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KEYWORD SEARCH

[Subject Index](#)[Home](#)[Issues & Press](#)[Travel & Business](#)[Countries](#)[Youth & Education](#)[Careers](#)[About State](#)

You are in: [Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs](#) > [Bureau of Public Affairs](#) > [Bureau of Public Affairs: Press Relations Office](#)
> [Press Releases \(Other\)](#) > [2008](#) > [March](#)

Press Statement

Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Washington, DC

March 14, 2008

Iranian Parliamentary Elections

Iran has once again failed to meet international standards on the conduct of democratic elections. The Iranian regime again used ideological grounds to disqualify candidates for parliament, imposed severe restrictions on the ability of journalists and media outlets to cover the elections, limited the ability of candidates to campaign, and refused to allow independent election monitors access to polling stations on election day.

We support the right of the Iranian people to choose their own government through a free, fair, and transparent election process. We urge Iran's leaders to end interference in future elections, including the 2009 presidential elections, increase the transparency of their elections by allowing independent monitors, and protect the rights of Iran's citizens to freedom of expression, press, and association. We urge the new Majles to abide by Iran's international obligations and to work for a democratic Iran that is accountable to the will of its people

2008/195

Released on March 14, 2008



BACK TO TOP

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