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Mousavi bemoans arrest of top aides, urges calm

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Iran's defeated presidential candidate-turned opposition leader has urged his supporters not to be provoked by the arrest of two top aides to the opposition figures.

Alireza Beheshti, Mir-Hossein Mousavi's top adviser, and Morteza Alviri, an aide to Mehdi Karroubi, another defeated presidential hopeful in the June 12 election, were arrested on Tuesday.

Mousavi, in a statement issued on Wednesday, lamented the move by the authorities, but asked his supporters to remain calm and vigilant.

"Maintain your calm and awareness. The latest series of developments will leave nothing but damage to your opponents, just like the other blind moves [they made]," Mousavi said. "Be careful so they cannot provoke you and destroy your home and country when they wipe out themselves."

"It is clear that your attempts to return calm to the society are not going to be met with a wise response. The days ahead are truly dangerous," he added.

"Detaining people like Beheshti is a sign of more horrendous incidents [to come]."

MD/CS