

Open Letter by a Cuban Doctor to Jair Bolsonaro

By Yonner González Infante, November 19, 2018 |

Bolsonaro, my son: When your honor says that Cuba keeps my salary, I am only thinking about the following questions:

1. I accepted the terms of this contract by my own free will.
2. I am aware that with this money, my mother, siblings, nephews, cousins, uncles, neighbors, my whole family is guaranteed health care without paying anything.
3. I am aware that my training as a doctor is thanks to the creation of public universities throughout the national territory. There, the children of bricklayers, lawyers, peasants, service and postal employees, doctors, etc., share the same classroom without discrimination on the basis of sex, color, ideology or wealth. That, Bolsonaro, is called equality - which you don't know about, because it doesn't exist in Brazil where corruption and political privileges destroy your country's wealth.
4. I have the courage to work for the Brazilian people even without receiving the salary you speak of. That's because I don't work just for economic reasons. I work because I like my profession and because I have never tried to become rich at the expense of the poor. And I will never rely on politics as a way of life. And I will never deceive the poor with false promises. And I will never plant hatred and discrimination in anyone's heart. And I will think things through before I speak so that I don't have to do like you do (you apologize every day for the crazy things you say).
5. Yes, I could have brought someone from my family to Brazil, but I didn't because, Mr. Bolsonaro, the poor have to have priorities in life. And for me the priority is to help my family, even more than buying an airline ticket knowing that at home we have other needs and priorities.
6. I also know that you have support from a small number of my colleagues who, for political and economic reasons, believe that it's better to enrich oneself with money rather than with love, experience, moral values, patriotism, and dignity. I may not agree with my salary there in Cuba. I may even disagree with Cuba's political system. But I don't have to defame my country also. I saw the same thing among poor Brazilians, who are the majority in Brazil. They like Brazil and that little town where they were born. But they would certainly like the same Brazil they have in their hearts to have equality, health care, and quality education and have zero poverty, zero hunger, zero discrimination, zero violence, zero corruption. But even so, in a Brazil that is imperfect, they like their country.
7. The gentleman says that Cubans "are withdrawing from the More Doctors Program because they don't agree that this absurd situation that violates human rights and that needs to be reviewed." No, Bolsonaro, what really violates human rights is when you deprive the poor of Brazil of their access to health care because providing health care doesn't agree with other political ideologies. Here's another violation of human rights.

You want to change the rules without asking the beneficiaries of the Program if the Cubans are really doing the job the way it has to be done. Here in Brazil, we have Brazilian preceptors. We are participating in a course in family medicine, all under the supervision of excellent Brazilian professionals. We are not here off in the corner doing things on a whim, no! Now the gentleman shows up saying we are disguised as doctors. Here the only one who is disguised is this big shot and all those who support his absurd vision of reality. The gentleman is only fighting for the privileges of the middle class, the political class. It's sad! Yes, Mr Bolsonaro, what is regrettable is to see how a guy with no knowledge of anything, only weapons, gets elected president. It's even sadder to see how some poor people voted for you. May God keep an eye on the poor! May God keep an eye on Brazil!

8. Whoever studied at the time books were being used, whoever studied when research was done in books and not through Google or the Internet, that person deserves respect. Whoever fought for life and wept at the death of a person or child deserves respect. Whoever went to Brazil - which for many is the end of the earth - to take care of the sick deserves respect. Whoever left his family and stayed far away to bring back an old man's smile or that of a child deserves respect. Isn't that something to take your hat off to? It's absurd that 66 countries in the world are benefiting from our work and you come along and say we are disguising ourselves as doctors. It's even worse to express doubt that anyone really wants to be taken care of by the Cubans.

I ask for respect for my colleagues.

I ask for respect for the free choice of my people.

I ask for respect for those who are poor and don't know.

I ask respect for the public health sector.

I also ask the gentleman to study what it means to love thy neighbor, and also to study what homeland means, what dignity means, what diplomacy means, what family medicine means, what equality means, what respect for thinking means.

I ask what it means to be the president of poor Brazilians and not just the rich and powerful.

May the gentleman enjoy health and a long life. God bless you and your people.

(The "Open Letter" first appeared on journalist Fernando Morais' blog "Nocauté." Morais authored the book "Last Soldiers of the Cold War, a best seller in Brazil which was about the Cuban Five, formerly political prisoners in U.S. jails.)

http://www.cubadebate.cu/especiales/2018/11/19/carta-abierta-de-un-medico-cubano-a-jair-bolsonaro/#.W_g8Mk2ov3h