



PaykanArtCar remembers the victims of Flight 752

On the second anniversary of the Flight 752 atrocity, PaykanArtCar expresses solidarity with the Canadian government which continues to seek truth and justice in the face of Iran's obstructionism and calls on the international community not to forget the 176 innocent lives lost on January 8, 2020.

Two years ago today, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps shot down the Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752, killing all of the 176 people present on board, including 50 citizens and 30 permanent residents of Canada.

Despite admitting that the plane had been mistaken for an incoming US missile, the Iranian government has since obstructed investigation led by the international community and has failed to provide any evidence for its claim that the incident was due to human error. Worse still, air crash experts raised serious concerns days after the incident that the crash scene had been cleared of the plane's debris and potential evidence.

The Canadian government's final report on the incident has found that Iran had acted recklessly that day, showing complete disregard for human life. Such findings were corroborated by UN special rapporteur Agnès Callamard who added that Iranian officials had sought to "coerce bereaved families into publicly declaring their support for the government or risk the non-return of their loved ones' remains".

Iran's reckless actions on the night of January 8, 2020, and the regime's subsequent shameless attempt to obstruct justice perfectly mirror the cruelty and lack of compassion with which the Islamic Republic treats its own citizens.

PaykanArtCar is a non-profit human rights association which collaborates with talented, marginalised Iranian artists to use the famous Iranian-made Paykan car as a canvas to highlight human rights issues in Iran. The project's inaugural artistic partner Alireza Shojaian has experienced the regime's brutal homophobic policies first-hand and was forced to flee his country due to his sexual orientation.

The PaykanArtCar project is presently touring Canada, exhibiting Alireza Shojaian's work in Montréal, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver. PaykanArtCar spokespersons are set to meet with members of the Canadian Parliament to discuss the constant violation of human rights in Iran.

Hiva Feizi, Executive Director and Co-founder of PaykanArtCar, said: "Iran's brutal and violent policies continue to take innocent lives both in Iran and around the world. On this sad anniversary, we join Canada in demanding answers from Iran. The constant flouting of human rights must cease. We owe it to the innocent victims of Flight 752 and all those that have been killed and maimed by Iranian state-sanctioned violence".

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. The non-profit, non-partisan PaykanArtCar is privileged to have acquired a historic Paykan Hillman Hunter limousine. Periodically, the 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. For more information, visit paykanartcar.com.

About Alireza Shojaian

Alireza Shojaian is an Iranian painter and visual activist. Shojaian was born in Tehran, Iran in 1988. Shojaian depicts his subjects nude or semi-nude in intimate and vulnerable positions. His work aims to fight societal prejudice against LGBTQ+ people while making space for non-heteronormative masculine identities. His work reflects on the queer history of the Middle East, the present context, and his own experiences. Shojaian knew he could not continue his work in Iran, where human bodies are censored and sexual identity is scrutinized and politicized. In 2016 he moved to Beirut and held two solo exhibitions, in 2017 and 2018. In 2019 the French embassy in Lebanon offered Shojaian a residency with the Académie des Beaux-Arts. He now resides in Paris.

For more information on the PaykanArtCar, contact Stephen Furlong at stephen.furlong@thisisredflag.com