

Iran Election Update

May 10, 2013

- The Minister of Interior Mostafa Mohammad Najjar [said](#) 123 candidates have registered on day four of the presidential election registration period, bringing the total number of candidates to 366. He also said that there will be no extension of the registration period.
- Of the 366 registered presidential candidates, [twelve](#) of them are women.
- One of the female candidates that registered today is a 54-year-old Efat Kazempour. She arrived into the election headquarters with a knitted cap instead of the traditional head scarf and [told](#) reporters that she is a historian and a board member of the Women's Business Association of Iran.
- Tabnak News [posted](#) photos of day four of the presidential election period.
- Mohsen Rezaei made the most grandiose appearance of all the candidates thus far. After attending Friday Prayers with his family, Rezaei marched to the election headquarters with a giant entourage of supporters numbering in the hundreds. His supporters chanted his name and waved orange flags (the color of his campaign). [Photos reveal](#) that his entourage was so large that it blocked the streets. Seyyed Solat Mortazavi, the country's election director, [told](#) reporters that according to law, Rezaei's entourage was a violation of early election campaigning.
- Iranian media has been speculating that the mayor of Tehran and member of the 2+1 Committee Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf will use the color yellow to promote his campaign, if he is chosen as the candidate of the 2+1 Committee. [Photos](#) of his most recent public appearance [reveal](#) the color yellow being used. In the 2009 election campaign, Mir Hussein Mousavi used the color green.
- During the funeral services for Iran's former Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi, former president Khatami [said](#) that he hopes former president Hashemi Rafsanjani will register as a presidential candidate and "under the present circumstances, he is the best choice." In an interview with the English newspaper The Tehran Times, Khatami also [said](#) that "the situation is not ripe and not ready" for his candidacy.
- Senior cleric and Friday Prayer Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Khatami [told](#) congregants that "The future president must be pious and law-abiding," and that "presidential hopefuls must adhere to the Constitution and Velayat-e Faqih (the rule of the Muslim jurisprudent) as they are two principles accepted by the nation and potential candidates should not question them." Ayatollah Khatami also cautioned presidential hopefuls against "unfair and untrue" criticism of the status quo in their campaigns with the aim of winning more ballots.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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Election date is June 14, 2013.