

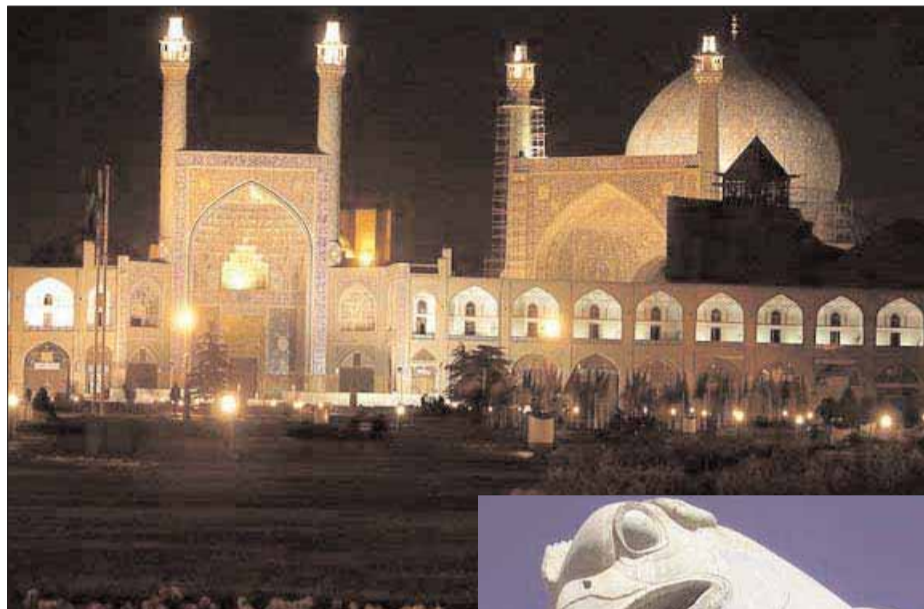
# Greek photographer looks at Iran differently

*The conscious and objective witnesses of the international developments would confess inarguably that the portrayal of Iran in the mainstream media and global platforms is a distorted and partial one which almost withholds the "other side" of news from audiences and disallows them to be faced with the very reality.*

Actually, what we are grappling with in the field of media coverage on Iran is a hostile and slanted approach which aims to turn the public opinions vigorously skeptic about this ancient, old-rooted country through tactical ways like image doctoring, news counterfeiting etc.

Nevertheless, amid the anguishing waves of unilateral media propaganda against Iran, one can behold, with a little burden of search and scout, the groundbreaking impression of committed artists who contribute to the improvement of global cognition and conscience with their endeavors.

An interesting example of those artists who have long dedicated their time and professional career to the exploration of misunderstood countries is Iason Athanasiadis, Greek photographer and journalist, of whose photographs and images there



will be an international photography exhibition held in the Craft and Folk Art Museum of Los Angeles, California.

So far, Iason has journeyed all over the world to cover Afghanistan, Armenia, Cuba, Pakistan, Turkey and Iran which are considered as countries with rich cultural, historical heritages and yet a falsified and unrealistic image in mass media.

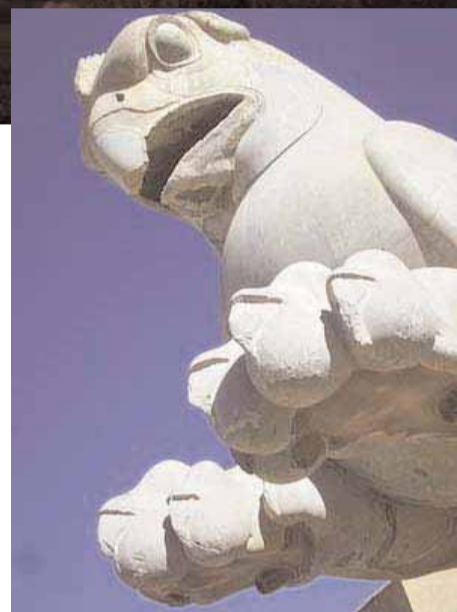
He is a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and has published articles, pectoral reports in Guardian, Christian Science Monitor and Financial Times up to know.

In his photos of Iran, Athanasiadis offers a fair view of Iran which comprises the unnoticed natural landscapes, anthropological topics, historical sights and hallmarks of Persian architecture which are rare in the mass media to be shown.

