

#COVIDJOURNAL: Tales from Venezuela, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, United Kingdom, Colombia

FABIO, 30 – Venezuela

Health situation in Venezuela: 1 month ago the lock down started. From an economic point of view, the main problem is the absence of import, as from a productive standpoint, during the last few years, the Country recorded a limited amount of internal production. This would lead to shortage of: 1) primary needs good (mainly imported); 2) gasoline since it is the main industry (already happening. I have been told about long queues at gas stations). From a health perspective, the health system is quite deficient – so far people are staying at home as some other States did. There is a lot of anxiety, even though it seems that the number

of contagious/casualties is not that high – at least based on news. Personal opinion: I am not sure we will ever have precise data from these Countries, simply because it is difficult to monitor the situation, as, on the contrary, it happens in Europe/US. There is a perception of great concern especially from those who have relatives in Europe – which are a great number in Venezuela –since news reports a high number of cases. I do not know about how the crisis management in Europe is perceived, I do not think there is a precise opinion on that, neither negative nor positive.

JOURNAL FROM EUROPE



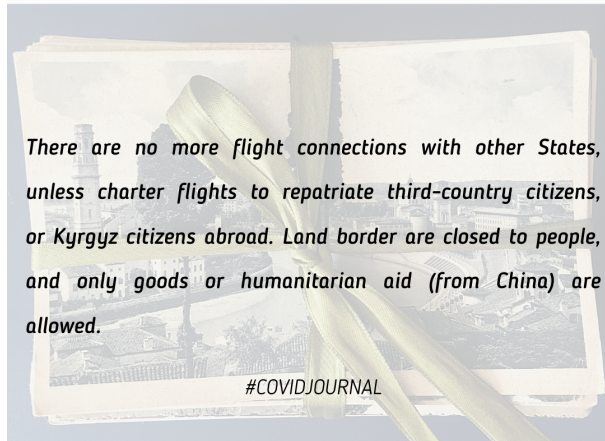
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Fabio, 30 - Venezuela

EUGENIA, 28 – Kyrgyzstan

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Eugenia, 28 - Kyrgyzstan

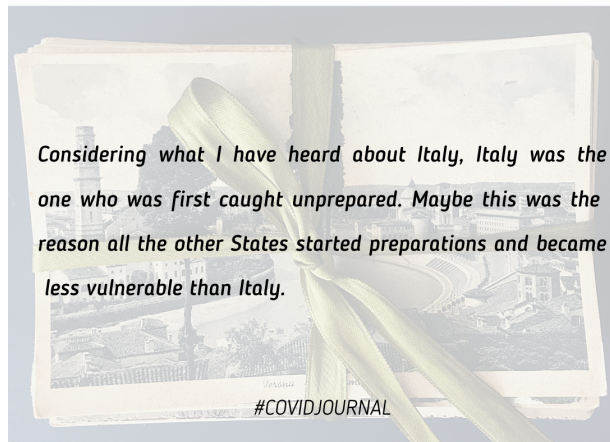
As far as Kyrgyzstan concerns, up until 18th March there were no official cases of COVID-19. Once the first cases have been recorded, restrictive measures have been adopted, such as closing restaurants or cafes with more than 20 seats; prohibiting gathering with more than 20 people, or big events. From 25th March onward, the “state of emergency” is in force in the main regions and cities such as Bishkek, Osh and Jalal-Abad. The latter are the two main cities together with the capital Bishkek. Beside the “state of emergency”, the curfew has been imposed, and people are not allowed to go out from 8 pm to 7am. Specific permits to move

around the city are issued for those who need to go to work. Shops, bars and other activities are closed, while supermarkets have reduced the opening hours. Every time you leave your place, you have to take with you a self-certification with name, surname, and mobile phone written on it. You can only go to the pharmacy or supermarket and you must wear a mask. There are no more flight connections with other States, unless charter flights to repatriate third-country citizens, or Kyrgyz citizens abroad. Land borders are closed to people, and only goods or humanitarian aid (from China) are allowed. The “state of emergency” should have been ended tomorrow (15th April) but the Government has postponed it to April 30th.

KAMRAN, 27 – Azerbaijan

According to Gov. counts, there're 1148 active coronavirus cases in Azerbaijan. My life is pretty stable during quarantine, I haven't left home for the last 20 days. The main problem in Azerbaijan is that the majority of population (average 90%) lives in poverty. Therefore, they are the ones carrying the burden due to unemployment, utility expense. Azerb. Government is doing well with keeping the quarantine and applying penalties to those who leave their homes without advance notice. But they do not have any social program for those who survive on monthly wages, who has low-income budget, etc. Considering what I have heard about Italy, Italy was the one who was first caught unprepared. Maybe this was the reason all the other States started preparations and became less vulnerable than Italy.

