



# Canadian Government and It's Agents Frustrate Citizens and Families Seeking Justice for Victims of Flight Shot Down by Iramian Forces in 2020

Diverge Media- Stories That Matter

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It's been a long, hard road for the families of the victims of Ukrainian Airlines Flight PS 752 which was shot down by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Iran on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Not only have they been forced to contend with the horrific loss of their loved ones, which has been all but forgotten amidst the global pandemic crisis, but they also have had to fight against their own government in seeking answers and justice.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Iranian Major General, Qasem Soleimani was assassinated by US forces in Bagdad, Iraq. This was part of escalating tensions between the US and Iran. Iran retaliated with missile attacks on US interests in Iraq. These tensions culminated in the downing of Ukrainian Airlines flight PS 752 where 176 civilians, including 55 Canadian Citizens and 30 Permanent Residents, many of whom were women and children, were killed.

At first, Iran feigned they were not responsible however; within days it became undeniable, through viral video footage, that Iran had downed the plane with two missiles. Iran quickly pivoted their position insisting that it was 'human error' and an "accident". But was it?

As the families of the victims, and people around the world began to react to this heinous atrocity, another crisis loomed – the global Covid-19 pandemic quickly stole everyone's attention. Families were left to fight a fruitless battle for media attention that would put pressure on their governments. They were left to seek justice and the answers as to what really happened to their loved ones almost entirely on their own.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 another atrocity occurred, this time in Nova Scotia. Gabriel Wortman shot and killed 22 people on a murderous rampage. This "Mass Casualty" event would eventually bring attention back to the families of PS 752 as political interference from the Trudeau Government into RCMP operations would be demonstrated. As the PMO used the Nova Scotia tragedy as a means to justify ever more stringent gun control laws; it would seem that the lack of criminal investigation by the RCMP into the downing of PS 752 was equally politically motivated.

With the Ukrainian Airlines plane being registered in Ukraine, international law dictates that they would take lead on the crash investigation, however; according to the Criminal Code of Canada, Canada also has an obligation to investigate the murder of her citizens. These would be two different, yet complimentary investigations. So why would the RCMP, under the influence of Justin Trudeau's Liberal government refuse to open a criminal investigation into the matter? Could it be political?

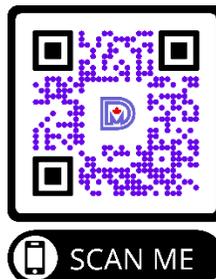
Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government have sought to 'normalize' relations with Iran and reopen an embassy in Tehran despite security concerns. In 2016, then Foreign Affairs Minister, Stephane Dion was quoted in MacLean's Magazine, "Canada's

severing of ties with Iran (In 2012) had no positive consequences for anyone.” In June of 2018 a motion was passed in the House of Commons to immediately list the IRGC as a terrorist organization however; it has yet to do so. Canada’s interest regarding this relationship could be why the government has readily accepted Iran’s claim that PS 752 was an accident instead of the terrorist attack it is proving to be.

There are several concrete reasons why the RCMP should open a criminal investigation into the downing of flight PS 752. According to the Criminal Code of Canada, “anyone who commits an act or omission outside of Canada that, if committed in Canada would be an indictable offense and constitute terrorist activity is deemed to have committed that act or omission in Canada, if a Canadian citizen(s) is involved.” With the IRGC being considered, despite not officially being listed as a terrorist organization, these actions would apply. Another consideration from the Code, “conspiracy to commit the detonation of an explosive or other lethal device and conspiracy to commit murder.”

The Canadian government has insisted that because there is no evidence of premeditation, it has no jurisdiction to investigate. Before Ukraine has finished their investigation into the downing, Canada has declared the matter closed because, in their opinion it was an accident. However, there is a source that has proven credible enough for an Ontario judge in a civil case, to declare the downing a “terrorist act”. This source was so credible that the RCMP went to great lengths to not only obtain the summary brief of a translated transcript of a recorded conversation between the source and a family member of two of the victims, but to arrange a second meeting to get the original full transcript. The source, whose identity must be protected for their safety, says that the incident not only was premeditated, it was part of an elaborate plan to blame the US for the tragedy. Reportedly, this source could provide documentation to back up their claims. The RCMP obtained this information in December of 2020 and have sat on it ever since.

Because of all of this information that has not previously been shared with the Canadian public, a Code of Conduct Investigation has been filed against RCMP Commissioner, Brenda Lucki, for not opening a criminal investigation. There are pending civil suits against Iran. Unfortunately, with Ukraine being at war with Russia and President Zelensky firing their Prosecutor under suspicions of “treasonous activities”, it’s looking more and more like the families will have to keep fighting their own government to get justice.



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