

# FACT SHEET

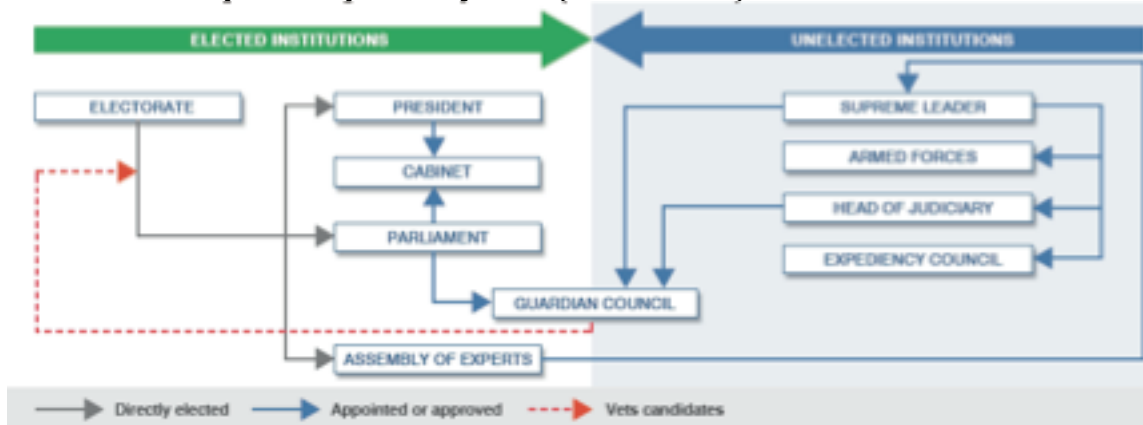
## IRANIAN STUDENT SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

*A coalition of concerned students*

### Statement of purpose:

1. To show solidarity to the Iranian people, particularly the students and the youth
2. To call for foreign powers NOT to intervene in Iranian affairs
3. To educate the American public on the current events of Iran

### The Islamic Republic's power system (Source: BBC)



**Timeline** of the 10<sup>th</sup> presidential elections & the events that have followed in the Islamic Republic (I.R.) of Iran. Sources: Reuters, CNN & BBC

**June 12** – Election Day. The four candidates are:

1. Mahmood Ahmadinejad (Conservative)
2. Mohsen Rezaei (Conservative)
3. Mir Hossein Mousavi (Reformist)
4. Mehdi Karroubi (Reformist)

**June 13** - Ahmadinejad is announced the winner of the presidential election with nearly 63 percent of the vote compared with 34 percent for challenger Mirhossein Mousavi. Following the announcement, thousands of protesters clash with police. Mousavi calls result a "dangerous charade."

**June 14** - Mousavi says he has formally asked Iran's Guardian Council to cancel the election result.

**June 15** - Seven people are killed on the fringes of a huge march by Mousavi supporters in central Tehran, state media says. There are also demonstrations in the cities of Rasht, Orumiyeh, Zahedan, Shiraz, Mashhad and Tabriz. 5 students are killed in the Tehran University dormitories.

**June 16** - Guardian Council says it is ready to carry out a partial recount of ballots but rules out annulling the poll. Hundreds of thousands of pro-Mousavi demonstrators march in northern Tehran Ahmadinejad's supporters mobilise thousands of demonstrators in central Tehran. Authorities ban foreign journalists from leaving their offices to cover street protests.

**June 17** - Thousands of Iranians march in quiet defiance in central Tehran. Ahmadinejad defends the legitimacy of the vote, telling a cabinet meeting it has "posed a great challenge to the West's democracy," Mehr news agency reports. Pro-Mousavi protests are reported in the cities of Rasht, Orumiyeh, Zanjan, Zahedan, Tabriz and Mashhad. Journalists are arrested.

**June 18** - Thousands of Mousavi's backers, wearing black and carrying candles, rally in Tehran to mourn those killed in the mass protests. A spokesman for the Guardian Council says it has begun examining 646 complaints submitted after the June 12 vote and invited the three losers to discuss their complaints on June 20. Iran's English-language state television has reported eight people killed in five days of protests. The ISNA news agency, quoting provincial officials, says 88 people were arrested in post-election unrest in the city of Mashhad and up to 60 people in Tabriz in the northwest.

