

## Islamic Parliament of Iran; 3<sup>rd</sup> Term

### Preface

The election for the third Islamic Parliament of Iran was held in the final year of the Iraqi imposed war. Three leading groups standing in the legislative election were the Society of Combatant Clergy of Tehran, Assembly of Combatant Clerics, and the Oppressed-Underprivileged Alliance. The left-leaning Assembly of Combatant Clerics swept to victory and won most of the seats in the chamber.

### Ambiance of 3<sup>rd</sup> Parliament Election

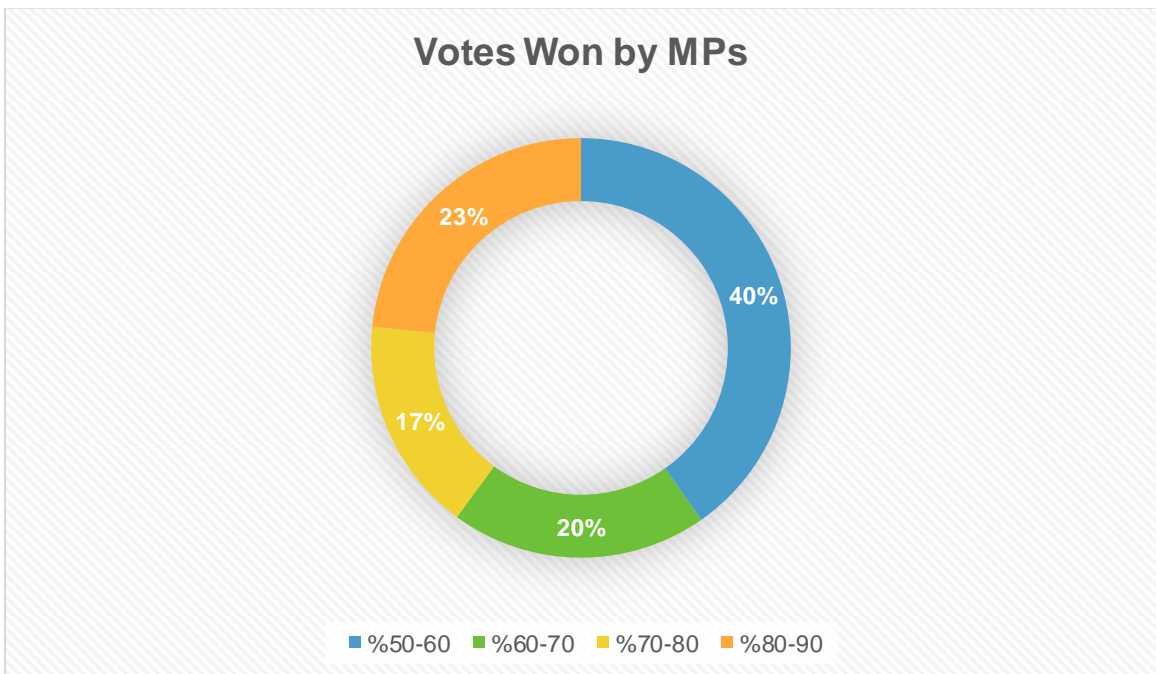
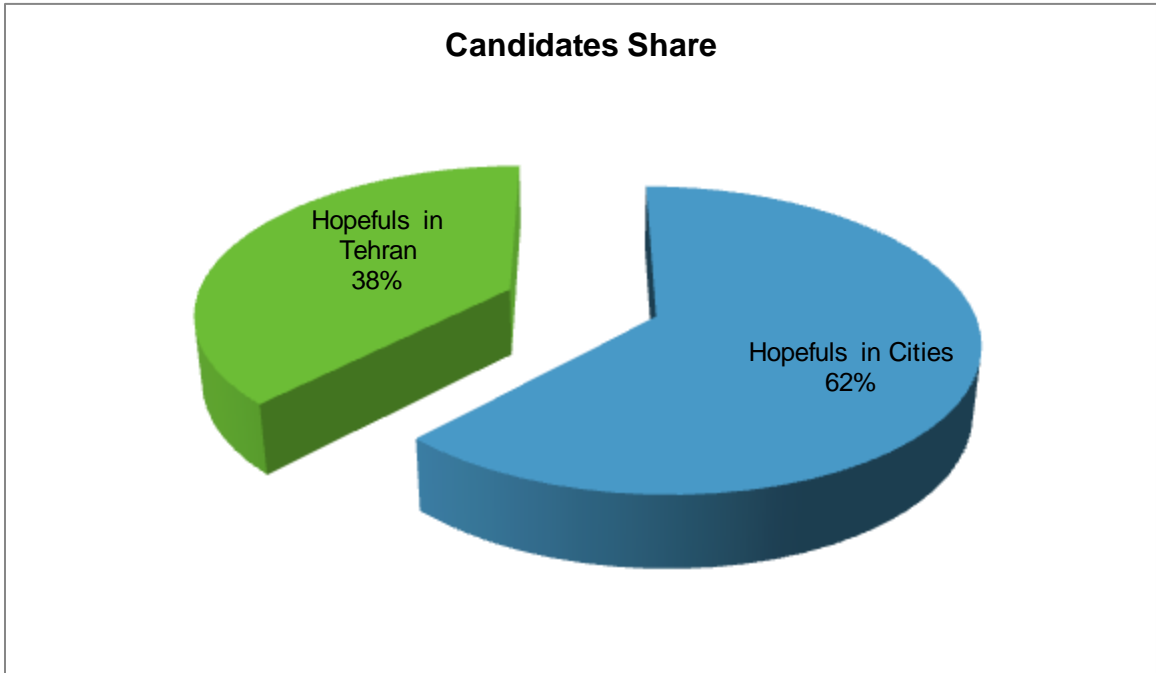
- Date of Election: April 8, 1988
- Number of Hopefuls: 1615
- Of 162 running in the Tehran constituency, 27 were MPs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Islamic Parliament
- Number of Eligible Voters: 27986736
- Votes Cast: 16714281
- Participation Percentage: 59.72%
- Number of Elects in the first round of voting: 176
- Date of Runoff Vote: May 13, 1988<sup>1</sup>
- The first round of voting was held indirectly in the Abadan, Dehloran and Mehran, Dasht-e Azadegan, Qasr-e Shirin and Khorramshahr constituencies. Mobile ballot boxes were sent to the warfronts for the Iranian combatants to cast their ballots.
- Number of Elects in Runoff: 78
- The Guardian Council declared the vote tally null and void in some constituencies<sup>2</sup> whose representatives were decided to be chosen in mid-term elections which were held on October 29 and December 15. However, the results of 15 constituencies were not confirmed by the Guardian Council and they remained without any representative in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parliament.
- Number of elects in mid-term voting: 24
- Representative of Armenian Christians in Northern Iran: Vartan Vartananiyan

