



In this Issue:

The Corona virus is the most disastrous weapon of the capitalist system against humanity, especially the working class!

The Corona virus demonstrates the deepest crisis in capitalism's history, the stock markets and capitalist corporations and giant companies are closed down and bankrupt and millions of workers companies are closed down and bankrupt, and millions of workers.

Once again, the governments have come forward to bail out banks and companies, whilst the security of a minimum living standard for millions of people is uncertain. The health and medical treatment departments are faced with a reduced budget and lack of the most basic tools for treatment by nurses and doctors. But the medical staff is busy working day and night and struggle with a shortage of vital equipment, to save human lives, and unfortunately, countless victims have contracted the virus or have lost their lives.

Today, clearly, we are witnessing the destructive consequences selling healthcare and privatization of hospitals, and the lack producing drugs required for the treatment of diseases ... which are the masterwork of neoliberal policy, and the free market.

This deadly virus, has threatened the majority of humanity seriously, and at the forefront of it, most victims are the workers, toilers and wage earners. In order to maintain the production rate at the cost of workers' health, the vast part of the world has prevented the closures of the factories and workplaces that do not have the closures of the factories and workplaces that do not have

In this Issue:

- The Corona virus is the most disastrous... p. 1
- Corona virus 1s
- „democratic“! ... p. 4
- Clear exploitation if capitalist supports ... p. 5
- Corona threatens the lives of prisoners in prisons ... p. 6
- Prisoners at risk of Covid-19 infection ... p. 7
- The King is naked ... p. 8
- At least one miner dies weekly in work ... p. 11
- The Nurses Protest of West Azarbaijan ... p. 12
- Against privatization ... p. 12



About us: “ The Committee in Solidarity with the Iranian Labour Movement - Abroad" consist of solidarity groups *and individuals* outside of Iran that support Iranian Workers' struggle for: (1) Democratic rights and economic justice ;(2) Exposing anti- labour policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran ;(3) Building bridges between the Iranian and international workers' movement

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a direct social need. Those workplaces that have been forced to shut down, and the workers ordered to “stay at home”, there is no news of providing their livelihood.

There is frequent news that the employers and government have pressured and forced employees to work under this critical situation, but the workers in return, have refused and protested to work, whilst the number of deaths and those who have contracted the virus are announced.

Countless prisoners are still in an unsuitable environment, which means another type of mass killing is taking place. The phenomenon of prisoners ‘riot and escape in several cities, demonstrates the great danger that threatens the lives of these loved ones, and as a result, they prefer the risk of death by shooting, than gradual and collective death.

Once again, the lives of millions of workers and toilers are in serious danger. It could be said courageously, that the capitalist system which feels that balance of power in the class struggle, is changing to its detriment, is ready to fight and destroy the workers with this deadly weapon- Corona virus.



Oppression, exploitation, and discrimination against the majority of people are naked barbarism, and it is known to countless progressive forces of the world. But the structural violence which kills and eradicates millions of people annually is another kind as well, that affects those people, who, due to their social circumstance and status don't have access to scientific and social progress. Death due to different illness and diseases is

due to the lack of access to medical knowledge, which is derived from social structures. The structural violence demonstrates itself in various forms, but their common content, is depriving people of their basic needs, which is due to the existing social structures. Access to basic needs, which are, including food, healthcare for a healthy lifestyle and full human development, are not available to billions of people around the world.

Within the past thirty years, pharmaceutical companies, instead of providing drugs for the healthcare of the public, have focused on research and development of those drugs, which are the most profitable. This is the capitalist's logic that prefers production for profit than for human's needs. All human's achievements in the fields of science and medicine... have been used for securing the interests of the capitalist owners. Social facilities, science and knowledge, medicine and treatment... have been pillaged and transformed into sources of profit and wealth. Public facilities have been sold out to minorities, who embrace their private enrichment. Years of struggle for lifestyle, well-being and security of humanity, have been plundered, and no one is accountable for all of the injustice, poverty, hunger and homelessness of multi millions of human beings.

The nature it is not safe from the capitalist 'logic, because the capitalist growth has come and will be done by the exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, groundwater extraction, and ... environmental destruction, which is one of the causes of viruses and different illnesses, which has seriously endangered human life.

