

Iran Election Update

May 2, 2013

- Mohsen Rezaee, former IRGC Commander and current Secretary of the Expediency Council as well as a presidential hopeful, [said that](#) no conclusion can be drawn on the guilt or innocence of Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, who have been under house arrest for over two years, until they are tried. “Until the judiciary explicitly expresses its view about it, no judgment can be made. I am not commenting on it either.”
- Mostafa Kavakebian, a former Member of Parliament of the Reformist faction, head of Mardomsalari Party (The Peoples Party), and possible presidential candidate, [said that](#) “while I was in the Parliament, I presented a six-month plan which would improve Iran’s relationship with the United States, and I still insist on this plan.” He added, “I am aware of Iran’s Islamic system and the Supreme Leader’s red lines should be observed in relation to the nuclear issue.” Kavakebian also noted that he believed that the current nuclear talks between Iran and P5+1 were ineffective and have not yielded to any results.
- Hassan Rowhani, member of the Expediency Council, Head of the Center for Strategic Research former nuclear negotiator, and presidential candidate, [has said](#), “Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani will definitely not be candidates in the upcoming elections.” Rowhani also dismissed speculation that he might quit the race in favor of Rafsanjani. He added that changes in society were motivated “by religion, freedom, and the people’s movement towards democracy.”
- Ali Akbar Velayati, a principalist member of the 2+1 Coalition of presidential candidates, and senior foreign policy advisor to the Supreme Leader of Iran, [has said that](#) “tackling unemployment and inflation would top his agenda if he is to be elected president.” Velayati said that he would prioritize the economic problems and that Iranians need to “see stability in prices.”
- Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, another principalist member of the 2+1 Committee, and former Speaker of Parliament, [has indicated](#) that he could make his own run for the office even though the 2+1 Coalition is designed to select one nominee amongst the three in the Coalition. Haddad Adel emphasized that “I will not step down during the election.” The current MP also predicted that former President Hashemi Rafsanjani will choose not to run as a candidate and that former President Mohammad Khatami and President Ahmadinejad’s right-hand man Esfandiar Rahim-Mashai will be eventually disqualified by the Guardian Council.
- Entekhab News has [conducted a public survey](#) about the popularity of the principalist members of the 2+1 Coalition: Ali Akbar Velayati, the senior foreign policy advisor to the Supreme Leader; Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel, the former Speaker of Parliament and whose daughter is married to one of the sons of the Supreme Leader; and Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf who is the current Mayor of Tehran. The survey’s results are as follows: Qalibaf 55%, Velayati 30%, Ali Adel was last in the poll with 15%.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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