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You are in: [Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs](#) > [Bureau of Public Affairs](#) > [Bureau of Public Affairs: Press Relations Office](#)
> [Press Releases \(Other\)](#) > [2006](#) > [December](#)

[Press Statement](#)**Sean McCormack, Spokesman**

Washington, DC

December 6, 2006

Iran: Vetting of Candidates for December Elections

In preparation for the upcoming Assembly of Experts, municipal councils, and several parliamentary by-elections on December 15th, the Iranian regime has once again disqualified thousands of aspiring candidates on purely ideological grounds. Furthermore, the regime continues to crack down on media outlets, blocking [Iran's](#) citizens from access to unbiased information and a diversity of thought and opinion. The regime's track record of restricting the freedom of expression and participation in electoral competition demonstrates a profound disrespect for the will of the Iranian people and international standards of free elections. We continue to support the Iranian people in their efforts to exercise these basic rights.

2006/1094

Released on December 6, 2006

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