

Iran Election Update

May 31, 2013

- ISNA [conducts](#) a poll and asks its readers, “After the first televised debate between the candidates, which economic viewpoint of the candidates did you prefer?” As of Friday afternoon, over 4,500 respondents overwhelmingly chose Mohammed Aref with 40.3 percent. Followed by Hassan Rouhani with 18 percent and Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf with 13 percent. Saeed Jalili only received 6 percent of the votes. (The poll is located on the left side of the homepage, and results are given after the respondent has voted). Asr Iran News asks the same questions to its readers and the results (over 12,000 respondents) were strikingly [similar](#) with Mohammed Aref leading in votes with 31 percent and Hassan Rouhani trailing with 29 percent.
- English language news PressTV offers a short [summary](#) of last night’s first televised debate between the presidential candidates. PressTV also provides multiple short clips of Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf [explaining](#) (with English subtitles) that, “National solidarity is needed to alleviate poverty,” and Mohammad Gharazi [discussing](#) the nuclear program: “We are not allowed to build an atomic bomb, both in religious terms and according to customary regulations.” PressTV also [claims](#) that “Iranian reformists may urge Mohammed Aref to quit presidential race” and become Hassan Rouhani’s Vice President if he is to be elected.
- YJC News posts two sets of photos of all the presidential candidates [arriving](#) and preparing for the televised presidential debate as well as a [behind](#) the scenes look.
- Khabar Online [lists](#) the final comments of each presidential candidate after last night’s first television debate. Almost all the candidates were hopeful and thanked the viewers or supporters except for Saeed Jalili who ended on an apprehensive note, “Thanks to the revolution, today more than ever, we need to understand our weak points.”
- Presidential candidate Hassan Rouhani tweeted a link to an online [poll](#) which shows him in a clear lead over the other candidates. Rouhani has over 5,500 votes with Jalili lagging behind with over 1,600. He also [tweeted](#) a YouTube clip with English subtitles of his views on the popular protests after the 2009 election. Interestingly, Rouhani also changed the background of his Twitter profile to a [picture](#) of two female supporters holding Rouhani campaign posters.
- ISNA posts photos of presidential candidate Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel making a late Thursday night campaign [stop](#) at Imam Jafar Sadiq Mosque during which he [said](#), “Cultural problems should be our priority and we must think about why young girls and boys cannot get married for whatever various reasons.” He continued, “If we want to confront moral corruption, hijab-less women, and divorce, we need to adopt a family-oriented approach.”
- Mehr News posts photos of presidential candidate Mohammed Aref making a late Thursday night campaign speech at the Seyed Al-Shohada Mosque in Tehran. The images of [female](#) audience members or female supporters during these campaign stops are significant when comparing the candidates.

- Mehr News posts photos of Friday prayers at the University of Tehran. Of significance are the congregants and their political affiliations. Supporters of presidential candidates Mohammed Bagher [Qalibaf](#), Saeed [Jalili](#), and Ali Akbar [Velayati](#) were all present.
- Presidential candidate Saeed Jalili makes a campaign stop in the city of Arak located in central Iran. On his [personal](#) website, Jalili posted photos of himself visiting the graves of local martyrs. YJC News also posts photos of Jalili arriving and meeting supporters in Arak. The photos illustrate two consistencies during Jalili's campaign: [large](#) crowds of supporters and Jalili's wearing of the symbolic kafiya scarf.



By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional Iran Election Updates are available [here](#).
Election date is June 14, 2013.