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## Khatami, Karroubi join Mousavi's Green movement

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Former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami and opposition leader Mehdi Karroubi will join the leadership of a new party to be formed by Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

Last week, defeated presidential candidate Mousavi announced that he was working on forging a new party -- named the Green Path of Hope Association -- to pursue his political goals.

Alireza Beheshti, a senior aide to Mousavi, said on Tuesday that Khatami and Karroubi would be members of the party's central council, ILNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

"The central council of the Green Path of Hope will be a small group of five to six, including Mr. Khatami and Mr. Karroubi," Beheshti said.

He added that the party would also include a 'counseling board consisting of 30 to 40 members' who are to be chosen over time; as well as 'monitoring committees'.

"In the face of all the irregularities that the authorities will not shoulder," the Reformists decided to "defend the rights of the people and fulfill their demands" and thought of creating a new party, Beheshti added.

The son of Iran's martyred Judiciary chief, Mohammad Hossein Beheshti, continued that the initial idea was to form a front "as a party would not be an appropriate vehicle" to achieve the Reformists' goals.

"The concept of a front as recognized in Iran's political landscape is the alliance of several parties and organizations to achieve a certain political goal. This could be a step forward ... but it had its own limitations," he noted.

After the re-election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the June 12 vote, both Mousavi and Karroubi rejected the results as 'fraudulent'. Their allegations of vote-rigging, however, were dismissed by Iran's electoral watchdog, the Guardian Council.

Mousavi has vowed his new party will continue to 'defend the rights and votes of citizens that were crushed in the election'.

Most of the Principlist figures have demanded that Mousavi and other senior opposition figures be barred from the political arena, while others have reacted to Mousavi's plans with more caution.

Iran's Vice Parliament Speaker, Mohammad-Reza Bahonar, said on Tuesday that Mousavi's new party would be welcome if it is formed 'within the framework of the law', ILNA reported.

"The legal aspects of the movement [the Green Path of Hope Association] should be clearer," the senior Principlist figure added.

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