The environmentalists, who by their widespread protests have paid an exorbitant price with their lives, have played a valuable role in preventing the spread of such catastrophe's that has devastated many

villages and caused misery to farmers, by severely damaging and destroying the environment, and endangered their health and livelihood, and as a result, we are witnessing the protests and deterrent measure taking placed by these toilers.

The Capitalist system that is formed around the axis of the free market economy and private property, instead of that economy being settled within the social relations, it is other way around and the social relations have been placed within the economy.

Today, on the other hand, we clearly see the huge gap between the ruling class and the ordinary people, who are more distrusting of the parties, politicians and the rulers. The formation of social protests, aid groups, creation of neighbourhood committees and various groupings are another expression of the direct involvement of the people in insecure conditions in today 'society. These organizations are the roots of tomorrow's councils, which have come to the existence, by direct people's involvements, for their destiny. Religious illusions and superstitions have become more than ever, very disclosed and ridiculed by countless believers and religious centers are becoming more stagnant.

For fundamental changes of human society, the current situation needs a revolutionary upheaval.

The presence of all of the people, who have been wounded by the capitalist system in decision-making and by the guidance of human society, participation in the needs of society, and by sharing the wealth of society, will change these unbearable conditions of the decayed capitalist system, in favour of the majority of people.

Public ownership and collective and council control, are the only real and genuine alternatives to the corrupted capitalist system, free market, neoliberal and governmental policies, which must replace this decayed system, and provide a safe life, with free social facilities, education and healthcare and housing for all, with quality retirement and livelihood. We have to take control of our destiny at all levels, in combating the current insecure conditions.

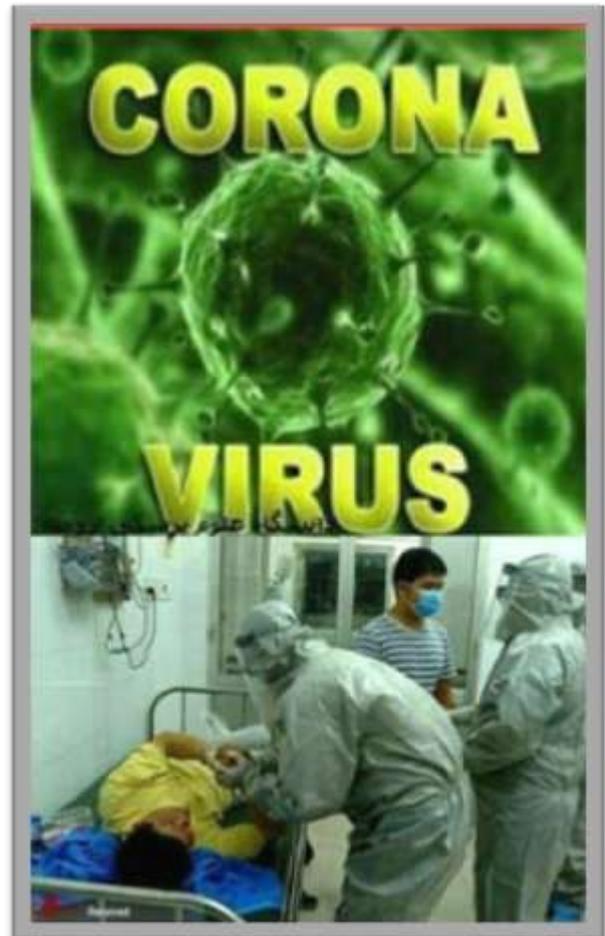
Long live Social ownership!

Solidarity Committees with Iranian Workers Movement-abroad

April 2020

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CORONAVIRUS IS “DEMOCRATIC”!

PLEASE END THESE NONESENSES

Inferiors, poor, the workers and toilers, the millions of marginalized people, people who sleep in the cartoons every night, and people who sleep in the empty graves every night, fakirs and the hungry people of the society, the millions of people who suffer from chronic malnutrition due to hunger and starvation and struggling with death. Does their frail and sick body tolerate being infected with another virus?

If these extremely poor people are infected by this virus, will they be provided with necessary medical facilities, free and appropriate treatment to save them from certain death?

