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First Cuban Health Professionals Arrive in Liberia to Fight Ebola

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About 50 more medical experts are expected to arrive in Liberia in the coming days to join the initial team, though the number may be altered depending on the needs detected in the country, the government said in a communique.

Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan wished to thank the Cuban government for its “solid friendship and solidarity with people in need.”

The minister also expressed his “confidence” that the disease will be eradicated “quickly” in Liberia, the country hardest hit by the Ebola outbreak that began in West Africa last March and has now taken some 3,500 lives in the region.

The Cuban physician who is leading the expedition, Dr. Juan Carlos Dupuy Nuñez, said the medical team that has just landed in Liberia is part of an international response aimed at controlling the epidemic.

The Cuban government recently announced it would send 461 doctors and paramedics to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, the three countries that have had the most cases of Ebola.

Havana said that all the medical personnel sent to West Africa have been prepared with studies and practice, training in biosecurity and the risks of new infectious diseases.