

Iran Election Update

June 7, 2013

- The third televised presidential debate centered on foreign policy, factionalism, public security, and censorship. All eight candidates sought to highlight their views against their competitors. Joanna Paraszczuk of Enduring America and Al-Jazeera English [summarized](#) the debate by providing the main highlights of the debate via Twitter.
- Khabar Online provides a [transcript](#) of the latest debate titling it, “150 minutes of heated discussion on domestic and foreign politics.” English news PressTV also [provides](#) a text summary of the third debate. The YJC.IR posts [photos](#) of supporters of the candidates celebrating and campaigning in the streets after the debate finished.
- The ILNA online [poll](#) that earlier this week had candidate Hassan Rouhani in an overwhelming lead has now changed. After the two debates on culture and security issues, the results have become a virtual three-way tie with Mohsen Rezaei in the lead with 31%, Hassan Rouhani with 30%, and Mohammed Reza Aref with 28%. On the other hand, JamNews has conducted its own online [survey](#) after the debates and reveals the unpredictability of online polling. Their poll has Qalibaf in the lead with 50% and Jalili with 46%, leaving all others in the dust. Khabar Online had its own poll after the latest debate as well [asking](#) its readers, “Which candidate’s views are closer to yours?” Rouhani led all with 48% followed by Aref with 25% and Rezaei with 9%. The polling websites indicate political affiliation is important when considering the results, but it is fair to say that with almost a week left until election day, Rouhani, Afef, Qalibaf, and Jalili are the polling favorites. It should be noted that Mohsen Rezaei has been making a comeback in polling as well.
- Mehrnaz Samimi of Al-Monitor (English) [writes](#) about candidate Mohammed Reza Aref standing out as the lone reformist and the one contender who regularly appears at campaign events accompanied by his wife Hamideh Moravvej, as opposed to candidate Saeed Jalili, for instance, who recently said women should stay at home and have children. “She (Moravvej) is pushing boundaries in her frequent campaign appearances and style of dress.”
- The Qazvin News Network provides an interesting and private look into the lives of all eight candidates by providing [photos](#) and a brief summary of the presidential candidates and their children. Jalili has one child (Mehr News also published a [photo](#) of Jalili’s child a week ago during Friday prayers), Hadad-Adel has four, Rezaei has four, Aref has three, Qalibaf has three, Velayati has six, Rouhani has four (no photo provided for him as the author claims his family stays out of public view), and Gharazi has four children, respectively.
- BBC News English provides a glimpse into the [worries](#) of small-town voters in the run-up to this year’s presidential election. Yahoo News (English) also offers a [report](#) on the delicate tightrope that is the work of newspaper cartoonists in Iran as they are “dodging moving red lines” as the election approaches.

- On a Facebook page created by candidate Hassan Rouhani's Youth Campaign of supporters, a picture has been [posted](#) with Rouhani side-by-side with former presidents Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammed Khatemi. The picture has a green tint and announces a press conference for this Saturday in Shiroudi Stadium in Tehran. There have been rumors and talk this week of Rouhani creating a coalition with Mohammed Reza Aref.
- English News PressTV [reports](#) that Mohammed Reza Aref has urged a massive turnout in the upcoming presidential elections and voters to vote for the reformist camp. A short video clip with English subtitles is included. Aref's Facebook page posts a video of the candidate meeting Mohammad Reza Taleghani. Taleghani was a former world-class wrestler as well as former commissioner of Iran's Wrestling Federation. The former commissioner [tells](#) Aref how Iranian sports are not developed enough and that "the Iranian people are thirsty for sports."
- The ISNA posts [photos](#) of presidential campaign posters and pictures around Tehran as well as photos of energetic [crowds](#) during Friday prayers campaigning for their respective candidates. Photos of candidate Mohammed Reza Aref meeting his enthusiastic crowds of [supporters](#) in Kermanshah are also documented by the ISNA. Tabnak News posts photos of Mohsen Rezaei campaigning in front of a [raucous](#) crowd in the city of Isfahan.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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Election date is June 14, 2013.