They say that corona virus is “democratic”, it doesn’t know the rich and the poor (spit on your essence!). We do accept that it is possible the ruling elites with all their suppressive powers will be infected, but access to medical and treatment facilities for workers/toile’s are going to be the same as what the ruling reactionary elites have access to??



Will it be possible for everyone to have access to medicine and medical equipment needed for treatment, regardless of their job and economic status?

If Trump and the Trump family, if the king of Sweden and the monarch of the United Kingdom, if president Rohani and his family, Raisi and Larijani, Ahmadinejad, Rafsanjani’s family, etc. catch the virus, does anybody in his rational mind would think that in such greedy capitalist world, access to a doctor and special medical care

provided for these elites would be the same as treatment given to a deprived worker!?

Are the same especial facilities available to smart set, are available to a toiling worker, a person who sleeps in the cartoon every night, a marginalized, a prostitute, a child worker, an unemployed worker, a bulrush carrier, a mine worker, a rural woman, and so on??

In a capitalist society, the owners of capital and powers, the bank card balance, credit cards holders and those having a hand in power will definitely increase the chances of surviving by several hundred times more than the workers and destitute of society.

So, please do not say that Corona Virus is “democratic”, please stop the nonsense!

Having access to especial facilities increase the chances of survival, which is impossible for the workers and toilers in the capitalist system.

THE SYNDICATE OF HAFT TAPPEH SUGURE CANE WORKERS

Clear exploitation if capitalist supporters

It has been reported that due to policy of High Labor Council (an anti-labor, pro capitalist entity) wage increase is frozen till Corona calamity ends!! It sounds that poverty and price increase are also frozen and we the workers can continue with our lives with the same delayed wages that are many times under poverty line.

It seems that we workers do not need money to provide for daily necessities, rent and other minimum supplies and all our needs are delivered freely, without any money. Such a widely profiteering manner on your part, the high road dwelling people. Where is the red line for you, owners of wealth and power?

We are not transitory agent of Corona virus in the country, as we are not reasons for oppressive sanctions. You, yourselves are subject of entrance and transition of Corona, as you are source and enforcer of tyrannical and anti-humane sanctions by crazy Trump. Why do we have to pay for your self-centeredness?

Why is it that we workers and masses deserve poverty and misery? Why we workers, wage earners and poor are sacrificed for your ambitions? Why and on what base? Why from all existing wealth, workers and deprived become poorer and more destitute, but billions of dollars of wealth goes to you, rich people. As we mentioned before minimum wages of workers should not be less than roughly \$US573.00 a month.

Determination of wages cannot be determined based on the article 41 of labor law and guidelines of High Labor Council, but it should be adopted by real and independent representatives of workers.

The Syndicate of Sugar Cane Workers of Iran

April 5, 2020



Text: We will eventually defeat Corona Virus!

This is the situation of the bus services of Haft Tappeh workers. Down with the Islamic Council! Now go and propagate for Asad Baigi to stay alive, and bringing you masks too! How useless are these masks in this chaotic situation, you are worthless!

Corona threatens the lives of prisoners in prisons

With the official confirmation of the outbreak of the corona virus in Iran, concerns about its spread to densely populated and closed environments such as prisons and barracks have increased.

Due to the large number of prisoners and the impossibility of implementing measures such as quarantine and social distancing, or the observance of regular hygiene and frequent hand washing with soap, the situation of prisons is much more critical than barracks.

The judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced on March 3rd that it had agreed to the release of more than 50,000 prisoners due to the country's conditions and the outbreak of corona. Apparently, a number of other prisoners have also been released during this period, but most Iranian prisons continue to face overcrowding and a lack of health care.

Javid Rahman, the UN special reporter on human rights in Iran, recently announced that the number of Iranian prisoners were more than 189,000. Taghi Rostamvandi, head of the Social Affairs Organization in July this year, put the figure at 240,000.

So far, there have been reports of a corona virus outbreak in Fashafoyeh and Evin prisons, which has raised concerns among the families of political prisoners in these prisons, who were not granted releases.

Various reports have surfaced that a number of prisoners have been infected by Corona, and in some cases some prisoners or their families have reported the matter. However, no official statistics have been released so far.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Health, 32,332 cases of Covid-19 have been identified in Iran as of noon of March 27th, and a total of 2,378 people have died as a result. The process of identifying new cases has intensified in recent days, to nearly 3,000 in the 24 hours leading up to noon on Friday (March 27th).



