

**KRSI's Interview with Senator Sam Brownback on Resolution #...**  
**March 21, 2003**  
**Radio Sedaye Iran (KRSI)**

**KRSI:** Thank you very much for your time and for this interview. This is an honor to have the opportunity to interview you.

**Sen. Brownback:** It is my delight and I identify with you and with the Iranian people so much in their aspiration for freedom and for democracy and I want to do everything that I can to help those efforts and to support so the democracy advocates with inside of Iran and outside of Iran.

**KRSI:** How did you get interested in Iran?

**Sen. Brownback:** I was chairing the Middle East subcommittee for number of years and I am not chairing that subcommittee now with in the Foreign Relations Committee in the US Senate, and I met with number of Iranian activists, studied the region and could see the huge opportunity for democracy, the huge desire for democracy inside Iran and yet the terrible problems in the country and the Mullahs sitting on top of the country not allowing the people to express their desires and their free will. The combination of it seems to me such an extraordinary terrible situation for the Iranian people but I also want of great hope and opportunity that they could push off the people that are sitting on top of them, kingdom like a king and having fully operational open democratic society.

**KRSI:** Would you please describe the Resolution that you offered with Senator Wyden, Senator Coleman, Congressman Lantos, and Congresswoman Ros-Lethinen, please?

**Sen. Brownback:** The Resoultion simply describes the current situation inside of Iran, the desire of the people for democracy, the lack of allowing that by the ruling class, the ruling few, within Iran. It outlines some of the things that the regime has done against the people, the lack of allowing the people to participate in the society, the yoke that it is placed on the people, the limitation on a free press, the lack of human rights, the lack of any form of religious liberty, hangings and jailing and wimps and corruption within the government and it outlines those abuses and its problems, and it identify with the great aspiration of the many people inside of Iran who are demonstrating on almost a daily bases that they want liberty.

**KRSI:** As you know, Radio Sedaye Iran (KRSI) has posted a letter of support and appreciation for you and other Senators, Congressmen and Congresswoman that supported the aspiration of the Iranian people. My question is what is the effect of these kinds of letters, faxes, and phone calls for this campaign for democracy and freedom in Iran?

**Sen. Brownback:** It has a big impact because it tells people in Washington and around the world that the Iranian people do desire freedom and democracy and are willing to push for it in spite of how it may negatively impact themselves and that aspiration that yearning for liberty is sometimes you see it more in some societies and less in others, and what you see now in Iran is a deep desire for that and big responses and faxes that we get, people signing on the petitions tell us of the depth of that support and it really encourages us to continue to press forward to try to get to a day soon when there will be a true democracy in Iran.

**KRSI:** What would you recommend that the Iranian people inside and outside of Iran would do for this struggle and for this campaign?

**Sen. Brownback:** Organize and agitate, that would be my recommendations to them and we have seen examples of that being successful in a number of different countries and peacefully so... Gandhi's movement within India and Martin Luther King in the United States where large number of people massively protested in a very peaceful fashion, you will have civil disobedience in the process but to draw attention to others and to people around the world of their plight, and there is a great deal of that taking place now inside of Iran like protest. I would urge that to take next step of civil disobedience in a fashion that is not militant but peaceful along the lines of what Gandhi and Martin Luther King did in their pursuit of liberty for the people in India or for African-Americans within the United States.

**KRSI:** How can we actually attract the international community and also the media as well to report and to refer to the suffering of the people of Iran and their aspiration for freedom and democracy?

**Sen. Brownback:** I think some of the things that we can do to identify with the Iranian people; well for us is to really get more information out about what is taking place inside of Iran and there is also people in the United States and other places around the world that have good intentions but misguided, in that, they think that the way to work with Iran is to work with the current regime, you know this regime is a monarchy it is a kingdom with very few people on the top with

corruption with in and they are not taking care of the people or letting the people's will to be expressed. I think that we really need to show people outside of Iran what is taking place inside of Iran and that this regime is the problem and it is not the solution. It's a problem and we should press them and press for the Iranian people for democracy.

**KRSI:** As you know, we are in the first days of the Iranian new year Norouz and we broadcasted your messages and your greetings for the new year and I would like to ask if you have any other messages for the Iranian people.

**Sen. Brownback:** Times of new years are times of new hope, & I would really hope that the Iranian people press for that new hope to take place this year. That they would aggressively push forward in as many ways that they can organized efficiently studying models of what past movements have done in other countries to gain freedom and make that their objectives for this new year. This is a good time to think about that and it is a time to activate and to have that new hope, that now is the time. The world is with freedom and democracy is the best way for people to govern, because it is people governing themselves and this something for me looking at Iran and Iranians that I know, the ones that I have been in contact with, that is going to make a vibrant strong democracy; Iran will be a vibrant strong democracy.

**KRSI:** On behalf of Radio Sedaye Iran (KRSI), I would like to thank you very much for your time and your dedication for this purpose and I would like to take the opportunity to have the opportunity for next time. Thank you very much.

**Sen. Brownback:** Thank you very much and all best to you and to your station and to the Iranian people.