In an exclusive, email interview with Guatemala Times, Sonja Cendak, the Exhibitions and Gallery Manager of Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) announced that "EXPLORING THE OTHER: CONTEMPORARY IRAN" exhibition will be held from January 25th to March 29th with the aim of giving a realistic, different view of Iran by mounting the pictures and photos which the American citizens might not have seen so far.

"Opening this winter at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles, California, USA is "Exploring the Other: Contemporary Iran." This exhibit is a photographic view into the culture of Iran, which we really know so little about." Said Cendak.

"This exhibit will reveal the human factor of the Iranian population whose daily lives are not so unlike our own and examine the role that



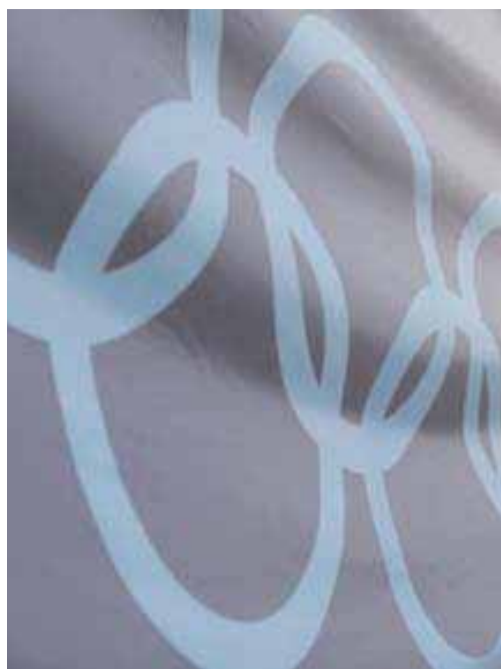
photojournalism and conventional media play in shaping our public opinion." She added.

Explaining the details of exhibition, Sonja Cendak stressed: "This exhibit features Athanasiadis vivid photographs that capture scenes of contemporary Iran rarely seen in Western media including its diverse landscapes of mountains, deserts, sub-tropics, and most significantly, the thriving post-revolutionary youth culture."

"Exploring the Other will be supported by a wealth of educational programming including lectures, book and poetry readings, film screenings, musical performances, and workshops-designed to provide visitors with a meaningful and more complete understanding of Iran." she irritated.

However, it seems that the western world is trying to unveil the obscured realities of Iran and extricate itself from the boring clichés and stereotypes that the mass media supply for them regularly.

The surging enthusiasm of citizens in western countries, specially the U.S. to discover the real Iran from the perspective of independent artists, journalists, photographers and their zeal for contacting Iranians to challenge the trustworthiness of their major media indicate that the global hegemony of corporate newspapers, websites and TV channels is losing its reliability worldwide and stirs the cynicism of investigative audiences unlike the past.



## Suspicious object found in Greek NOC president's office

ATHENS (Reuters) - Greek police are investigating the discovery of an object they believe could be a covert listening device in the Athens office of Greek Olympic Committee president Minos Kyriakou.

In a statement released on Friday, Attica regional police confirmed they had been called to Kyriakou's office late on Thursday evening.

"In the evening hours of February 5, 2009 our service was informed about the existence at the office of the president of the Hellenic Olympic Committee of a suspicious object that appeared like a microphone for monitoring conversations," the statement said.

"The police were requested to investigate the incident. The object was collected and was forwarded for further examination, the result of which is still pending."

The investigation comes less than a week before the election on Feb. 10 for the new president of the committee which Kyriakou is contesting with Spyros Kapralos, the chairman of the Athens Stock Exchange.



## Greek cannery accused of hiding illegal workers in freezer

A GREEK fruit cannery hid illegal workers in a freezer in sub-zero temperatures during a workplace inspection, and the labour ministry has ordered a probe.

Thanassis Tsitsis, a labour centre chairman in the northern city of Naoussa, said the incident occurred on January 30. "We realised this when other employees insinuated we should leave," he told news portal tvxs.gr, adding: "This is by no means an isolated incident." The labour ministry has ordered an investigation.

Undeclared work - frequently by migrants - is common in Greece which has a massive underground economy believed to represent at least a third of gross domestic product. Greek labour unions routinely accuse authorities of turning a blind eye to violations by employers like longer hours and failing to make health insurance payments. Nearly one in 10 Greek businesses use illegal labour.

Insurance payment evasion costs the Social Insurance Institute, Greece's main social security fund, around E1.5 billion (\$A2.94 billion) a year, its chairman Theodoros Arabatzoglou said this week.

Article from Melbourne Herald Sun