While some people think politicians should not divulge much information to the public, others believe people have the right to know the whole data that their leaders have. In my opinion, people in various societies should be completely informed since hiding information from individuals has two major demerits.

 To begin with, since we are living in a world that information cannot be hidden forever, people will finally find out about hidden information and then cannot trust their leaders. Mass media and social media platforms are all full of novel classified data about different governments that were trying to hide critical information from people. With the major presence of correspondents and the influential impacts of the internet, concealing even high classified information seems demanding if not impossible. While many politicians think they are defending the public by covering some news, people will probably think they were deceived and tricked by their own leaders. Take concealing information about Covid-19 by the government of China as an example, China’s leaders probably thought that it is better for the public to be unaware of the emergence of a deadly contagious disease; however, after less than a month, a physician informed not only Chinese but the whole world about the fatal virus. Ashamed by hiding significant information, China’s leaders will pay the price for this act since their wrong policy of concealing knowledge, led to an unprecedented pandemic that is suffering the whole world.

 Moreover, many governments, specially corrupted ones, can abuse the notion of withholding information. Many politicians, even in the most democratic countries, are desperately concerned with their own success and political future; thus, they withhold any information that can hinder them from getting reelected, so it is highly likely that they abuse the ideology of withholding knowledge from the public. For example, leaders may not announce the weak economic performance of their government since it will have detrimental impacts on their votes in the next election. The situation gets worse in authoritarian countries; since dictators only care about their hegemony and monarchy, hiding data may not have any limits; therefore, with the pretext of withholding information, any news that is not aligned with the enhancing of leaders’ position, will be censored rapidly.

 Although people have the very right of being informed, in some special circumstances, leaders should conceal data from people. For instance, a huge amount of money has been dedicating to enhance environmentally-friendly technologies, yet many people disagree with this notion and that can lead to a controversial topic in the whole nation; in these cases, leaders should do what is necessary for their countries and withhold some data if those data can cause major and unnecessary disputes or rebels. The reality is that ordinary people may lack the insight and mindset of a competent leader; hence, after acquiring some information, people may inadvertently weaken the government performance.

 To sum up, I adopt this view that information should be announced by leaders since it is hard to hide, and concealing knowledge can be a pretext for politicians to serve themselves and abuse their power; however, on special occasions, leaders can withhold information since announcing them can cause chaos and unhelpful comments.

Amir Rahimzadeh