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<sup>1</sup> The runoff vote was held in the following constituencies: Ardebil, Tabriz, Kaleibar, Varzaqan, Marand, Moghan, Urmia, Boukan, Mahabad, Ilam, Dehloran, Fareidan, Lanjan, Golpaygan and Khansar, Bandar Abbas & Abu Musa & Qeshm, Talesh & Hashtpar, Kuhdasht & Chegini, Naein, Natanz, Songor & Kelyayi, Qasr-e Shirin, Kangavar, Sahneh, Hersin, Dashti, Tangestan, Dayr, Kangan, Tehran, Shahryar, Robat Karim, Boroujen, Lordegan, Bojnourd, Khaf & Rashtkhar, Kashmar, Mashhad, Abadan, Izeh, Ahvaz, Andimeshk, Dasht-e Azadegan, Ramhormoz, Takestan, Khodabandeh, Qazvin, Khash, Zabol, Sarvestan, Shiraz, Rasht, Roudbar, Langroud, Doroud & Chaploq, Arak, Babol, Ramian, Gonbad Kavous, Qaemshahr, Ali Abad Katoul, Razan, Bandar Abbas and Yazd.

<sup>2</sup> In the Golpayegan & Khansar, Bandar Abbas, Abu Musa and Qeshm, Talesh and Hashtpar, Kuhdasht and Chegini

- Representative of Armenian Christians in southern Iran: Artavas Baghoumiyan
- Representative of Assyrians: Atour Khananshou
- Representative of Jews: Manouchehr Kalimi Nikrouz
- Representative of Zoroastrians: Aflatoun Ziyafat (Jahan-Mohammadi, 2010:75)



## **Political Atmosphere in 3<sup>rd</sup> Election**

The seven leading groups and establishments that were active in the run-up to the election were as follows:

- Tehran branch of the Society of Combatant Clergy
- Tehran branch of the Assembly of Combatant Clerics
- Unity Consolidation Office
- House of Labor
- Islamic Teachers Association of Iran
- Islamic Association of Ministries and State Institutes
- Islamic Professors Association (Aqaei Jirheneh, 2008: 66)

The Unity Consolidation Office, Islamic Teachers Association of Iran, and the House of Labor joined together in Tehran and established the Oppressed-Underprivileged Alliance whose views were close to those of the Assembly of Combatant Clerics. (Darabi, 2010:119) Given the dominant campaigning atmosphere due to the Assembly of Combatant Clerics' slogans for justice, equality, and defending the oppressed and the underprivileged, this left-leaning group won the election in a landslide. Nearly two-thirds of seats in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parliament went to the leftist candidates. The traditional leftists were led by the Assembly of Combatant Clerics. The rightist faction in Iran won 100 seats in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parliament. (Shadloo, 2007:129)

## **Presiding Board**

### **1. Speaker**

- Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

### **2. Deputy Speakers**

- Hossein Hashemian
- Assadollah Bayat
- Mehdi Karroubi

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Parliament at a Glance**

- Total Number of MPs: 278
- First Session Held on: May 28, 1988.
- Four women were among MPs<sup>3</sup>.
- Number of Open Sessions: 489
- Number of Laws Approved: 254 (134 Bills and 120 Motions)
- Number of Laws Rejected: 90 Bills and Motions<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Misses Marzieh Hadidchi Dabbagh, Gohar ash-Sharia Dastgheib, Maryam Zafarani, and Ateqeh Sediqi Rajaei

- Number of Resigned MPs: 6<sup>5</sup>
- Number of Deceased MPs: 2<sup>6</sup>
- Number of MPs Whose Credentials Were Rejected: 4<sup>7</sup> (Sharei, 2017:120)

