

Iran Election Update

June 3, 2013

- During a campaign speech in Tehran over the weekend, presidential candidate Hassan Rouhani faced a raucous crowd of supporters who boldly chanted the name of detained opposition leader Mir Hussain Mousavi and vocalized other concerns as well. A [photo](#) of the event also reveals Rouhani supporters holding pictures of Mousavi alongside Rouhani. During the event, Rouhani [held](#) a purple ribbon (campaign color) and a symbolic key and called it the “Key of wisdom and hope.” A video [clip](#) of the event was posted on Rouhani’s Twitter account as well with English subtitles. Multiple people were [arrested](#) at the event including Saeid Allah Badashti, who is Rouhani’s Youth Campaign Manager. The Rouhani Youth Campaign Facebook page posted a video clip of the arrested campaign manager prior to his arrest as he gives a [speech](#) (in Farsi) to the audience and explains why he supports Rouhani. Also posted on the Facebook page was a clip of two young poets [reciting](#) poems to the crowd, with one poet [exclaiming](#), “There is no sedition (term used by government to describe the Green Movement), except what’s in our hearts and minds which is our love for our country!”
- Fars News Agency posts two sets of [photos](#) of presidential candidate Hassan Rounhani speaking to a [large](#) group of supporters in the Southwestern city of Ahvaz with [female](#) supporters on hand as well.
- Mehr News provides a [survey](#) in which they claim 22,000 people voted for their choice of presidential candidates. Qalibaf led with 34.18%, followed by Jalili with 27.31% and Velayati with 11.77%. Rouhani and Aref were listed towards the bottom with 7.9% and 6.5% respectively. Website AsrIran conducts its own [poll](#) and interestingly asks it readers, “Regardless of who you think will win, who will you vote for?” As of Monday afternoon over 14,000 people have voted, and Rezaei led all candidates with 32%, followed by Rouhani with 23% and Aref with 22%, respectively.
- Mehr News posts photos of presidential candidate Mohammed Bagher-Qalibaf visiting Tabriz and speaking to a large audience in a [packed](#) field house. There were many [female](#) supporters on hand as well [holding](#) posters and cheering.
- ISNA News posts photos of presidential candidate Saeed Jalili making a campaign stop at the University of Tehran to speak to a large audience of students. There were many [female](#) supporters on hand, two of them who had their [faces](#) covered wrote messages on her hand that read, “Progress” and “Resistance is the password.” A video clip of the event [reveals](#) a female Jalili supporter asking the presidential candidate to swear to the Quran that she holds in her hand that he will sacrifice his life for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei. Jalili responds to her by saying, “God-willing we are.” She then hands the Quran to Jalili who kisses the holy book to the delight of the crowd.
- Mehr News posts photos of presidential candidate Mohammed Aref taking the public [metro](#) on his way to Tehran’s Grand Bazaar in order to do some face-to-face campaigning. While speaking to riders on the metro Aref brought up the current conflict in Syria and [said](#), “Confronting Syria is the beginning of confronting Hezbollah, and next is confronting Iran.” The rider than says, “So you are one of these types of presidents?” To which Aref responds, “We can’t govern timidly.”
- Presidential candidate Ali-Akbar Velayati made a campaign stop at the ISNA [headquarters](#) to speak with reporters and to [declare](#), “I have a long history in foreign policy, in fact I am one of the founders of Islamic Republic foreign policy.” Mehr News also posts [pictures](#) of Velayati speaking to gathering of state lawyers in Tehran.
- Fars News Agency General Director Abas Aslani used his Twitter account to tweet an interesting [image](#) comparing a female Hassan Rouhani supporter to a female Saeed Jalili supporter.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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

Election date is June 14, 2013.