
Brazil Thanks Cuban Doctors' Solidarity with Its People

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The President of the Workers Party (PT) of Brazil, Gleisi Hoffman, thanked the government and Cuban doctors for their solidarity with her people, who today regret the withdrawal of their professionals from the More Doctors Program.

In statements to alternative media and radio stations in the southern state of Parana, Hoffman explained details of the contract signed between the Pan American Health Organization, Brazil and Cuba that brought out the initiative, created in August 2013 during the then President Dilma Rousseff's Government.

She described as disrespectful and unacceptable the position of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, who issued offensive statements about the Cuban professionals who served in the most remote and humble regions of Brazil.

She called as a mockery Bolsonaro's attempt to ask for a qualification test for the Cuban doctors and argued that "Cuba sends doctors to 66 countries."

Do you know which is the only country that is demanding a competency test? Brazil; and you even commit the nonsense of saying that they are not doctors, the PT leader said.

She said that 'Cuban medicine is one of the most qualified in the world and even many US citizens go to Cuba for treatment. That is important for the elected government to know.'

Also, that future administration should know, she continued, that "the doctors who came to work in Brazil were evaluated, evaluated in the fluency of Portuguese and in the subjects of medicine by professors of our federal universities ... All these doctors underwent an evaluation."

In the five years of work of the More Doctors Program, nearly 20,000 Cuban collaborators served 113 million people in more than 3,600 municipalities in Brazil.

Cuba announced on Wednesday its withdrawal from the project because of the derogatory statements and inadmissible conditions that Bolsonaro intended to impose on the Cubans professionals once he assumes power on January 1.

I want to thank all the Cuban doctors who were here, their people who pay for the training with their work, their government for the 'solidarity and affection with which they treated our people, Hoffman said.
