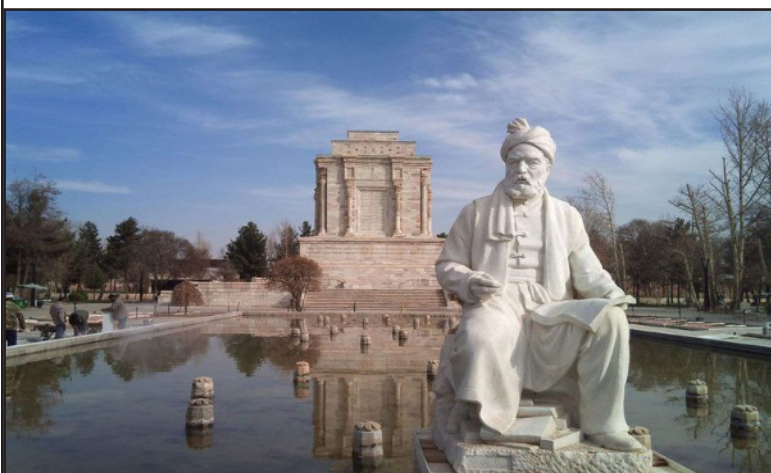


## UNESCO: Persian Among Five Sweetest Languages



TEHRAN – UNESCO has recognized the Persian Languages among the five sweetest languages in the world, Iran's Cultural Attaché to Austria Reza Gholami says.

Gholami made the remarks in a ceremony in Vienna held to honor Persian Language teachers, in which they discussed the effective methods to expand teaching of the Persian language in Austrian universities and schools, both public and private sectors.

Currently, the Persian language, with over 120,000,000 speakers and nearly 50,000,000 peo-

ple who know this language, is among the top 10 languages in the world and is the 8th most used language in web content, Gholami said.

Persian is among the top three languages in the world in terms of the variety of proverbs, he added.

The first commemoration ceremony to honor Persian teachers in Austria was held at the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Vienna (Avicenna Hall) attended by a number of Persian language teachers as well as a number of experts in the field of language learning.

# Ghadir Exhibition Underway in Qom

TEHRAN -- As the auspicious occasion of Eid al-Ghadir approaches, an exhibition featuring the event of Ghadir has been mounted at the holy mausoleum of Hazrat Masoumeh (SA) in Qom.

It was launched at the holy shrine's Jawad al-A'immah courtyard on Eid al-Adha (June 17) and will run until Eid al-Ghadir.

Various pavilions at the expo showcase activities and programs related to the event of Ghadir.

The event of Ghadir, or Eid al-Ghadir, which falls on Tuesday, June 25 this year, is celebrated by



Shia Muslims around the world every year.

It is among important feasts and happy holidays of Shia Muslims held on the 18th day of Dhul Hijjah in the lunar Hijri calendar.

It was the day when according to reports, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) appointed Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) as his caliph and the Imam after himself following an order from God.

There are various programs slated to be held across Iran to celebrate the auspicious occasion on Tuesday.

## Three Movies Make Mark in Iranian Cinemas

TEHRAN -- This spring, several Iranian films have made their mark on the big screen, captivating audiences with their diverse storylines and compelling performances.

The action-comedy 'Bloody Alligator' has emerged as the frontrunner, raking in an impressive 1,584,584,227,500 rials (approximately \$3 million) since its release.

In 688 theaters across Iran, moviegoers were treated to Javad Ezzati's 'Bloody Alligator'.

Hot on the heels of 'Bloody Alligator' is the historical drama 'Intoxicated by Love', directed by Hassan Fathi.

Rounding out the top three is the comedy 'Texas 3', directed by Masoud Atyabi.

The rankings were based on data released by Samfaa, the Iranian cinema sales and screening management system.

These Iranian films, with their universal themes and captivating stories, can entertain both local and global audiences.



## France Holds Iranian Musician on Trumped-Up Charges

TEHRAN -- It's been more than two weeks since Bashir Biazar, an acclaimed Iranian musician and filmmaker, was arrested and imprisoned in France over charges widely described as politically motivated.

In a chargesheet filed by the French interior ministry, a copy of which is in the possession of Press TV, Biazar is accused of "Iranian propaganda," "anti-Zionism and anti-Americanism," "hateful social media posts," being a "vector of hatred," and posing a "threat to public order in France."

Human rights activists, officials, and Biazar's family and friends have categorically rejected the charges as baseless and driven by the French government's political motives against the Islamic Republic.

A detailed examination of the charges and Biazar's social media activities, especially in recent months, makes it clear that the case against him is not based on merit but is politically motivated.

Born and raised in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Biazar is an independent music composer and filmmaker internationally acclaimed for his work.

