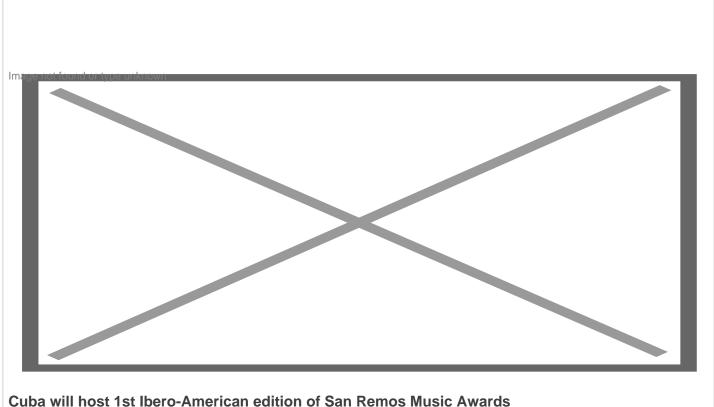
Cubans in Italy condemn campaign against cultural event on the island



Rome, Feb. 9 (RHC)-- The Association of Cuban Residents in Italy (Conaci) blasted the ongoing campaign on social media, seeking to sabotage the holding of the San Remo Music Awards Festival in Cuba.

'Just as it is an honor for Cuba to host an event of this magnitude, it is also an honor for the participating artists,' Conaci said in a statement signed by its coordinator, Ada Galano, who stated that those Cubans, who love and build, support the holding of the event on the Caribbean island state.

In criticizing the attitude of those who yielded to pressure and declined their participation, CONACI pointed to the hypocrisy of those who refuse to offer their art to the dignified people of Cuba, but do so in other countries known for frequent human atrocities such as Chile, Colombia and the United States.

'You are missing the sincere affection of the Cuban people, who truly appreciate good music and good art,' the Association of Cuban Residents in Italy indicated in their statement, and emphasized 'we prefer Buena Fe, Arnaldo, Haila, Abreu, Silvio and so many others, who represent us with dignity and courage.'

Created in 2001 by Italian artist and businessman Nicola Convertino, the upcoming edition of the "San Remo Music Awards" –the first ever in an Ibero-American nation-- will take place in Havana, from April 5th through the 10th --a collaboration between the organizing committee in Italy and Cuba's Record and Musical

Editions Company EGREM.

The expressed aim is to promote the work of young Cuban talents internationally, while further consolidating cultural ties between the Caribbean island state and the European nation.

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