meeting](#) with officials from various ethnic and religious groups. In an [interview](#) last night on state television, Aref also said that his governmental plans “included all ethnic groups including “Zoroastrians, Jews, Sunni and Shia Muslims.”



By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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Election date is June 14, 2013.