He has previously served as managing director of the New Horizon Institute of Arts and Culture and was the secretary of the London-based Islamic Student Association.

For many years, he also worked as a production manager at the Music and Song Department of IRIB, Iran's state broadcaster, and was behind many acclaimed works produced by the organization.

The French interior ministry accuses Biazar of disseminating alleged Iranian "state propaganda" and promoting "anti-Zionism and anti-Americanism," which they view as "political-religious interference."

It also claims that Biazar has "an operational mission to act against Iranian opponents, Jewish, and Israeli targets," in France and thus represents "a threat to the country's integrity and security, as well as its international relations."

The most serious accusations are that he "incites terrorism with hatred," is involved in "hateful posts on social networks," "supports Hamas and Hezbollah," and "smeared France."

French authorities further describe Biazar as "a vector of hatred that seriously threatens public order and fundamental interests of the state," recommending his expulsion from the country.

His case is cited as "an absolute emergency," with France believing that his "hostile activities" are damaging the international situation, likely fueling tension, hatred, and violence between

communities in the country. Le Point, a major French weekly political news magazine, recently reported that the ministerial expulsion order was signed on May 22, two weeks before his arrest and imprisonment.

A French court reportedly ordered Biazar to leave the country within 28 days, but French police have not released him, providing no explanation for the continued detention.

Since his arrest, many commentators, officials, and Biazar's family and associates have condemned the French indictment and charges against him, terming them baseless and politically motivated.

A close examination of his activities on various social media networks, particularly the X platform (formerly Twitter), reveals the unfounded nature of the charges leveled against him.

Biazar used X for 13 years before his profile was deleted in 2022 "without explanation, warning, and reason." After that, he created another account on X where he is active now.

He has also been using Instagram to a much lesser extent, leaving only 43 posts on the network.

Instagram, a Meta-affiliated network, has strict rules against pro-Palestinian resistance movements, leading to many pro-Palestine voices being blocked or suspended.

The fact that Biazar's profile was not deleted or suspended proves he has not broken any rules.

All his social media posts, comments, and tags—whether on X or Instagram—are written in Persian, indicating they are not intended for a French audience.

According to Press TV analysis and examination of his social media activities, no French person follows him, and no French citizen has ever interacted with his posts.

His social media activities, like millions of pro-Palestine advocates around the world, including in France, have primarily focused on the unfolding Israeli genocide in Gaza since October last year.

Biazar, like other conscientious pro-Palestine campaigners, has raised his voice against the Israeli genocide in Gaza, which has claimed the lives of 37,400 Palestinians, most of them children and women.

The pinned post on Biazar's X handle features a video of him addressing a United Nations session on anti-Iran sanctions, Israeli actions in Gaza, and the world body's passivity.

"The Zionists have never been so alone, hated, defeated, and humiliated," he wrote in the tweet.



In a tweet on May 28, Biazar criticized the silence of French President Emmanuel Macron, CNN, and the BBC on Israeli crimes in Gaza, particularly the massacre in southern Gaza's Rafah refugee camp.

He also posted about anti-Iran elements in London, holding an Israeli flag, and harassing an Iranian woman who was heading to a memorial ceremony.

Some of his tweets showed the massive gathering in different Iranian cities paying tribute to late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and his companions martyred in a helicopter crash.

But, most of his social media activities in recent months were wholly concentrated on the Israeli genocide in Gaza and the Western silence and complicity in it.

In a tweet on May 9, he shared a video clip of the Piers Morgan show in which an Israeli regime spokesman was not able to defend the crimes of the regime against Palestinians.

On October 27, 2023, he criticized the French police's decision to cancel a permit for a public gathering in support of the Palestinian people and declare it illegal.

Some of his tweets were also dedicated to the US campus movement and police violence against students, like millions of other netizens tweeting about the same.

Biazar commented on French internal security affairs only once, on May 10, comparing adolescent violence during anti-government protests in France to West-backed Iranian riots.

Biazar stated that controlling teenagers during social unrest is the primary responsibility of their parents, aligning with the French Ministry of Justice's decision last July.

French Minister of Justice Eric Dupond-Moretti said parents who neglect their children under 17 and leave them out at night could face two years in pris-

on and a fine of 30,000 euros.

Biazar emphasized that just two days after this statement, the protests over the police killing of Nahel Merzouk were extinguished completely.

Since the Israeli genocide on Gaza began on October 7 last year, Biazar has posted hundreds of tweets about Palestine, the suffering of Palestinians, and criticism of the Israeli regime and Western governments' indifference, similar to what many French and Western citizens do regularly.

## Picture of the Day



The wheat harvest season in Mazandaran province. Wheat cultivation in Mazandaran is carried out on 54,950 hectares of agricultural lands.

Photo by IRNA