## MPs Age

Aged Under 30: 5 MPs

Aged 30-35: 35 MPs

Aged 35-40: 74 MPs

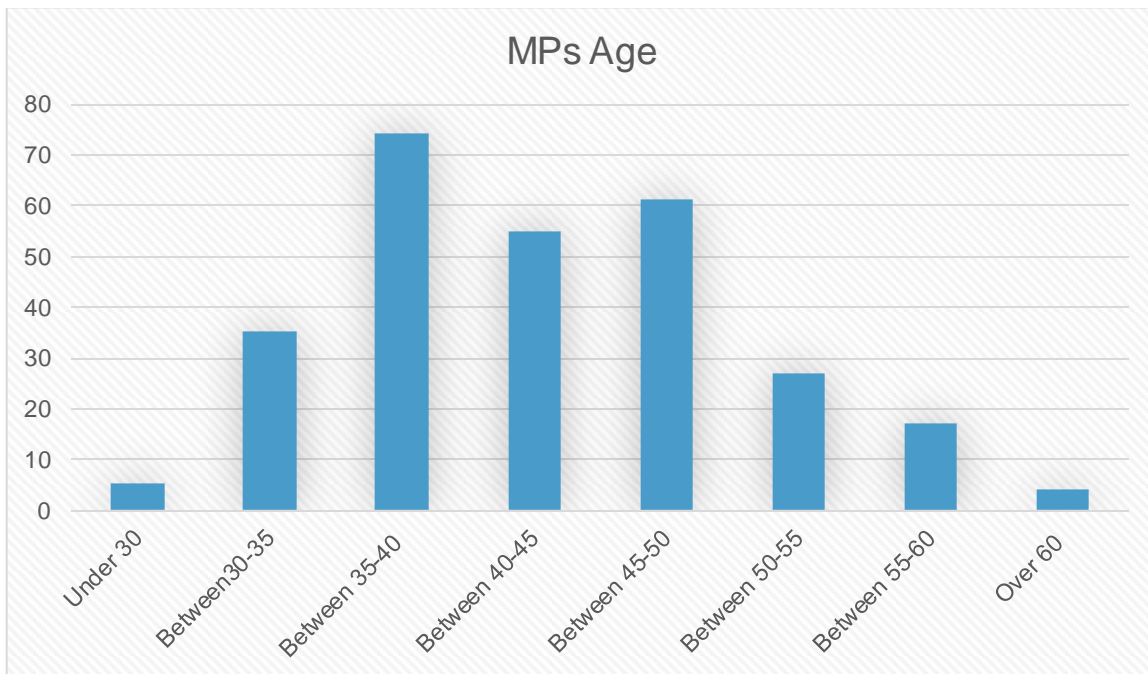
Aged 40-45: 55 MPs

Aged 45-50: 61 MPs

Aged 50-55: 27 MPs

Aged 55-60: 17 MPs

Aged Over 60: 4 MPs (Fawzi, 2008:99)



## MPs Education

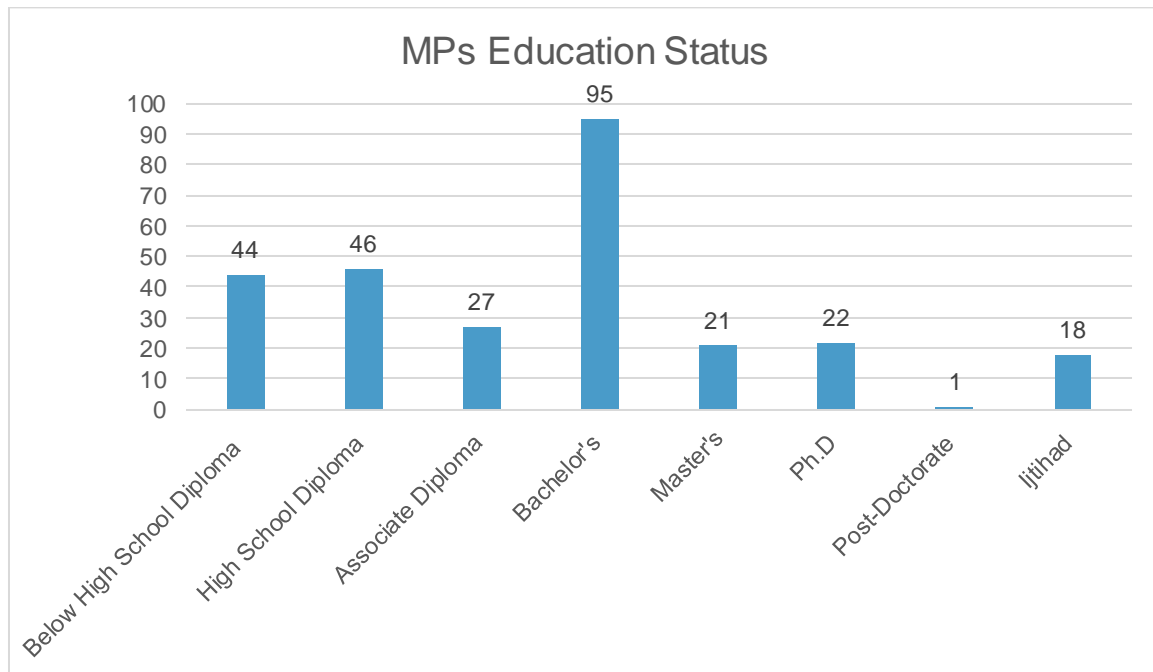
<sup>4</sup> In this round of parliament, the MPs were in disagreement with the Guardian Council over some pieces of legislation, which were finally sent to the Expediency Council for arbitration. Some of them were as follows: Labor Law, Supplement to 1990 Budget Bill, Law on Dealing with Judicial Issues Related to MPs, Law on Issuance of Title Deed for Property Whose Registered Deed Had Been Destroyed in War or Natural Disasters Like Flooding, Earthquake and Fire, Law on Retaining Attorney by Parties to Conflict, Law on Implementing Article 175 of the Constitution, Islamic Penal Code and Law on Stabilizing Number of Candidates in Elections

<sup>5</sup> Due to the passing of the Imam Khomeini in June 1989 and concomitant changes in the political structure, some MPs stepped down to take over posts in the executive and judicial sectors. (Mohammad Reza Emamzadeh Vaqefi, Hossein Kamali, Hossein Mahlouji, Mostafa Moin Najafabadi, Mohsen Nourbakhsh, and Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani)