**June 19** In his first public appearance since the elections, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei endorses Ahmadinejad's win, insisting the margin of victory -- some 11 million votes -- was too large to have been manipulated. Khamenei calls for an end to the protests, which he accused foreign powers of helping foment. He urged critics of the electoral process to seek redress through legal channels and warned that perpetrators of violent unrest would be punished

**June 20** Iran sees its most violent protests to date with dozens reported dead. Acid droppings on protesters, shooting of civilians, and other civil rights violations have been reported by individuals on the ground. Protesters around the world have held solidarity protests in countries like the United States, France, the UK, Canada and more. President Obama urged for the Iranian forces not to use violence against their own people, specifically to "govern through consent, not coercion".

**Since the beginning of the protests/riots, the government has shut down text messaging, mobile phone services, sometimes even the Internet and email access. Students are using Twitter to mobilize. The students in Iran are demanding for a new fair and transparent ELECTION!**

**Timeline of key events in 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century IRAN.** Source: BBC

**1907** - Introduction of constitution, which limits the absolutist powers of rulers.

**1926** April - Reza Khan, a military general, is crowned Reza Shah Pahlavi. Mohammad Reza, the Shah's eldest son, is proclaimed Crown Prince.

**1941** - The deposition of the Shah by Western states in favour of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

**1951** April - Mossadeq becomes prime minister and the country's first democratically elected official. Oil is nationalized, cutting Britain's profits.

**1953** August - Mossadeq is overthrown in a coup led by the CIA and the British intelligence services. The Shah returns.

**1960's** The Shah became increasingly dependent on the secret police (SAVAK) in controlling any opposition movements critical of his reforms, killing and imprisoning thousands.

**1978** September - The Shah's policies alienate the clergy and his authoritarian rule leads to riots, strikes and mass demonstrations. Martial law is imposed.

**1979** January - As the political situation deteriorates, the Shah and his family leave.

**1979** 1 February - The Islamic fundamentalist, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, returns to Iran following 14 years of exile in Iraq and France for opposing the regime.

**1979** 1 April - The Islamic Republic of Iran is proclaimed following a referendum.

**1979** November - Islamic militants take 52 Americans hostage inside the US embassy in Tehran. They demand the extradition of the Shah, in the US at the time for medical treatment, to face trial in Iran.

**1980** 22 September - Start of Iran-Iraq war which lasts for eight years.

**1989** 3 June - Ayatollah Khomeini dies. On 4 June, Khamenei is appointed as new supreme leader.

**1989** August - Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is sworn in as the new president.

**1995** - US imposes oil and trade sanctions over Iran's alleged sponsorship of "terrorism". Iran denies the charges.

**1997** May - Mohammad Khatami wins the presidential election with 70% of the vote, beating the conservative ruling elite.

**1999** July - Students at Tehran University demonstrate following the closure of the reformist newspaper 'Salam'. Clashes with security forces lead to six days of rioting and the arrest of more than 1,000 students.

**2003** June - Thousands attend student-led protests in Tehran against clerical establishment.

**2003** October - Shirin Ebadi becomes Iran's first Nobel Peace Prize winner.

**2004** February - Conservatives regain control of parliament in elections.

**2005** June - Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Tehran's conservative mayor, wins a run-off vote in presidential elections, defeating former president Rafsanjani.

**2007** October - US announces sweeping new sanctions against Iran, the toughest since it first imposed sanctions almost 30 years ago.

**2008** November - In an unprecedented move, President Ahmadinejad congratulates US president-elect Barack Obama on his election win. Mr. Obama has offered to open unconditional dialogue with Iran about its nuclear programme.

**2008** December - Police raid and close the office of a human rights group led by the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Shirin Ebadi. Officials say the centre is acting as an illegal political organization.

**2009** February - Speaking on the 30th anniversary of the revolution in Iran, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says he would welcome talks with the US as long as they are based on "mutual respect".