

Fardin Kazemi's story

The story started in December 2019 when Fardin Kazemi (51), an Iranian trucker delivering raisins from Iran through Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia Hungary, Czech Republic and finally to Poland got stranded near the city of Czechochowa. Having covered the distance of over 5,000 km the thirty-year-old Kazemi's vehicle broke down and left him unable to return home.



Fardin was staying by the roadside for a few days trying to repair his truck, but in vain. Polish truck drivers passing by stopped and attempted to help him, but the fault turned out to be beyond repair. However, Fardin was not left alone as Polish truck driver, Tomasz Doniec, offered him to stay at his house until the matter was solved.



The news of Fardin and his truck quickly spread round the mass media and social networking. Polish truck drivers and motor-enthusiasts rallied to the Iranian's aid, and created a Facebook page - *Help International* - and started crowd-funding for a new vehicle. It was necessary because the old truck was Fardin's only source of income. He earned money with it and supported his wife and children.



Within the first 24 hours 100 000 PLN were collected and the final figure grew in a few weeks to over 260,000 PLN (over 60,000 EUR), with more than 6,000 people donating. It was enough to buy a brand new vehicle. Unfortunately, the first business deal with DAFmotor company fell through because of the international embargo on Iran.

A lot of Polish people have got involved to help the Iranian driver overcoming both technical and bureaucratic obstacles, and Fardin Kazemi's story has been widely reported in Polish and foreign mass media.



Fardin had to return to Iran and negotiate with Iran's authorities the conditions, under which he could get the new truck from Poland to his country. At last the issue was settled and a 2013 Scania truck was found for him. The truck model has a luxurious interior with leather package, a kitchen pack and resting equipment as well as an empowered engine, automatic gearbox and a retarder.



Fardin was overjoyed. "I have travelled all over Europe for 27 years... so far I have not had the chance to get to know Poles better, although they have always been nice. Now it turns out that they are wonderful people, and it is difficult for me to believe their help," he told one of the Polish newspapers.



Finally, on February 7th, Fardin Kazemi reached Khoy, his hometown in Iran in his new Scania truck. Still, it is not the end of the story. Polish truckers and mechanics have declared to repair Kazemi's old American *International* 9670 truck.



Fardin Kazemi's case is an example that is possible to eradicate racial, cultural and religious prejudices and stereotypes. Although the Poles as a nation are considered to have an unfriendly attitude to newcomers and foreigners, Poles as individuals are able to show empathy and help people in need, irrespective of their origin, colour of their skin and religious beliefs.