<sup>6</sup> Mohammad Hossein Eftekhari and Abbas Hassani Sa'di

<sup>7</sup> Mohammad Taqi Saberi Ansari, Hadi Khatami, Fakhrohani and Ali Shahrokhi Qobadi

Forty-four MPs did not hold a high school diploma, 46 were high school graduates, 27 held associate diploma, 95 bachelor's, 21 master's, 22 PhD, 1 post-doctorate and 5 held a high-level degree of Islamic jurisprudence (Ijtihad) (Fawzi, 2008:80). Some lawmakers held multiple university degrees.



## Marking Events

After the war ended with Iraq, the 3<sup>rd</sup> parliament moved to establish parliamentary friendship groups to expand ties and cooperate with parliaments of other countries. The 3<sup>rd</sup> parliament experienced a significant and vital period in terms of international affairs.

### 1. UN Security Council Resolution 598

Resolution 598 of UN Security Council brokered a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. It was adopted at the UN on July 11, 1987 and approved by the Islamic Republic of Iran on July 18, 1988. (Fawzi, 2008:114)

### 2. USS Vincennes Downing Iran Air Plane

After this horrible crime on July 3, 1988, the Foreign Policy Committee of Parliament released a statement strongly condemning this antihuman crime. (Sharei, 2017:79)

### 3. Reaction to US Congress Support for MKO and Overthrow of Islamic Republic

In a letter addressed to then President George Bush Sr., Congress had demanded that the US government set aside its peaceful gestures vis-à-vis the Iranian government and instead reinforce opponents of the Islamic Republic. In reaction, the Iranian MPs condemned the

overt interference in Iran's internal affairs. The harsh reaction by MPs and media and Iran was unexpected for US officials, forcing Congressmen to stop distributing the letter. (Azimi Dowlatabadi, 2008:99)

#### **4. Salman Rushdie Book**

Iran-Britain ties turned sour in 1988 after Imam Khomeini issued a death fatwa against UK-backed Salman Rushdie, the author of *The Satanic Verses*. The Iranian parliament suspended its 78<sup>th</sup> open session on February 14, 1989. In its 83<sup>rd</sup> open session on February 27, 1989, the parliament voted in favor of a bill calling for the severance of diplomatic ties with Britain. Iran and Britain resumed ties on August 1, 1990. (Sharei, 2017:78)

#### **5. Saudi Massacre of Iran Hajj Pilgrims**

The Saudi police's carnage of Iranian hajj pilgrims during their "disavowal of polytheists" ritual in Mecca in 1987, relations were strained between Tehran and Riyadh. In April the following year, Saudi Arabia cut its diplomatic ties with Iran and the dispatch of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca was halted. Saudi Arabia also put to death 16 Kuwaiti Shias on charges of plotting to bomb the Hajj ritual. In its open session on September 23, 1989, the Iranian parliament condemned the execution of Kuwaiti Muslims and called on the Foreign Ministry to exhaust its capacities to lay bare crimes committed by Saudi rulers. In its open session on April 11, 1990, the MPs signed a statement urging Muslim scholars and people across the globe to require the House of Saud to let Iranian pilgrims visit Mecca. But the same year, when pilgrims were shouting "Got is the Greatest" in the Mina tunnel, Saudi officers intervened by cutting electricity and driving toxic gas into the tunnel. Consequently, 1,426 pilgrims died. On July 9, 1990, the MPs released a statement condemning the Mina tunnel incident and laid the blame on the Saudi rulers. The MPs demanded that custodianship of the holy sites had to be taken from Saudi Arabia. (Azimi Dowlatabadi, 2008:89)

#### **6. Persian Gulf War**

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and a Persian Gulf War erupted. The US and its Western allies intervened to drive Saddam of Kuwait. In a session on January 17, 1991, the Iranian parliament strongly condemned the unacceptable presence of US and Western troops in the Persian Gulf and invited Iranians to take part in a nationwide rally on January 18, 1991 against the military presence. Meanwhile, on January 19, 1991, the Iranian MPs renewed their condemnation of American forces' aggression of Iraq and called on Iranians to attend a rally on January 21, 1991. (Movasaq, 2013:171)

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