

Iran Election Update

May 22, 2013

- The Supreme Leader released a [statement](#) directed toward the candidates rejected by the Guardian Council: "I am announcing this, everyone should know; those who are disqualified are not necessarily individuals without any qualification. It should not be perceived that those who were not qualified for the election are completely lacking any qualification. No, according to the law this person cannot be a candidate in the election. It is possible that the official disqualifying him might have made a mistake. He might not be qualified for the presidency, but might have many other qualifications. These people have other qualifications, and their lives are not over."
- Khabar Online has published [photos](#) of the 12 men on Iran's Guardian Council.
- Disqualified presidential candidate Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei [wrote](#) a letter to award-winning Iranian actor and campaign supporter Ezzatollah Entezmai saying that he is "saddened by his situation," and has [called](#) his own disqualification an "injustice." Meanwhile, President Ahmadinejad defended his close confidant by [saying](#), "I introduced Mr. Mashaie and I know him, he is a righteous person and beneficial for the country... In my opinion there will be no problem with the Supreme Leader and I will pursue this matter with him." When asked by reporters about the final list of eight candidates, Ahmadinejad said nothing and only smiled.
- Presidential candidate Hassan Rowhani [says](#) his campaign slogan is "moderation, wisdom, and keenness."
- Although the Iranian Student News Agency [posted](#) photos of the preparation of the presidential debate studio, officials from the state broadcasting network IRIB announced that presidential television debates have been canceled due to the high number of final candidates. Election officials [claim](#) that the debates should not exceed more than five candidates. Meanwhile, the head of the National Media Election Campaign [announced](#) that May 24 (3rd of Khordad) at 4PM will be the first day for election campaigning via TV and radio. Candidates will have 30 minutes allotted for TV and radio in order to introduce themselves to the public. The candidates also have until May 28 (7th of Khordad), to produce their own 30-minute documentary, which has to be delivered to the Election Media Offices by 10PM of that day for review.
- Fatemeh Rafsanjani, the daughter of Hashemi Rafsanjani, [explained](#) that "one morning they (security officials) sent Rafsanjani a message saying to withdraw his name and if he doesn't he will be disqualified. He told them "I will not quit, the people have put their trust in me and I cannot betray them."
- Zahra Mostafavi Khomeini, the daughter of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini, has written a letter to the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei [asking](#) him to reconsider Hashemi Rafsanjani's disqualification. "I know that Rafsanjani might not be the same person as yesteryear, but the separation between you two is the biggest disservice to the revolution and the system, so much that the Imam (Khomeini) always said 'these two are good when they are together.'" MP Ali Motahari also has written a letter to the Supreme Leader in [defense](#) of Rafsanjani saying, "Ayatollah Khomeini would have been disqualified under the same justification" that Rafsanjani was.
- Hojjatoleslam Ali Asgari, parliamentary liaison of the Expediency Council's Strategic Research Center, [said](#) that Hashemi Rafsanjani's disqualification is the "biggest disqualification in the history of the Islamic Republic because he has been the chairman or head of all the top branches of government." He continued, "Mr. Hashemi would not protest the decision."
- The Young Journalists Club [posts](#) photos of presidential candidate Gholam Ali Hadad-Adel's campaign visit to the city of Ahvaz.
- Twitter user "IranElection2013" tweeted a [photo](#) of presidential candidate Saeed Jalili speaking with clerics in the city of Qom.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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

Election date is June 14, 2013.