

**KRSI's Exclusive Interview
With Senator Sam Brownback
April 10, 2003**

KRSI:

Radio Sedaye Iran (KRSI) would like to express its deep appreciation for your dedicated support for the aspiration of the Iranian people for the overthrow of the current dictatorship and establishment of a democracy in Iran. We also thank you for this opportunity to discuss some of your inspiring efforts in this regard. These days, Senator Brownback, you are offering an amendment to create an Iran Democracy Foundation. Would you please describe this new amendment?

Sen. Brownback:

What the attempt of the amendment is to do, is to get funding to groups that are pro-democracy focused on Iran both inside and outside of Iran. The effort that we are attempting to fund was \$50 million. We do not know if we get that level of funding for but that is what we are trying to do and the focus is to really help in broadcasting, communications and networking of people inside and outside of Iran to bring democracy to that great nation. We, the United States does not have any problem with the Iranian people. We have very good relationships with the Iranian people but the Iranian government is a leading sponsor of terrorism around the world and that must stop and the Iranian people deserve freedom and they deserve liberty to be able to freely participate in their own society, in their own government. They are fully capable of having a wonderful dynamic democracy and open society if the ruling Mullahs would simply let them do that and that's what is this foundation is pushing.

KRSI:

What are the positions of other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on your proposal? Who is in favor and who opposes that?

Sen. Brownback:

We did not take a vote yesterday. It was an introduction of the amendment. We probably will hold a hearing on this topic of democracy movement in Iran and they will help formulate better just how we can press this topic on forward. Everyone expressed support for democracy in Iran. Some people are looking at it in different ways and different time frames of how you get there. But everybody supports democracy and open society inside of Iran. We are going to continue to press this idea of helping to fund outside groups to press this on forward but if the overall objective of everyone that there will be a democracy and an open society and democracy inside of Iran.

KRSI:

How can the Iranian American community, and in this regard Radio Sedaye Iran (KRSI), may assist you and support you in this significant cause?

Sen. Brownback:

There is two ways that they can be very very helpful: number one is to contact their congressmen and senators saying that they support Iran Democracy Foundation; they support the Brownback amendment to create an Iran Democracy Foundation that would be very very helpful. Indeed, just calls that have been received in the last couple of days in the Senator Boxer's office from California have encouraged them to move forward and to look seriously at this issue. So it does has an impact. The second is as you broadcast inside of Iran, if people inside of Iran can email, or fax or call in the members of the Congress, the House, or the Senate and tell us of your desire, tell us of the support for democracy and the desire of the United States to support democracy inside of Iran that would be most helpful. We identify, the United States identifies with the desire of Iranian people for freedom and for liberty. It is the natural stage of the mankind to be free and not to be enslaved in any particular regime but to have freedom and if people inside Iran can express that by phone calls, emails or faxes here, it really has a powerful statement to lawmakers here that, yes, there is a strong democracy movement inside of Iran and we want to support and to help that.

KRSI:

I would like to thank you one more time for this opportunity of hearing you directly on some of your dedicated efforts for the Iranian people. Do you have any messages for the Iranian people inside Iran?

Sen. Brownback:

It is to keep pushing for democracy. The reformers that were elected seven years ago have not formed and have not pushed democracy and open society inside Iran. The people that want democracy need to keep pressing for that. I would hope that they would continue to show civil disobedience in pressing forward the issues of democracy, to continue to express those aggressively until the day that democracy is seen and they can participate inside Iran.

KRSI:

I would like to thank you very much for your time and for sharing with us your thoughts and plans. Thank you very much.

Sen. Brownback:

Thank You.