
Some 44 Million Brazilians to Be without Medical Care in 2019

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Brasilia, Nov 19 (Prensa Latina) About 44 million low-income Brazilians will be without medical care as of 2019, in more than 2,000 municipalities within the country, an international organization has warned.

In a statement, to which Prensa Latina had access, the International Network of Intellectuals, Artists and Social Movements in Defense of Humanity-Brazil Chapter, denounces that the government of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, who proclaims himself without ideological bias, 'will lose about 9,000 Cuban doctors for ideological reasons and, also, for ignorance.'

The release refers to Cuba's decision to stop participating in the More Doctors in Brazil program due to the unwise demonstrations and unacceptable conditions for Havana that Bolsonaro said he would impose to the Cuban professionals once he takes power on January 1.

Bolsonaro will have to answer for the predictable medical tragedy 'for not knowing the history of the Cuban medical missions around the world,' the network of intellectuals states.

The document explains that 'the first Cuban humanitarian medical mission was in

1963, in Algeria. Cuba, on behalf of the defense of humanity, undertook the task to help care of poor populations in many countries as part of its policy of international solidarity.'

Cuban humanitarian missions spread across four continents, with own unique characteristics, based on an understanding of the needs of each people, according to the message.

The text gave as an example that on May 31, 1970, Peru was hit by a 7.9 quake on the Richter scale, in which more than 80,000 people were killed and thousands of families were homeless.

Cuba was the first country to send aid to the Peruvians. Two years later, on July 8, 1972, the government of Juan Velasco Alvarado restored diplomatic ties with the Caribbean nation, the text recalls.

During the following decades, Cuba sent free medical teams to several countries affected by natural catastrophes, the document says.

Brazil, the world's eighth largest economy, is 125 in the world health ranking. Trained by federal and state universities, Brazilian doctors refuse to pay attention outside the large urban centers, the network states.

'To end a program of 55 years of experience, competence, solidarity is at least a total lack of humanity. To leave the population without this vital medical care is to condemn it to premature death,' the international organization says.
