

Iran Election Update

June 10, 2013

- Mehr News [confirms](#) that candidate Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel has withdrawn his candidacy in favor of the other two members of his 2+1 Coalition. Haddad-Adel said he stepped aside after evaluating the situation and the realities on the ground. In an official statement today, he said he would continue to help the Principlist camp win the election regardless of his withdrawal.
- Tabnak news posted photos of presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaei campaigning to [large](#) crowds of men and women in Kermanshah. Tabnak also posted a series of pictures specifically of [youth](#) supporters of Rezaei. ISNA posted a series of photos of candidate Ali Akbar Velayati taking a tour of the Tehran Grand bazaar and speaking with supporters in the [walkways](#) of the bazaar as well as the mosque, in addition to a series of [photos](#) of candidate Saeed Jalili campaigning in the northern city of Bandar Abbas. Photos of candidate Mohammed Aref reveal him campaigning in [Kerman](#) as well as in the city of Khoramabad in front of a raucous crowd of men and women with one supporter wearing an armband that [read](#), "Campaign of hope." Mehr News posted photos of Mohammed Gharazi at a press [conference](#) in Tehran, as well as Mohammed Aref [campaigning](#) to yet another lively crowd in the city of Yazd.
- ISNA asks its readers which candidate, in their [opinion](#), out of the 2+1 Coalition (that consists of Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel, Ali Akbar Velayati, and Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf), should withdraw in favor of the other two members? Over 13,000 voters responded and they overwhelmingly chose Haddad-Adel with 47 percent; 4 percent chose Qalibaf and 3 percent chose Velayati while 43 percent chose neither of the three. ISNA also asked its reader the same [question](#) regarding the prospective coalition of candidates Hassan Rouhani and Mohammed Aref, and out of over 16,000 people that voted, almost 70 percent of respondents said that Aref should withdraw in favor of Rouhani; 13 percent said Rouhani should withdraw while 17 percent said neither.
- Candidate Hassan Rouhani [promised](#) that if elected, on day one of his administration he will tackle the sensitive issue of the drying of Lake Urumiyeh in the Azerbaijan region of Iran. Rouhani also said it was up to the people, and not the government, to decide whether they should be able to learn their native tongue (formally in school). Different dialects of Farsi such as Azeri and Kurdish, for instance, have been outlawed in formal education. Rouhani likewise stated that the rights of minority citizens such as Baluchis, Arabs, and Turkmen will be equal to that of the majority.

- English News PressTV [reports](#) on all the candidates for the day. Mohsen Rezaei said “people from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds enjoy equal rights in Iran.” During a speech in the western city of Sanandaj in the Kurdistan Province, Rezaei also promised to protect the civil rights of Iran's Kurdish population if he wins the election and swore to include prominent Kurdish figures in his future administration. Meanwhile, Mohammed Aref urged reformists to take part in the upcoming presidential and city council elections, [saying](#) “those who do not vote are not reformist.” Ali Akbar Velayati [said](#) he would work in line with Islamic values and the guidelines of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to solve Iran's foreign policy problems. Saeed Jalili [highlighted](#) the importance of Iran's territorial integrity and said that the status of the three disputed Persian Gulf islands with the UAE “is non-negotiable.” And, finally, Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf [pledged](#) to fix Iran's economy in two years if elected president.
- Hamid Aref, the son of presidential candidate Mohammed Aref, [said](#) “Don't expect a coalition (with candidate Hassan Rouhani).”
- BBC Persian provides a [video clip](#) of supporters of candidate Mohammed Aref in the city of Yazd chanting the name of Mir Hussain Mousavi as well as demanding the freedom of political prisoners.
- Mohamedreza Tabesh, a reformist member in Parliament, [said](#), “We (reformists) have come to the decision that Hassan Rouhani is our candidate in the election.”

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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

Election date is June 14, 2013.