

IRAN:

View from the LEFT

August 2024

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Word of the Month:

End of the Gaza war – really?!

Lately, there has been much talk of ending the war. However, there is no evidence of any meaningful convergence of the protagonists' aims.

Mr Biden wants to end it on terms as close as possible to Israeli goals so that it does not adversely affect the Democrats' chances in the upcoming US elections. Overall, the ultimate goal of the American establishment seems to be ensuring the long-term viability of Israel as their Middle East garrison.

The US administration has proposed a 'bridging solution' without clarifying what that means. This seems to be a ploy intended to showcase the Democratic Party to the American electorate as the party of peace in the Middle East.

The Israeli establishment (Netanyahu) says it aims to eradicate Hamas. The main goal of the Israeli far right seems to be the expansion and eventual annexation of Gaza and the West Bank, and parts of Jordan and Syria, preferably ethnically cleansing the Palestinians from those areas. Tactically, Netanyahu wants the current war to continue until the results of the US elections are determined, resulting (he hopes) in a Trump victory.

Meanwhile, Hamas' declared aims are the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and a permanent ceasefire. Their ultimate goal is the establishment of a Palestinian state.

We should not expect much of the current 'cease-fire talks'. Even if somehow they 'succeed', the possibility of war flaring up soon again is very high. As long as Israel dreams of dominating the Middle East, we can expect disastrous wars in our neighbourhood.

For the time being, we continue witnessing the Gaza war and the possible dimensions of its end game. That endgame will give a strong indication of the future of Palestine and, indeed, the Middle East.



In Solidarity with the Nationwide Strike of Hard-Working Nurses, We Support Their Demands!

The Continuation and Expansion of the Nurses' Strike; Maintaining Unity and Solidarity is Stipulation for Victory!

The strike that began on August 3, amid the formation of Pezeshkian's government, was initiated by nurses in Shiraz and Fasa. It quickly spread to dozens of cities and hospitals across the country, including Yazd, Mashhad, Arak, Karaj, Bushehr, Yasuj, and Hamedan, evolving into a nationwide,

unprecedented, and significant strike. More and more people are joining it every day. This strike could have had a happy ending in the first days if Masoud Pezeshkian had adhered to his promises and accepted the demands of the nurses. However, the silence of Pezeshkian and the attack of the security forces on the peaceful gatherings of nurses in Arak and Mashhad showed that there was no change in the repressive approach of the previous governments toward the demands and rights of the labourers.

However, some managers and government officials, who until now pretended to be indifferent to the strike and the demands of the nurses, by observing the spread of the strike and the determination of the nurses to continue the



strike, were forced to break their silence and have started to promise to handle their demands in the unknown future. They make similar promises when they are under pressure, but they forget everything after suppressing the protests. But this time, they are dealing with half a million nurses who have experienced and learned from the ineffectiveness of the officials' promises many times in the past. For instance, despite the Health System Tariff Law being approved by parliament 10 years ago and repeated requests and

protests by nurses, the authorities have consistently failed to implement it.

There have been sporadic and scattered protests by nurses for years. The nurses' demands today are more or less the same

as previously. The strong point of this strike is its nationwide nature and the effort that has been made to overcome the weaknesses of these strikes through the experiences of past strikes. Now, the regime's officials have abandoned their promise to deal with the demands, threatened the nurses with dismissal and other punishments, and sent their repressive forces in Arak and Mashhad against the nurses, trying to suppress their strike and leave their demands unanswered. However, the scale of the nurses' strike and

resistance, along with the support from civil organizations, unions, students, and other public institutions, has made it more challenging and costly to repress the nurses compared to the past. An increase in wages and benefits and their regular payment, termination of mandatory overtime, increase in wages for voluntary overtime hours, full implementation of the Tariff Law, and recognizing nursing work as one of the hard and harmful jobs, are the main demands of nurses, which are supported by nearly half a million nurses and medical staff.

Failure to address these demands has caused a continuous drop in living conditions, deterioration of working conditions, immigration, resignation and even suicide of several nurses due to physical and mental pressure and a reason for the shortage of nurses. However, despite these consequences, the regime's officials, desperate to find a way out of the costly problems, continued their disastrous behaviour toward the rights, health and welfare of the hardworking guardians of society's health, and are not willing

to change their destructive policies.

