

Canada to give \$ 25,000 to families of every Canadian who died on flight PS752 paNOW | Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

By Rhonda Vance - January 19, 2020



"It is clear that this is immediate help for a range of needs that they may have," Trudeau said at a late morning conference.

"It is not the compensation that we expect to come from Iran in due course, but these families need help now."

The federal government was able to pay around \$ 2.15 million for the 57 Canadian citizens and 29 permanent residents who died when the plane crashed after an anti-aircraft attack that Iran says had been made wrong when the plane left Tehran International Airport. Trudeau said the money would be paid out as quickly as possible in the coming days.

He was less clear about the amount that Iran expected to pay.

"We did not look at what the full compensation would look like from Iran," Trudeau said, "but I can assure you that any money from Iran to the victims would go directly to them, it would not be a refund from the Canadian government."

After a similar tragedy three decades ago, the US government paid \$ 61.8 million to the families of the 290 victims aboard Iran Air flight 655. An American navy ship shot it down on July 3, 1988. The US government said the crew of the ship misidentified that aircraft as a potentially hostile fighter jet and did not accept liability as part of a settlement with Iran in the International Court of Justice.

Similarly, Libya recognized no responsibility for bombing a French passenger jet in 1989 when it agreed in 2004 to pay the families of the victims \$ 170 million. Just like Iran now, Libya was confronted with crippling economic sanctions in the run-up to the payment.

Rod Winsor is a Toronto-based lawyer who worked on the Air India disaster, killing 329 people when a terrorist bomb crashed a plane that flew from Montreal to London in 1985. and winding road with uncertain results. In the meantime, families can sue Ukraine International Airlines and possibly get settlements in months to years from the time a claim is made; an international process is driven by governments and would probably take a little longer.

Interim payments to families such as those announced by Trudeau may also come from Ukraine International Airlines or even Iran, he said.

"Regarding government payments, they are absolutely right: the families will not get their final settlements," said Winsor.

“Everyone who talks about this will take years and years and years. Well, that’s a possibility, it’s not a probability. “

Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne submitted the request for compensation during a personal meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Javad Zarif, on Friday in Oman. The demand was one of the five foreign ministers from Great Britain, Sweden, Afghanistan and Ukraine agreed at a meeting in London on Thursday.

An Iranian summary of the conversation posted online said that Zarif reiterated his country’s regret over shooting the plane and promised cooperation in an investigation into how it happened.

A global team of investigators, led by Iran under international rules, is trying to determine the order of events that led to a – and possibly a second – ground-to-air missile shooting the passenger jet. Canada is looking for a formalized role in the probe to give its researchers more access, including to the voice and flight data recorders, also known as the ‘black boxes’.

Champagne told Zarif about the need for “a transparent analysis of the black box data.”

The recorders were badly damaged during the incident and are likely to be sent to France for analysis, Trudeau said. Few countries have the ability to do the job.

Iran initially denied that it was firing on the plane. It was only after Trudeau argued to the contrary that the opposite was the case that Iran admitted that the Islamic Revolutionary Guards had fired at the civilian aircraft, claiming the government to blame the army and not revealing information.

Days of protesters engulfing the streets with anger led Iran’s top leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to make a rare sermon during Friday prayer in Tehran – it was years ago since the last time. He called the downfall a bitter accident that saddened Iran and made its enemies happy by giving international rivals the opportunity to interrogate the country and its forces.

He also attacked the United States for killing an Iranian general, which was a factor in sharpening Iranian air defense on the day the Ukrainian plane was shot down.

The Canadian press has independently confirmed at least 90 victims with ties to Canada, many of whom have returned students and professors after the December stop to visit relatives in Iran.

This report from The Canadian Press was first published on January 17, 2020.

– With files from The Associated Press

Jordan Press, The Canadian Press

Rhonda Vance