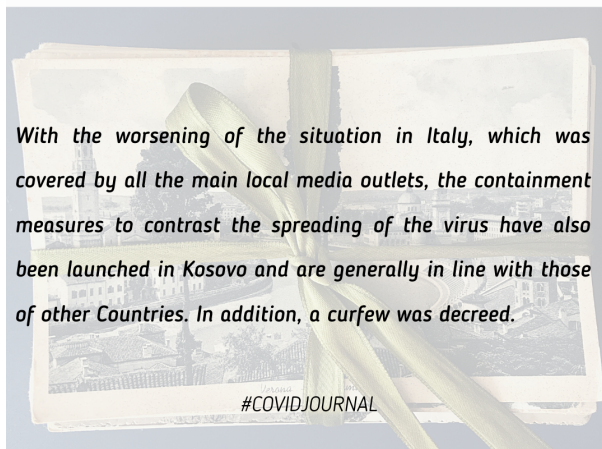
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Kamran, 27 - Azerbaijan

ELEONORA, 28 – Kosovo

JOURNAL FROM EUROPE



Eleonora, 28 - Kosovo

With the worsening of the situation in Italy, which was covered by all the main local media outlets, the containment measures to contrast the spreading of the virus have also been launched in Kosovo and are generally in line with those of other Countries, including the closure of national borders, airports, schools, and production activities that do not supply basic necessities, as well as teleworking for State and non-State employees; in addition, a curfew was decreed with a ban on the movement of vehicles and people, a decision that led to a clash between the executive in office and the President of the Republic and

which subsequently led to the fall of the Government. Despite the measures launched by the Government, the awareness campaigns promoted by the National Institute for Health and the



news coming daily from the Countries most affected by the virus, citizens do not seem to have fully understood the extent of the phenomenon and the need to practice social distancing. In fact, it is still possible to see people walking on the street and gathering in public spaces (parks, sports fields...). At the moment, I am practicing myself self-isolation, I am working from home and avoiding going out except in case of urgent need.

LIVIO, 28 – UK

The atmosphere here in Manchester is serious but still calm. People respect the rules and it seems they are accepting the situation. From an economic point of view, many people are losing their jobs, and this is sad. Yet, Government's funds/aids to help and support enterprises were available since the very beginning. And on that I am hopeful. News here is spreading a bit of terror, but they are also encouraging people to be united and appreciate those who are making sacrifices. I hear news from Italy mainly from family, newspapers and some Youtubers. What I perceive is great commitment in tackling this emergency. However, lot of worries especially from my family, maybe too much. They always have the TV on, listening news on coronavirus. Italy is facing difficulties in deciding and adopting an economic strategy; on the contrary, in UK they have explained it during the lockdown. Finally, it seems to me that in Italy there is a tendency of blaming each other: "if my neighbors do not do it, why should I?"

JOURNAL FROM EUROPE



Livio, 28- UK

MARIA PAULA, 31 - Colombia



In Colombia there are 2852 cases, and 112 casualties. “Creative” security measures – such as those allowing the exit from the Country only every other day, based on gender or on the last number on the ID – have been adopted but not homogeneously applied around the Country. Doctors, nurses, and health workers are the target of discrimination and violence, since they are considered as those carrying the virus, or contagious. Moreover, the highly difference in wealth distribution may represent a factor of great hazard in the management of patients as well as treatments, especially in the rural areas, which suffer a lack of resources.

Much relies on scientific research, and vaccines before the virus start spreading among the indigenous and those in needs.

NURLAN, 25 - Azerbaijan

At the moment, I am staying at home like everybody, trying to take precautionary measures like putting mask on and keeping everywhere clean. I can't say that I am staying at home all the time, sometimes I go out take a walk in the neighborhood but there is almost nobody out. There is a feeling in most of our people like there is no virus. It is all about keeping people in control. But what I see, part of people takes it seriously, but other parts continue their normal lives. What the Government does is taking routine precautionary measures. They have already declared quarantine for 10 days. One of our State departments came up with new measures. They have created a system through mobile



application. So, through this system, people are allowed to go out for 1. daily needs (like going for food and going to pharmacy) 2. For emergency measures 3. For the reason if anybody close friend or one of relatives dies. For those who have official permission for work, they are allowed to be out without applying any application. The Government also closed the internal roads for transport. What is in our news about Italy and Europe in general is about informing about daily situation there and casualties. Government follows what is happening in Europe closely, so that to carry out more serious measures in Azerbaijan day by day. What I personally see on news are usual information that is published everywhere. Updated statistics in Italy and Europe are primary news on our TV.

