

Iran Election Update

May 17, 2013

- Supporters of presidential candidate Saeed Jalili in Isfahan have [launched](#) a presidential campaign website in support of his candidacy. The website has Jalili's campaign slogan prominently displayed throughout the site: "The people + Jalili." The slogan is a play-off of the title of the 2+1 Committee that consists of Velayati, Hadad-Adel, and Qalibaf, which has yet to choose a candidate. The site is equipped with dramatic music and an audio track of a speech from the Supreme Leader in which he says, "They (the enemy) are continuously beating the Islamic Republic and we are resisting, and we are resisting hopeful, not unhopeful...of course we will resist until our last drop of blood...but it won't need to reach that point."
- Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili [released](#) his first campaign newsletter. In the newsletter, candidate Jalili also shares personal memories, as well as reasons for why one would want to vote for Jalili by providing readers a view into his personality, attitude, and politics, among other things.
- Alef News [asks](#) the question, "if the great Persian poet Firdowsi was alive during these elections, would he vote? Would he focus on issues like \$50 subsidies or issues of personal freedoms? Or would he strengthen and expand the spirit of the homeland that faced eight years of war back-to-back and has received daily external threats?"
- Mehr News English reports that a member of the 2+1 Coalition of candidates, Gholam Ali Hadad Adel, [said](#), "How can reformist parliamentarians support Hashemi, while in the 6th parliament they harshly criticized him?"
- The spokesman for the Guardian Council [said](#), "The Guardian Council may announce the results of the vetting sooner than the May 21st deadline."
- At Friday Prayers, senior cleric and member of the Guardian Council Ayatollah Janati [advised](#) the [congregants](#) that whoever should be the president of Iran should lead a simple life, with simple clothes, a simple house, and a simple car. He [continued](#), "If they do not live this life, they will not understand the hardships of everyday people, such as hunger." Presidential candidate Hashemi Rafsanjani is seen by many as one of the wealthiest people in Iran.
- Forty Members of Parliament have [signed](#) a petition in support of the candidacy of former President Hashemi Rafsanjani.
- Former Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ramin Mehmanparast [announced](#) his plans if he is elected to the presidency. Among the many points, he emphasizes that the needs of the Iranian youth should take priority over other segments of society.
- Former President Hashemi Rafsanjani has publically [announced](#) a few of his presidential campaign aides and officials. Notably, MP Ali Motahari was not one of them, as previously reported by some news sources.
- Presidential candidate Hassan Rouhani [said](#), "The future president should bring (political) divisions together until those arrested and prisoners are free."
- Parviz Esmaili, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf's election headquarters spokesman, responded to the BBC Persian's coverage of audio recordings of Qalibaf in which he bragged about his direct role in repressing protests in 1999, 2003, and 2009. "The BBC network pursues destruction and psychological warfare instead of healthy competition for the election," he [said](#).

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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Election date is June 14, 2013.