Iran Election Update

June 18, 2013: Election Results

- Outgoing President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad met with his successor Hassan Rouhani
 for one hour today behind closed doors and <u>spoke</u> about a range of issues regarding the
 country. One of the topics discussed was a joint committee to be formed by both
 presidents to help with the transition and resolve the county's problems more
 efficiently. YJC.IR posted <u>photos</u> of the meeting.
- Inauguration day for new president-elect Hassan Rouhani will be held on August 14 at the parliament building in Tehran <u>according</u> to MP Alireza Manadi Safidan.
- After a meeting with president-elect Hassan Rouhani, former presidential candidate Ali Akbar Velayati said, "Mr. Rouhani can promote the country's affairs in a good manner." He was <u>asked</u> by a reporter, "Some media sources are reporting that you might replace Saeed Jalili on the National Security Council, have there been suggestions of you joining the Rouhani government?" Velayati did not answer the reporter's question.
- The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Abbas Araghchi the Iranian diaspora for their support and commitment to the Islamic Republic as they voted in one of the 300 voting stations in 96 different countries around the globe. Regarding the ongoing nuclear negotiations, Araghchi also said, "We have also heard the news about the continuation of talks between Iran and P5+1 from media sources, but no official news has reached us yet. Naturally new negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 will be relegated to the new Rouhani administration."
- During a meeting with development officials, academics, and political activists from Khuzestan Province, Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani <u>said</u>, "In this election the people have chosen a path of moderation and rationality, and have outlined a future direction (for the country)." Mehr News posted photos of the <u>meeting</u>.
- President-elect Hassan Rouhani <u>congratulated</u> the Iranian National Soccer team's win today over South Korea and entry into the 2014 World Cup. "I am sure this success (of qualifying into the World Cup) will be a preface to larger victories and will lead the Islamic Republic's powerful presence into other areas."
- Prominent University of Tehran political science professor Sadegh Zibakalam <u>said</u>, "Hassan Rouhani has not held a special position (in government) in the past 8 years, therefore he cannot really be called a Principalist." He continued, "The disqualification of Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani created a set of unsatisfied opinions which were channeled after his endorsement of Mr. Rouhani." Zibakalam also believed that messages addressed to former president Mohammed Khatami threatening him of disqualification if he ran for presidency, directly and indirectly, also mobilized a great portion of reformist votes toward Rouhani.

- Hamid Ghazvini, the spokesperson for the Reformist Coordination Council, <u>said</u>, "The
 reformist candidates that won in the Tehran city council elections did so without any
 campaign advertisements."
- In an interview with Asr-Iran News, MP Ismail Kowsari <u>claims</u>, "Former presidents Mohammed Khatami and Hashemi Rafsanjani have nothing to do with Hassan Rouhani being elected as president."
- In an op-ed, Jahan News <u>asked</u>, "Why hasn't former president Mohammed Khatami congratulated president-elect Hassan Rouhani?" four days after his election. The author speculates that the root of this stems from "a lack of a clear reform position by Rouhani, as well as reports of bitter opposition amongst reformist members during their final meeting prior to election day, in which they ended up endorsing Rouhani as their presidential candidate."
- President-elect Hassan Rouhani won the election by a large margin nationwide among his competitors in cities and the countryside. Even in the most populated Tehran Province, Rouhani <u>received</u> 1,326,964 votes while the second-place finisher Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf received 725,854 votes.
- Mehr News posted photos of outgoing President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as he <u>inaugurated</u> 10,000 new Mehr apartment units in the northern city of Hashtgerd in the Alborz Province.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional Iran Election Updates are available <u>here</u>. Election date was June 14, 2013.