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Strengthen relations, avoid divisive rhetoric: Iran to Turkey's TRT

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, emphasized the need to avoid divisive rhetoric in a phone call with Fahrettin Altun, Presidency's Head of Communication, in response to recent anti-Iranian remarks made by the head of Turkey's state-run TRT network.

Salehi stated that the recent remarks by some Turkish media officials have caused concern among the Iranian public and should be avoided.

He emphasized that Iran's foreign policy is based on strengthening ties with its neighbors, particularly Turkey, and that the two countries have a significant cultural exchange program in place.

"The approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to strengthen relations with its neighbors, and Turkey has a special place among them," Salehi said. "The year 2025 has been designated as the year of cultural exchange between Iran and Turkey, and this provides opportunities for expanding cultural relations between the two countries. Culture is a platform for interaction, cooperation, and connection, and the two countries have a lot of common cultural capacities that can be utilized."

Salehi also emphasized the importance of media cooperation between the two countries, saying that while it is necessary to strengthen media cooperation, it is also important to be careful about



the media space and public opinion in both countries.

Zahid Sobaci, the head of TRT, had sparked outrage with his comments, saying that the network would launch a Persian-language channel by the end of the vear with the aim of "disturbing" Iran. Sobaci's remarks were widely criticized in Iran, with many calling for his dismissal.

Altun apologized for Sobaci's remarks, saying that they did not reflect the views of the Turkish government.

He emphasized that Turkey's approach is to strengthen ties with Iran and that any rhetoric that contradicts this approach is not acceptable.

The incident has also sparked a heated debate in Turkey, with some politicians and media outlets criticizing Sobaci's remarks as "unworthy of a statesman" and calling for his dismissal.

Doğu Perinçek, the leader of Turkey's Patriotic Party, demanded Sobaci's immediate dismissal, saying that his remarks were "unworthy of a statesman" and could only come from supporters of the United States and the Israeli regime.

Perinçek emphasized that friendship with Iran is "essential" for Turkey, noting that there is "no solution" to US plans in the region without Iran.

He added that the establishment of the TRT Persian channel should strengthen friendly ties between Iran and Turkey, serving as a joint media outlet against US-Israel-centered threats in West Asia. Other Turkish politicians, including Umit Ozdag, the leader of the Victory Party, and Kazan, also criticized Soba-

Ahmad Noroozi, the president of IRIB World Service, took to X (formerly Twitter) to censure Sobaci's inflammatory remarks, saying that while Iranian media is committed to reporting developments in the region, particularly the genocidal war of the Zionist regime in Palestine and Lebanon, it will not be distracted by "unhealthy and imprudent" remarks. The incident has also highlighted the importance of cooperation between Iran and Turkey in the media sphere. The two countries have a long history of cultural exchange, and there are hopes that the establishment of a Persian-language channel by TRT could help promote understanding and cooperation between the two nations.

In a statement, Sobaci attempted to backtrack on his earlier remarks, saying that he was misunderstood and that his comments were meant to emphasize the competitive nature of the media

Snapshots of sound

'Musical Frames' brings Iranian music to life through photography



The 'Musical Frames' photography exhibition, showcasing the works of veteran photographer Kavoos Sadeghloo, is being held at the Iranian Artists' House in Tehran. The exhibition features 40 black and white photographs of prominent Iranian musicians, taken over the course of three

The exhibition includes portraits of famous Iranian vocalists Mohammad Reza Shajarian and Shahram Nazeri, as well as late musicians Parviz Yahaghi, a renowned violinist, and Hassan Nahid,

(flute). Other notable musicians featured in the exhibition include Hossein Alizadeh, a tar and setar

player, and Farhad Fakhreddini, a musician and conductor. The exhibition began on October 10 and will run until October 18.

In the final days of the exhibition, we sat down with Kavoos Sadeghloo to talk about 'Musical Frames' and his work as a photographer. The following is the full text of the interview:





about your background in photog-

SADEGHLOO: I was born in 1969. I became interested in photography in 1984 and began taking courses and gaining experience in the field. In 1992. I started working as a news and documentary photographer for the newspaper Hamshahri, and later joined the

IRAN DAILY: Can you tell us a bit newspaper Iran in 1994. I completed advanced courses in photography at the Technical and Vocational Training Organization, as well as at the Asia News Agency. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in news photography from the Faculty of Journalism. I was a member of the board of directors of the Iranian Photojournalists Association for 16 years, and served as its president for 12

years. During this time, I was involved in organizing several photography exhibitions and judging photography com-

Can you explain about the 'Musical Frames' exhibition?

This exhibition features my photographs of musicians from the era of film photography to the digital age. The The exhibition features 40 photographs in three sizes, all in black and white. The photographs are printed on natural fiber paper and mounted on canvas, showcasing the artistic style of the day. We have also included QR codes under each photograph, which allow viewers to access the biography and music of each musician.

exhibition is divided into two sections:

Portraits of musicians and concerts.

When did you come up with the idea for this project?

The idea for this project came to me in the early 1990s, when I was interviewing and photographing musicians. I realized that if I took portraits of these musicians. I could create a unique collection. Over the years, I have photographed many musicians, although my work was slowed down during my 12 years as president of the Iranian Photojournalists Association. This exhibition is the result of my work over the past 30 years. I also plan to publish a book of photographs of Iranian musicians at the end of the exhibition, as a way of fulfilling my duty as a photojournalist and preserving these images for the country's cultural heritage.

What distinguishes your photographs from others, aside from the fact that they are all of musicians?

In most of my photographs, aside from the concert photos, I have used controlled lighting and composition to create a specific atmosphere. I have used single light sources with unique angles, often using natural light from windows to illuminate the musicians' faces. I have also used bright backgrounds to create a sense of depth in the photographs.



