The Left Party of Iran strongly supports the nationwide nurses' strike, emphasizing solidarity with their demands and condemning the regime's repressive actions against them. Preserving unity and solidarity, continuing the struggle, and expanding the nurses' strikes are essential to ensuring their victory. We also appreciate the valuable support and solidarity of the independent labour organizations, teachers and other civil and public institutions for this strike and invite all believers in freedom and social justice to support the nurses and prevent the suppression of their strike by the regime and the violation of the rights of the guards and caregivers who are the pioneers of society's health. We call on everyone to stand in solidarity with the brave strike of nurses and support their demands.

Political-Executive Board
of the Left Party of Iran

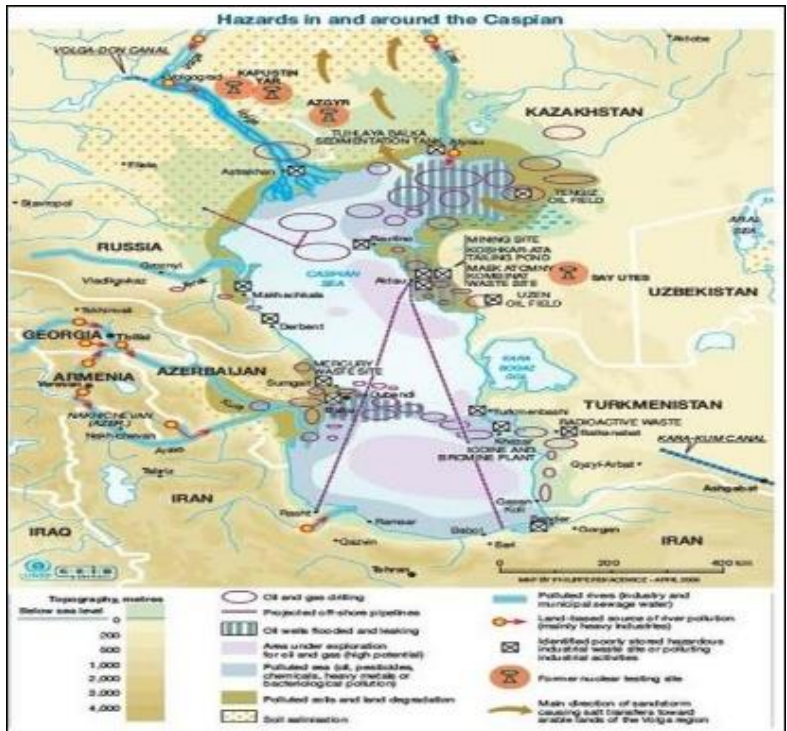
August 20, 2024

 **Environment in Iran:**

August 21 World Caspian Sea Day

Climate change and dam construction are the primary causes of the declining water levels in the Caspian Sea.

New research has identified climate change and dam construction on the Ural and Volga rivers as the primary causes of the Caspian Sea's declining water levels. As the largest lake in the world, the Caspian Sea is divided between the countries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan. The Caspian Sea plays a vital role in the economies of surrounding countries generating wealth through oil and gas extraction, fishing, agriculture, and tourism. Beyond its economic significance, the Caspian Sea is also highly valuable for its social and environmental contributions. In recent years, it has faced numerous threats, including plastic pollution. However, the most pressing threat currently is the reduction in water levels, exacerbated by



factors such as oil pollution and sewage inflow.

Regarding the reduction of the Caspian water level, research was recently conducted by the Kazakhstan Institute of Hydrobiology and Ecology, which shows that the decline of the Caspian level has the greatest impact on the country of Kazakhstan, which is considered to be the lowest coast of this sea. Residents of coastal cities and towns along the Caspian Sea in Kazakhstan are directly impacted by the declining water levels, which have disrupted shipping operations and brought desalination plants to a standstill.

Also, in some places, passenger ships have stopped operating due to the decrease in water level. According to this research, the first signs of the Caspian Sea's water level decline appeared in the mid-2000s. However, in recent years, the rate of decline has accelerated, now estimated at 23

centimeters per year. As a result, the Caspian Sea's level currently is 29 meters below the average level of other seas and oceans. While scientists continue to debate the causes of the decline in the water level in the Caspian Sea, experts from the Kazakhstan Institute of Hydrobiology and Ecology say that climate change and intense human use of the Volga and Ural rivers (the two main rivers that originate in Russia and flow into the sea, affects the Caspian.

Source: Wildlife of Iran currently, the number of active laboratories in this field is limited. Even though the tasks are specified in the regulations and the waste management law, this ministry does not want to act.

Source: Zamane Radio

IRAN: "View from the LEFT" is published monthly for those interested in the Left Party of Iran's perspective on current issues.

IRAN: View from the LEFT may occasionally contain news from Iran that the media might not have drawn attention to.

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