

Iran: Special Inauguration Edition

August 5, 2013

- August 3: On the day before Hassan Rouhani's inauguration, in a largely symbolic event that was shown live on state TV, the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei presided over the official transfer of authority ceremony. This marks the handover of executive authority from Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Hassan Rouhani. The [full text](#) of the Supreme Leader's speech at the ceremony was published by the Iranian leader's personal website. Photos of the event and of Hassan Rouhani being [blessed](#) and endorsed by Supreme Leader were closely examined by Western press because Hassan Rouhani did not kiss the Supreme Leader's hand, as his predecessor did in 2009. BBC Persian provided a [video report](#) about the event as well as highlights of Rouhani's speech. Translated excerpts of Rouhani's speech are below:

"Let us create an opportunity and environment for all those whose hearts are in the interest of the country and competent in serving."

"Let us rid ourselves from the grudges in our hearts."

"Let us have a reconciliation take the place of hostility and enmity."

"Let Islam with its merciful face, Iran with its face of wisdom, the revolution with its face of humanity, and the system with its empathy, continuously create epics."

"God, we come to you to take refuge from a dictatorial view, from making rush judgments, and giving priority to the benefit of the masses instead of personal interests, from the silencing of critics and rivals. God help me be a true servant for you and a servant for the people. I won't forget what happened to those before us."

- August 3: After the ceremony, the new president made his way to his new office at the presidential building. ISNA posted photographs of Hassan Rouhani entering his new executive [office](#) and being accompanied by the now former President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.
- August 3: Photos of Hassan Rouhani's first diplomatic [meeting](#) as President of Iran were also released.
- August 4: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Seyed Abbas Araghchi [announced](#) that 50 foreign government officials would be attending President-elect Hassan Rouhani's inauguration. According to Araghchi, as of August 4, they include, "ten presidents, two prime ministers, seven speakers of parliament, three vice presidents, three deputy prime ministers, more than ten foreign ministers, and more than ten government officials from various positions as well."
- August 4: The United States [said](#) it is prepared to work with the new government of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to address concerns about Iran's nuclear program if Iran will engage seriously on the issue. "The inauguration of President Rouhani presents an opportunity for Iran to act quickly to resolve the international community's deep concerns over Iran's nuclear program," White House spokesman Jay Carney said in a statement. "Should this new government choose to engage substantively and seriously to meet its international obligations and find a peaceful solution to this issue, it will find a willing partner in the United States," he [stated](#).
- August 4: Hours before President-elect Hassan Rouhani was set to appear at his inauguration ceremony, [PressTV](#) and [ILNA](#) released the names of the proposed list of nominees for his cabinet. Six are former ministers.

Appointments:

First Vice President: Es'haq Jahangiri, Minister of Mines and Industries under Khatami's administration

Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs: Teimour Ali Asgari, Advisor for Parliamentary Affairs for the Center for Strategic Research

Vice President for Political and Security Affairs: Ali Younesi, Minister of Intelligence and a member of the Supreme National Security Council Khatami's administration

Vice President for Executive Affairs: Morteza Bank, deputy foreign minister and Vice President of Center for Strategic Research

Vice President for Supervision and Strategic Affairs: Mohammad Baqer Nobakht, Deputy of Economic Research Department at the Center for Strategic Research

Vice President and Head of Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization: Reza Salehi, Deputy of Social and Cultural research at Center for Strategic Research

Head of Presidential Office's Inspection Bureau: Hossein Fereidoun, Former Iran Representative to the United Nations and Senior advisor to the Center for Strategic Research (Rouhani's brother)

Chief of Staff: Mohammad Nahavandian: Deputy of Ministry of Commerce under Khatami's administration, Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines

Chief Advisor: Akbar Torkan, Minister of Defense under Rafsanjani

Foreign Affairs Advisor: Mahmoud Sariolqalam, Professor of International Relations at the School of Economics and Political Science in Shahid Beheshti University

Nominations:

Minister of Oil: Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, Minister of Oil under Khatami's administration

Minister of Interior: Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Senior President of Supreme Audit Court of Islamic Republic of Iran

Minister of Economy: Ali Tayebnia, Deputy of Planning and Monitoring for the President's office under Khatami's administration

Minister of Intelligence: Mahmoud Alavi, former member of parliament and member of the Assembly of Experts

Minister of Energy: Hamid Chitchian, former member of parliament

Minister of Defense: Hossein Dehqan, former senior member of the Revolutionary Guards and deputy president

Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade: Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, Minister of Mines under Rafsanjani's administration

Minister of Labor, Cooperative and Welfare: Ali Rabiei, former Deputy Minister of Information

Minister of Agriculture: Mahmoud Hojjati, Minister of Agriculture under Khatami's administration

Minister of Road and Urban Development: Abbas Akhoundi, Minister of Housing and Accommodation under Rafsanjani's administration

Minister of Education: Mohammad Ali Najafi, Minister of Education under Rafsanjani's administration

Minister of Health: Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi, dean of Tehran Medical School and Secretary of the Council of Medical Education under Khatami's administration

Minister of Sports and Youth: Massoud Soltanifar, former governor

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mohammad Javad Zarif, Permanent Representative of Iran in the United Nations under Khatami's administration and deputy foreign affairs minister

Minister of Justice: Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi, Minister of Interior and Chief of Inspection Organization under Ahmadinejad's first administration

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance: Ali Jannati, Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait and former governor of Khuzestan

Minister of Information and Communications Technology: Mahmoud Vaezi, Political Deputy of European and American Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under Rafsanjani's administration

Minister of Science, Research and Technology: Ja'far Meili Monfared, Deputy of Minister of Science, Research and Technology under Khatami's administration

- August 4: ISNA provided a [biography](#) of Mohammed Javad-Zarif, Hassan Rouhani's potential Foreign Minister. It describes Zarif as "one of Iran's most distinguished diplomats."
- August 4: During the inauguration ceremony, Speaker of Parliament Ali Larijani [said](#) that the Parliament is ready to fully cooperate with the 11th government, and that "the new government should first tackle inflation and unemployment as their first priority."
- August 4: PressTV provided a three-minute [video report](#) with English subtitles of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani taking the oath of office during his inauguration ceremony. The report discusses the implications of Rouhani's election win as well as the large contingent of foreign dignitaries at the ceremony. Tabnak News posted the full four-minute oath and [opening statement](#) (in Farsi) of Hassan Rouhani at the inauguration ceremony.
- August 4: ILNA posted the [full text](#) of Hassan Rouhani's oath and opening statement in Farsi.
- August 4: ISNA posted a series of [photographs](#) of President Hassan Rouhani's inauguration ceremony. Tabnak News also posted a set of [photos](#) that show the foreign dignitaries in the crowd, foreign press, as well as women who were present during the ceremony.
- August 4: President Hassan Rouhani met with almost all the top foreign dignitaries who attended his inauguration. Rouhani sat down with Syrian Prime Minister Wael Nader Al-Halqi, and [expressed](#) concern over the presence of terrorist groups in Syria. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned with and condemns the presence of terrorist agents and foreign interference in Syria," said Rouhani. Rouhani also pointed out the necessity for Iran and Syria to expand relationships.
- August 5: Kayhan editor Hassan Shariatmadari who is very close to the leader has already [objected](#) to three of Rouhani's cabinet choices including Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, Rouhani's choice for the oil ministry and indicated more objections are to come.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional updates of "Iran: The Week in Review" are available [here](#).