

Iran Election Update

May 9, 2013

- By day three of the registration period, 243 candidates [registered](#) to run in Iran's presidential election. The Director of the Elections office said that of those 243 candidates, five are women.
- Mehr News Agency posted [photos](#) of day three of the registration period for the presidential elections.
- The Committee of 5 principalist politicians, who all have ambitions as presidential hopefuls, named their candidate: Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament Mohammad Hassan Abutorabi Fard. Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and member of the Committee of 5, [said](#), "All five of us have nominated him."
- Presidential hopeful and member of the 2+1 Committee, Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel said that his Coalition of Three will not nominate its candidate until the Guardian Council [announces](#) the results of the vetting process. "The three of us will register. However, the announcement will not take place before the Guardian Council declares its decision."
- Ali Yunesi, former intelligence minister during Mohammed Khatami's presidency, [said](#) that "it is certain that neither Hashemi Rafsanjani nor Mohammed Khatami will run in the election."
- Speaking in front of young Iranians in the city of Karaj, Mayor of Tehran and member of the 2+1 Committee, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf [said](#) that Iran's current social and economic situation is not befitting of the country in any way. "What has happened in the country today and what we are seeing is that the existing circumstances are beneath the dignity of this country and this establishment. It is beneath the dignity of the people. We have much greater potential than this."
- Mohsen Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the sons of former president Hashemi Rafsanjani, has conducted an [interview](#) with Khabar Online. With regard to the buzz surrounding whether or not his father will run, he responded by saying, "he (my father) believes the situation is not ideal, but that his leadership might be necessary in order to help the country." When asked about the pressures that are being put on the Rafsanjani family and if family members disagree with his father's candidacy, Mohsen said, "Our current position (two of his siblings being tried in court or in jail) allows extremists with agendas to attack us and put pressure on us... but they do so in indirect means. This will definitely hurt the family, especially my mother." Iranian media has been reporting that on the way to the first hearing of the trial of son Mehdi Hashemi, Effat Marashe, Rafsanjani's wife, [said](#), "My husband will definitely not become a candidate in the election," and she added, "It's too easy for them (the government) to change the votes."

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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

Election date is June 14, 2013.