Text: Quarantine without livelihood, means hunger!

First UA: 40/20 Index: MDE 13/2038/2020 Iran Date: 26 March 2020

Date: 26 March 2020

URGENT ACTION**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL****PRISONERS AT RISK OF COVID-19 INFECTION**

The Iranian authorities must immediately and unconditionally release hundreds of prisoners of conscience amid grave fears over the spread of corona virus (COVID-19) in Iran's prisons. The authorities should take measures to protect the health of all prisoners and urgently consider releasing pre-trial detainees and those who may be at particular risk of severe illness or death.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Head of Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi

C/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN

622 Third Ave., 34th floor

New York, NY 10017, USA

https://www.instagram.com/raisi_org/

Dear Mr Ebrahim Raisi,

I am writing about the distressing spread of corona virus (COVID-19) in Iran's prisons. While I am aware of measures announced by the Iranian authorities to release some prisoners in response to the outbreak, I am concerned that hundreds of prisoners of conscience remain jailed, including human rights defenders, peaceful protesters and others detained solely for peacefully expressing their rights to freedom of expression, association and/or assembly. They should not be in detention in the first place.

More generally, I am also concerned about the health of all prisoners in Iran. In several prisons across the country, prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19, raising grave concerns for other prisoners held in the same wards. According to the World Health Organization, some groups of people appear to be at particular risk of severe illness or death, including older individuals and people with pre-existing medical conditions. Iran's prison population includes such groups. Additionally, some prisoners have been systematically denied adequate medical care, which could leave them more vulnerable to the effects of the virus if they contracted it. Amnesty International has documented the denial of adequate medical care as a punitive measure against prisoners of conscience.

Many prisoners across the country have pleaded with officials to address overcrowded, unhygienic and unsanitary conditions in prisons that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 infections. There are also reports that some prisoners have not been provided with sufficient soap or other sanitary products. Many families have also raised concerns for the wellbeing of jailed relatives and believe that the Iranian authorities should be systematically testing prisoners who may be showing symptoms of COVID-19.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, including human rights defenders and those detained for peacefully taking part in the November 2019 and January 2020 protests. I also urge you to urgently consider releasing other prisoners – especially pre-trial detainees and those who may be more at risk from the virus – and take necessary measures to protect the health of all prisoners, including equal access to testing.

Yours sincerely,

First UA: 40/20 Index: MDE 13/2038/2020 Iran Date: 26 March 2020



April 7th World Health Day – We demand free and public health for all

06 Apr 2020

Article of the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos

The King is naked

The entire planet is deeply immersed in the corona virus pandemic. To this day, there are 921,002 infected and 46,153 dead, according to official data.

The situation is tragic on all continents. Thousands of families mourn their dead, hundreds of thousands suffer from the disease and millions of people live with anxiety and fear. We express to all of them our solidarity.

Monopoly and transnational groups are making use of the pandemic, laying off workers or limiting their rights. Many governments, taking advantage of the corona virus, prohibit democratic and trade union rights. Their objective is to track the movements and activities of citizens by electronic means. It

has been proven at a global level that freedoms have been jeopardized in the wake of the pandemic.



This situation has once again exposed the barbarism of the exploitative social system in which we live, as well as its inability to face the crises in favor of the peoples.

No matter how hard the capitalist governments, the bourgeois class and the leaders of the reformist unionism try to obscure the truth and hide the responsibilities of the capitalist system, they will not succeed.

They will not be able to put the people's minds in quarantine. They will not make it to prohibit the minds of simple people from thinking and judging, from drawing conclusions according to their own experience.

The conditions in which we live during this period demonstrate that:

FIRST: The moral superiority of the working class against the parasitism of the ruling class is confirmed once again. While parasites speculate, workers risk their lives in the front line of the pandemic fire, producing all the essentials for life. While powerful industrialists, kings, cardinals are hiding in their palaces, the manual and intellectual workers are struggling on the front line to produce food, medicine, transport, cleaning, communications, energy and everything necessary to make life possible. The poor peasantry, along with the popular strata, contribute to the effort to continue the production of goods.

