

Iran Election Update

May 1, 2013

- Presidential candidate and Head of the Center for Strategic Research, Hasaan Rohani, has [expressed his views](#) regarding women and gender segregation in society. Rohani explained that “women and men are equal in society.” Rohani praised the role women have played in Iranian society and expressed that women should have the same opportunities as men in areas such as management and that they should be provided unemployment benefits as well. Rohani also criticized the role of gender segregation in Iranian universities and that “women should not be deprived of certain fields of study” at the university level. Rohani went on to say that he believes that “the majority of legal, religious, political, social, economic and criminal justice laws should be revised by scholars and experts in the law.” He finished his speech by saying, “I hope to one day feel that women and men have equal rights and social opportunities.”
- Following former president Hashemi Rafsanjani's statement on Sunday that he is considering candidacy, with the promise of a multi-party government if elected, his son Yasser [has said that](#) his father is reluctant to throw his hat in the race but could be involved "if his concerns are addressed."
- Alef, a website is affiliated to conservative MP Ahmad Tavakkoli, reports that Ali Akbar Velayati, the advisor to the Supreme Leader on international affairs and presidential candidate, [said that although](#) former president Hashemi Rafsanjani "played a role in the sedition of 88, (the name given to the protests after the 2009 election), we have to respect him."
- Former President Mohammad Khatami [will not be running](#) in the June presidential elections. After weeks of speculations and endorsements on whether he would run, Mohammad Khatami has announced that in view of the many restrictions laid against him by the government, he will not run in the elections. Khatami was quoted as saying: “Do you think when as an ordinary citizen they are imposing such restrictions on one’s statements, opinions and movement and one is constantly being subjected to insults, that they would surrender the reigns of the country to such a person?”
- Reformist presidential candidate Mohammad Reza Aref [condemns](#) the newspaper *Kayhan* and its conservative editor Hussein Shariatmadri for slandering former president Mohammad Khatami in an editorial.
- A former Iranian vice president and current Head of the Center for the Islamic-Iranian Model of Progress [has declared](#) his presidential bid, joining more than 20 other presidential hopefuls. Sadeq Vaez-Zadeh, who teaches at University of Tehran, said his decision to run for the presidency was in response to high public demand for change and for the people to have more choices.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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