

Israel's Persian spokesperson: 'Sometimes, words are more important than missiles' - interview

In the eyes of many young Iranians, Israel is seen as a model for an open society and developed economy, and as Sabti believes, 'Israel's only friends in the Middle East are the Iranian people.'

By Ohad Merlin / March 11, 2024

Benni Sabti, 52, was born in Tehran seven years before the 1979 Islamic revolution. "I remember it as being very violent; "the country completely changed and lost its so-called 'secular' character – though it was never intrinsically secular to start with," Sabti told The Jerusalem Post.

"It all happened during a very formative phase [for me]. It's an age when you want to grow and flourish, but the regime just won't let you. They want you to be a 'robot of the regime.'"

[...]

Nowadays, **Sabti is a researcher in the Iran program at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) think-tank**. Lately, he has been serving as the government's spokesperson in Persian.

"Sometimes words are more important than deeds, missiles and iron," he said. "If we understand the other side, their weaknesses, what bothers them and influences them – we can influence them to put down their weapons and shift to dialogue."

Even before taking the position, Sabti was interviewed regularly by Iranian expatriate networks. "The regime itself admits that 70-75% of the Iranian public watches the expatriate channels, including on social media, rather than the Iranian regime's outlets," he revealed. "Few watch the regime's channels. There are some laughable pictures of government employees' residences with satellite dishes on the balconies – meaning, even the government employees watch foreign channels."

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For full interview:

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-791255>