On the other side, one can see the ruling class which is speculating. Ruthless and inhuman, it is taking advantage of the pandemic, increasing prices, stealing from the pockets of simple people, hiding products in order to generate artificial shortages. As in wars, in crises too, they only believe in one god: profit.

On the one hand, then, one can see the working class with its allies and, on the other, the bourgeoisie with its instruments. Two worlds. Two ethics.

SECOND: Who bears the full burden of treatment and healing? The private or public sector? In many European countries, simple people, in their despair, came out on their balconies to applaud the heroes of public health, public hospitals, and scientists of public health structures. This slandered public system, these slandered doctors and nurses as well as the entire staff is waging an unequal fight. They are waging an unequal fight because all those who have been barking for years asking for “less state and privatizations”, both social democratic and neo-conservative governments, with their policies have deprived the public sector of human resources and equipment.

Even so, this public health sector, this abandoned sector, fights today like an invincible army; many times without weapons, without individual protection, but with courage. Until today, 61 doctors in Italy got sick and lost their lives, they died in the first line of this unequal struggle. The same happens in Spain, France, Greece and the USA ...

On the other side one can see speculators from private monopoly groups who steal from the public sector, who sell their hospital beds and virus tests at over-expensive prices, exploit the suffering of ordinary people and stain their profits with blood, in collusion with the governments.

THIRD: This crisis highlighted the truth once more; that is to say that only between workers and peoples can authentic, sincere solidarity and support develop. The example of the heroic Cuba that sent 60 doctors to the north of Italy, in the heat of the battle, is an opportunity for the peoples to seriously think and evaluate. On the day that Cuban doctors arrived in Italy, Germany refused to send medical machines to Italy, Italy prohibited exports to Greece, Spain did the same, the US state of California refused to sell masks to New York, other US states had been hiding medical ventilators etc.



During the summit of the European Union leaders on March 26, 2020, a group of countries (Germany, the Netherlands) said no to measures requested by countries with a large death toll such as Spain, Italy and France.

Capitalism is a jungle, with predatory alliances and dogfights...

A dog-eat-dog world...

On the other side one can see the humanity and solidarity that only workers and socialist society can display.

FOURTH: The pandemic, with the data available to date, strips the USA policy bare; the policies of a country that is at the top of the imperialist pyramid. USA admirers worldwide now see their admiration turn to disappointment.

This country has endless missiles, fighter jets, submarines and mercenaries.

But what do they have when it comes to masks?

Medical ventilators?

Public hospitals?

Social Security?

Hospital beds available for poor people?

There are huge shortages in all of this. Now they are requesting medical supplies from the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation.

The United States is the country with the worst healthcare system for the poor, the unemployed, and the economically weak. The worst in the world!

- Nothing is free in their hospitals. One must pay for everything and, in fact, at very high prices for everyone, without exceptions.
- There are 28 million uninsured people
- 33 million people are underinsured.
- There are 8 million people who, although they pay their taxes, do not have legal documents.
- Unemployed, elderly, and low-income people receive basic assistance only if the application they must submit is approved.

And, while the popular strata in the USA suffer the pandemic and the policies of their government, President Trump announced a package of measures of 500 billion dollars for the strengthening of monopoly groups. In addition, packages of \$ 29 billion were announced for airlines, \$ 17 billion for security companies etc. At the same time, the gun lobby in the USA has filed a lawsuit so that gun stores continue their operation. In a country where, according to official data, in 2019, 40,100 people have lost their lives to guns, of which 24,100 have been suicides.

In this regard, capitalists in the USA, Brazil, the United Kingdom and other countries of northern



Europe increase their pressure in order to make all companies work, arguing that no protection measures are necessary. The economy is everything, the life and health of workers is nothing. It is this strategy that statements like those of Trump, Bolsonaro and Boris Johnson serve, who affirmed that in a few days they would get rid of the pandemic.

FIFTH: The inter-imperialist antagonisms for the production of the vaccine and effective medicines against the corona virus are showing the true face of

the transnational corporations. When it comes to jointly deciding on anti-labor measures and anti-worker policies they unite against their common enemy, the workers and their struggles. But when it comes to speculation, they are killing each other. Each one tries to steal the other's secrets. They know that whoever discovers the vaccine first will skyrocket his/her profits. It is a dogfight for profit, not for the protection of public health.

