

**General Eduardo Pazuello,
Acting Health Minister
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco G, Térreo
Brasília/DF, 70058-900, Brazil**



Dear General Pazuello,

I am writing on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to express our concerns regarding the current health conditions in Brazil amidst Covid-19. Since February 2020, Brazil has been facing an increasing number of COVID-19 cases, becoming the second-worst hit hotspot. Even though COVID-19 is considered the most crucial global health calamity since World War II, during the last 7 months, President Jair Bolsonaro has routinely belittled the severity of the pandemic – comparing the coronavirus to ‘catching a little rain’.

According to the World Health Organization, in Brazil, from 26 February to 11 July 2020, there have been 1,755,779 confirmed cases and 69,184 deaths with numbers expected to increase in the coming days. There is no report of any clinically approved antiviral drug or vaccine effective against Covid-19. However, there is scientific evidence of measures that can slow down the transmission and the possible ways in which the disease can be controlled.

As it is of your knowledge, President Jair Bolsonaro has regularly downplayed and disregarded all kinds of recommendations posed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to stop the spread of the virus, putting at risk his life and the lives of all Brazilians. The rate at which Covid-19 is spreading has posed massive health, economic, social and environmental challenges to everyone across the global. Some regions are even facing a second-wave outbreak of the virus.

Unfortunately, in recent months, Brazil has had some managerial instability within the Ministry of Health with one health minister being fired and another quitting after only a month. As acting health minister, we urge you to act swiftly to protect people’s lives in Brazil by:

- Implementing social distancing rules and making mandatory the use of face masks in public spaces, including prisons and juvenile detention centres.
- Subsidising COVID-19 testing, especially for people under hardship and living in marginal communities, to monitor the outbreak and flatten the curve.
- Making it mandatory for Brazilian states, and the country, to report suspected and confirmed cases.
- Coordinating your approach with state governors and relevant ministers to open up the economy without risking people’s lives and health.

- Disseminating public health measures to prevent the spread of the virus in all states (e.g. staying at home when sick, covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing, washing hands regularly).

Despite the latest efforts from the Ministry of Health by distributing intubation drugs and ventilators to treat people with COVID-19, there is still more that needs to be done to prevent the rapid spread of this virus. It is critical to enforce policies and practices that are in accordance with human rights obligations and that are compatible with effective public health strategies and maintain adequate conditions.

As an advocate for peace, we are confident that you will take this issue seriously and seek to protect all the people living in Brazil from this global threat that does not discriminate.

Yours Sincerely,

Ingrid Valladares
Advocate, The Organization for World Peace



Jonathon Arrell,
Vice President, The Organization for World Peace