

# Iran Election Update

June 4, 2013

- Ahead of tomorrow night's second televised presidential debate with all the candidates, Mehr News has [published](#) a list of 30 questions asked by "cultural experts" because the theme of the debate is society and culture. Some of the topic questions include "government interference in media, politicization of culture, job security for artists, the relationship between government and films, Iranian cinema in the international arena, candidate familiarity with art, and the struggling theater arts situation" to name a few.
- Tabnak News posts the uncensored version of presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaei's first TV campaign [documentary](#). The 25-minute documentary discusses social ills such as poverty as well as domestic political challenges. Rezaei has been campaigning in the northern Iranian province of Golestan, and according to Tabnak, the crowd in the northern city of Sari was so large that Rezaei was barely audible at some points during his speech. Photos [reveal](#) the large energetic crowd. While trying to appeal to artists ahead of the cultural debate, Rezaei [said](#), "It's not right for our artists to be forced to leave Iran (exiled), the first thing I will do for art is take the political and security foothold out of culture, art, sports, and architecture." Photos of Rezaei supporters in the northern city of Gorgan [demonstrate](#) his popularity as well as the wide age range of his supporters.
- In a six-minute clip of a promotional campaign video for candidate Ali Akbar Velayati, the presidential candidate becomes emotional as he watches old footage of himself and begins to [weep](#) as images of the late Ayatollah Khomeini in his final days are shown.
- While addressing a ceremony at Imam Khomeini's Mausoleum in southern Tehran to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the passing of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei [said](#), "I don't have an opinion on any of the candidates," and "every vote in the election is a vote of confidence in the electoral process." At the same ceremony, the grandson of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, Seyed Hassan Khomeini, [stated](#), "We are hopeful that with these elections, we can fix our current (political) situation." Photos of the event [reveal](#) President Ahmadinejad, former president Hashemi Rafsanjani, current head of the judiciary Sadegh Larijani, and his brother, Speaker of Parliament Ali Larijani all being present as well.
- In a televised interview, candidate Hassan Rouhani [said](#), "I have no problem working with Principalists or Reformists, I have a problem with extremists...and I have come to replace extremism with moderation." ISNA posts [photos](#) of Rouhani campaigning in the city of Isfahan, as well as photos of candidate Saeed Jalili making a late-night campaign [visit](#) to the southern city of Ahvaz.
- While visiting the city of Qazvin, candidate Mohammed Reza Aref [said](#), "Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammed Khatami need to review the situation, after in which they should decide if I stay or quit the race." There has been much speculation if Aref will step down in favor of Hassan Rouhani.
- Fars News [posts](#) photos of candidate Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf making a campaign stop at the University of Lorestan in the western city of Khorramabad. Qalibaf [told](#) his supporters, "Lorestan is one of the most deprived provinces in Iran, the lagging of this province is an old wound and I have promised myself that it is my responsibility and priority to address the needs of this province."
- In Esfahan today, during the funeral procession of Ayatollah Jalal Al-Din Taheri, a close confidant of the late Ayatollah Khomeini and supporter of the Green Movement, parts of the extremely large funeral procession began to chant "death to the dictator," as well as other slogans supporting the Green Movement. BBC Persian provides a [video](#) clip in which people are chanting, "Mousavi and Karroubi must be freed!" Presidential candidate Hassan Rouhani was said to be present in the funeral procession as well.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional Iran Election Updates are available [here](#).

Election date is June 14, 2013.