

Iran Election Update

May 21, 2013

- In what seemed unofficial, now seems official. [Mehr](#) News, [Fars](#) News, [BBC Persian](#), and English-language news [PressTV](#), all claim that the Guardian Council has approved the following eight candidates: Saeed Jalili, Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel, Mohsen Rezaei, Hassan Rouhani, Mohammad Reza Aref, Mohammad Qarazi, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, and Ali Akbar Velayati. Former President Hashemi Rafsanjani and close confidant of President Ahmadinejad, Esfandiar Rahim-Mashaie were both left off of the list.
- On his official Twitter account, former president and presidential candidate Hashemi Rafsanjani [tweeted](#) that he has been disqualified.
- In regards to Hashemi Rafsanjani's disqualification as a Presidential candidate, prominent political analyst and professor of Political Science at the University of Tehran, Sadegh Zibakalam [said](#), "Mr. Rafsanjani wasn't disqualified because of his age, but because he previously had said to not participate in the elections." Zibakalam was also quoted [saying](#) the decision to bar Rafsanjani from running will not be reversed, as was previously stated by Rafsanjani's unofficial spokesperson MP Ali Motahari.
- Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili [said](#) that "there is democracy in many countries, but in Iran there is Islam which transcends democracy."
- Fars News [posts](#) photos of presidential candidate and member of the 2+1 Coalition, Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel speaking to students at Iran's prestigious Sharif University of Technology. Haddad-Adel was asked by a member of the audience about the state of his political "coalition," and he [revealed](#) that the 2+1 Coalition was disorganized. "The philosophy of our Coalition, or whatever you would like to call it, was to prevent multiple principalist candidates (so they would not split principalist votes) in the presidential election, and it was not organized."
- Alef News [asks](#) the question: "Will Saeed Jalili meet with Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi?" Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili has a trip scheduled to Qom to meet with religious leaders. An endorsement from Ayatollah Yazdi who is spiritual guide of the conservative Perseverance Front would ensure his frontrunner status in the presidential election. Ayatollah Yazdi had previously endorsed former Minister of Health, Kamran Bagheri Lankarani, but Lankarani recently withdrew his candidacy.
- Mehr News [posts](#) photos of Iran's State Endowment and Charity Affairs Organization conference in Tehran on "Election Ethics and the Political Epic." Academics, clerics, and cultural officials participated and delivered speeches to discuss Islamic principles and moral codes that should be observed during the election campaigns.
- In an interview with Khabar Online, presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaei was asked if he thought former President Hashemi Rafsanjani would remain on the final ballot. Rezaei [replied](#), "With the knowledge I have of Mr. Rafsanjani, he behaves similar to the late Ayatollah Montazeri, Mir Hussein Mousavi, and depending on the circumstances he has not shown himself to be different."
- Fars News [posts](#) photos of presidential candidate and member of the 2+1 Coalition, Ali Akbar Velayati's recent campaign trip to the northern city of Gorgan.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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

Election date is June 14, 2013.