

Rumour Of A Momentous Development In Iran

Mohammed Reza Khatami calls for abolishing Islamic republic in Iran, reports the Israeli newspaper Maariv.

Mohammed Reza Khatami, leader of the Islamic Iran Participation Front, Iran's largest pro-reform party, said today (Wednesday) in Teheran that the time was ripe for establishing a secular republic. This was reported by a western diplomatic source, and confirmed by Stratfor. Khatami is President Mohammed Khatami's younger brother. He is among the 80 incumbent members barred from running for re-election in Feb. 20 parliamentary elections by the Guardians Council.

Well, Maariv has not yet reported this as a fact, and nor has anyone else. It's only a rumour. **Stratfor** isn't always accurate, and nor are "western diplomatic sources". So maybe the story will dissipate. But if it pans out, it's a momentous development and, **unlike previous important news from Iran**, it will receive front-page treatment and intense analysis *and be welcomed* all over the media, right?

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