



ICYMI: PaykanArtCar Receives the Havel Prize for Creative Dissent at the 2022 Oslo Freedom Forum

PaykanArtCar's receipt of the Human Rights Foundation's 2022 [Václav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent](#) at the Oslo Freedom Forum has been covered by CNN International, The Washington Post and Bloomberg.

PaykanArtCar's receipt of the 2022 Havel Prize was featured on [CNN International](#)'s flagship Middle East broadcast show, Connecting the World, including an interview with PaykanArtCar's LGBTQ+ Community Ambassador Omid Iravanipour and a segment showing the car on exhibition at the Oslo Freedom Forum. [The Washington Post](#) and Bloomberg also interviewed PaykanArtCar's Executive Director Hiva Feizi. [Bloomberg](#) opinion editorial board member Bobby Ghosh wrote that PaykanArtCar "is in effect an acknowledgment that conventional efforts aren't sufficient to keep the cause of freedom in Iran fresh in the public mind." He added that "other activists should take note."

Commenting on PaykanArtCar being chosen as a 2022 Havel Prize Laureate, Dr. Hiva Feizi, Executive Director of PaykanArtCar said:

"It is a great honor to have been awarded the Havel Prize for creative dissent and to be recognized as a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. The receipt of this award, and the international recognition this has garnered, has helped to throw a spotlight on the lamentable state of human rights in Iran. PaykanArtCar will continue to be a beacon for freedom of expression and human rights of all in Iran, regardless of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation".

About PaykanArtCar

The PaykanArtCar unites the talents of contemporary Iranian artists with a beloved symbol of Iranian national pride — the Paykan automobile — to advocate for human rights and dignity in Iran. PaykanArtCar was launched in 2021 after the purchase at an auction of an iconic Paykan automobile, a longstanding, nostalgic symbol of Iran's industrial and cultural past, which one belonged to the Shah of Iran and was later gifted to Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu. Periodically, PaykanArtCar will choose and commission an exceptional Iranian artist to use the vehicle as the canvas in support of the ongoing struggle in Iran for human rights. The purpose is simple: to use art and a beloved symbol of national pride to promote the rights of all Iranians no matter their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. The inaugural PaykanArtCar was commissioned to Alireza Shojaian, an Iranian LGBTQ+ artist and activist. He transformed the iconic Paykan automobile into a vehicle for human rights challenging the contemporary mistreatment of the LGBTQ+ community in Iran. For more information, visit paykanartcar.com.