

PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT: (202) 661-4675

USADI Commends President Bush's Call for Democracy in Iran, Supports Referendum for Regime Change

The US Alliance for Democratic Iran (USADI) applauds remarks by the US President George Bush concerning the urgent need for democracy in Iran and the demand that the Tehran regime "heed to democratic demands of the Iranian people."

Time after time, the clerical rulers of Iran have responded to the democratic demands of the Iranian people, manifested in peaceful protests, sit-ins, strikes, and rallies, with overwhelming force and brutality, crushing any hope for democracy in Iran.

During a week of student protests in Tehran last June, dozens were wounded and more than 4,000 arrested. Despite international pressure, the vast majority of the detainees remain incarcerated.

Under the clerical regime, elections are a farce. Every candidate must "declare and sign heart-felt faith in, and practical commitment to, the Supreme Leader." Every candidate must be vetted by numerous security and repressive agencies. It would, therefore, be a folly to expect a theocratic regime to allow the Iranian people to express their will democratically.

The Iranian people need our support and solidarity in their struggle for an Iran free of intolerance and dictatorship. America must support their demands for an internationally monitored referendum for regime change. We hope concrete steps by the administration would follow President Bush's call for democracy in Iran.

Only a democratic, secular and peaceful Iran, free of fundamentalism, terrorism, and weapons of mass destruction, would bring freedom and prosperity to Iran and peace, stability and tranquility to the Persian Gulf region and beyond.

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