

<http://www.dw.com/fa-ir/a-16717344>

## **Firouzabadi's version of election engineering by the armed forces**

*Deutsche Welle* Radio

March 4, 2013

Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, says: "Election engineering among the armed forces means identifying benchmarks for these forces and preventing them from any sort of participation in the elections or in the different political factions."

Ali Saiedi, the representative of the Vali-e Faghih (Khamenei) in the Revolutionary Guards (IRG) said on January 9, 2013: "The essential duty of the Guards is the sensible and logical engineering of the elections."

Firouzabadi, in interpreting Saiedi's remarks, said: "What he meant was not to get into a discussion of interference or even exposure. What he meant was that political ideological organizations and representatives of the Supreme Leader in the armed forces have a responsibility to reiterate the abstention by members of the armed forces in taking sides. That is election engineering."

In explaining election engineering from the point of view of the armed forces, the commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said: "The representatives of the Supreme Leader and political ideological organizations in the armed forces must stick to the values favored by the regime, and speak about those values."

Representative of Ayatollah Khamenei: "The goal of the slogan 'free elections' is to instigate unrest."

Hossein Shariatmadari, the representative of Khamenei, told Kayhan newspaper that the atmosphere of Iran is very sensitive, and said the enemy aims to incite unrest and insecurity. The talk of a 'free election' is part of this."

Saiedi: "The duty of the Guards is sensible election engineering."

The government-affiliated Shabakeh-Iran website noted in criticizing Saiedi's comments: "Isn't acknowledging the role of the Revolutionary Guards in election engineering conceding the accusations of the political opponents, who by referring to these very statements say that elections in the Islamic Republic are superficial?"

In responding to Saiedi's remarks, Mohammad Khatami, the former president of Iran, said: "We say that a free election is one that has not been engineered. But this individual is stating officially that the sensible and logical engineering of elections is our duty."