Therefore, according to the above, it is confirmed that not all of us are equal in the face of the pandemic, nor does the slogan "all united to get out of the crisis" have any pro-worker content. If the rich become infected with the disease, they have the possibility of receiving a different treatment than the unemployed. Furthermore, in the crisis it is the simple people who will suffer the consequences at the labor, salary and economic levels.

So, it is certain that the bourgeois class and its mechanisms are going to take advantage of the pandemic to drastically limit the democratic rights and freedoms of workers and peoples.

In these circumstances it is important for workers to understand that capitalism only generates and reproduces disease, torment and exploitation. Capitalism is anachronistic, it is barbaric. It cannot be humanized. The reformists who present the modernization of the exploitative system as a solution become servants of social exploitation. **There is no vaccine, nor will it be found, to humanize capitalism. It contains social inequality from its “womb”.**

The pandemic stripped capitalism naked, removing its mask and fancy clothes.

So today, the duty of all militants is more necessary, more urgent. We must unite the workers and the peoples for a society without capitalists and capitalist exploitation. All the workers, together, we can do it. **Our struggle against daily problems is just. Our struggle for the social liberation of the working class is necessary.**

George Mavrikos

General Secretary of WFTU

*At least one miner dies weekly in work
Related accident*

Mining has become one the most money making Iranian enterprises in recent decades as a result of the increasing global demand for mine raw materials. As a result of the need of the industrialized countries, Iran has become one of the main exporters of these materials. The mining industries in Iran have been excluded from sanctions. So in 2019 more than 20 percent of the non-petroleum exports from the country have been mine extractions.

This money making sector with about 100,000 officially recognized workers has the highest number of fatalities after the construction sector.

According to the estimates by worker’s activists there has been 50 work related deaths in 12 mines last year alone.

This number of registered deaths is certainly a very small part of the total number of miners’ deaths.

Most of the workplace accidents and deaths are hidden and not reported as a result of lack of a system of registering work- related accidents and lack of independent workers organizations.

But the main problem is not hiding the work- related accidents from being published, but the high number of such accidents that take the lives of so many miners.

The root cause of this disastrous problem is firstly, lack of regular and fruitful inspections by the Labour Bureau. The other problem is deceitful show of safety measures by the mine owners and their representatives when the inspectors come to inspect.

Another problem is the absence of HSE (Health and Safety Environment) unit in mines. Even in mines with such units, the owners ask these units to ignore the safety regulations, in order to increase the intensity of work, or in their parlance to increase “the productivity”.

Within the same framework, the absence of independent workers organizations, whose one of their tasks is regular supervision of safety and health rules, is the main problem.

Nobody is better and more interested to take care of the workers than themselves. All the advanced industrialized countries with capitalist system use this method to control the safety of the workers at work places. That’s why we are witnessing the reduction of work- related accidents while in Iran we are facing the daily increase of death’s accidents.



The Nurses Protest of West-Azarbaijan

due to many months non-payment and falls propaganda of faculty's Sciences Medicine University of this province.

On Monday, March 11th. The nurses protested again for non-payment of many months and overtime works and not real statements of director of Sciences Medicine University of this province. One of the nurses told to a reporter that the director wanted to cover their week of management instead of response about non-payment to the nurses. He didn't tell the true statistic about the nurses. To response of Mr. Aghazadeh the director of the university, she said: «The province has around 7 thousand nurses. If we pay them in average 800 thousand Rial (\$US8.00) monthly, then the university has to pay 56 Milliard Rial(\$US 3,734.00) monthly to this nurse community. And duet to late payment, the university has debt to the nurses around 672 Milliard Rial.(\$US448,000.00)»



Against privatization



Workers of Moghan Company Industry and Animal Husbandry with the resident of Moghan requested cancellation of privatization for their company by signing of a petition. 17 000 workers signed it and sent to the Judiciary. They requested the handling infraction file of the privatization and cancelling the privatization of Moghan Company.



On the day (4 April), when many workers and employees have returned to work, the Ministry of Health says the number of victims of the corona in Iran has reached 3452, and now more than 55 thousand and 743 people in Iran, according to the definitive results of the ministry's experiments, have corona. In the last 24 hours (5 April), 158 of the corona patients in the country lost their lives