



FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
PSOL LEADERSHIP

Brasília, January 15, 2021

URGENT REPORT - BRAZIL

(IHR, Article 09)

**OXYGEN CRISIS IN THE AMAZONAS AND INAPPROPRIATE
GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES REGARDING COVID-19**

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Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

World Health Organization Director-General

Avenue Appia, 20 - CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

who60@who.int

SÂMIA BOMFIM, ÁUREA CAROLINA, DAVID MIRANDA, FERNANDA MELCHIONNA, GLAUBER BRAGA, IVAN VALENTE, LUIZA ERUNDINA, MARCELO FREIXO, TALÍRIA PETRONE, and VIVI REIS federal deputies from the Socialism and Liberty Party (Partido Socialismo e Liberdade - PSOL, in its acronym in Portuguese), together with **JULIANO MEDEIROS**, president of PSOL, respectfully address to you in order to report about the severe oxygen crisis in the Amazonas and Bolsonaro government's deadly inappropriate guidelines regarding COVID-19.



Data overview

1. Until yesterday, 8,324,294 cases of Covid-19 and over 207 thousand deaths by the disease were reported in Brazil. In the northwest of the country, the Amazonas state, with a population of 3.8 million people and mainly covered by the Amazon rainforest, has so far registered 223,360 confirmed cases, in addition to 5,930 deaths by Covid-19. In the state's capital Manaus, 93,977 cases and 3,892 deaths have been reported - with alarming growing numbers. In the last 24 hours, the state registered 3,816 new confirmed cases of the disease, with 2,516 new infections in Manaus alone. On January 12, the moving average of new cases of Covid-19 in the Amazonas reached a record growth of 85,3%.

2. ICU occupancy rate for Covid-19 is currently 93.9% in the public network of Manaus and 86.73% in the private network, which represents an overall average of 90.4%. Regular hospital beds in the public network are already over their capacity, with 103.46% occupancy rate in Manaus, and 80.9% in the private sector, accounting for an average of 93,1% occupancy rate.

Oxygen crisis and government's inappropriate guidelines

3. Yesterday, Amazonas' hospitals ran out of oxygen. The company responsible for providing oxygen to public hospitals in the Amazonas announced it could no longer supply the demand. Reports¹ from different hospitals are horrifying, including desperate attempts of medical teams to perform manual ventilation, deaths by asphyxiation, and hundreds of patients being transferred to hospitals in other states. According to Igor da Silva Spindola, Amazonas State's Republic Prosecutor², Mr. Jair Bolsonaro's government was notified that oxygen would run out in the Amazonas four days before it happened, but only yesterday, after total collapse, they finally held a meeting on the matter.

4. As if inaction was not enough, Mr. Bolsonaro's Health Ministry had issued, on January 07, a totally inappropriate instruction³ for the Manaus Health Secretary, recommending the prescription of chloroquine and azithromycin "in face of the serious health situation in Manaus". According to the federal government, antivirals which have no proven efficiency for the prevention and treatment of Covid-19, would be the "way to reduce hospitalizations and deaths".

¹ Available at: [Médicos e familiares de pacientes descrevem colapso com falta de oxigênio em Manaus: leia relatos](#) - G1, Jan 2021

² Available at: [Procurador do AM diz que Ministério da Saúde foi alertado quatro dias antes sobre falta de oxigênio](#) - Época, Jan 2021

³ Available at: [Pazuella coage médicos no Amazonas a prescrever remédios inúteis para a Covid](#) - Globo, Jan 2021



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Conclusion

5. Despite the alarming growing numbers of the pandemic in Brazil, Mr. Jair Bolsonaro remains in dangerous denial, openly promoting misinformation and scepticism over vaccines, while adopting inappropriate guidelines and attacking effective measures for prevention and control of the novel coronavirus. As we have previously reported, the president's reckless and deadly actions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic disrespect Brazil's obligations under the World Health Organization's Constitution and the general spirit of global cooperation against pandemic diseases. The recent and urgent oxygen crisis in the Amazonas is a result of Bolsonaro's anti-science policies and terrible administration, an alarming sample of what might happen in the whole country if nothing changes.

6. Thus, we urge the WHO to receive this report in accordance to Article 09 of the International Health Regulations (IHR), and to demand the Brazilian government for urgent explanations about the ongoing oxygen crisis and its inappropriate guidelines for the use of antivirals without any proof of effectiveness instead of adopting WHO's recommendations and scientific-based measures to prevent, control and threat Covid-19.

7. The Brazilian government wrongdoings can no longer continue as if they were an acceptable normality. We recall that according to the IHR Article 10,2, each State Party shall verify and provide an initial reply to the request from the WHO and provide the available public health information on the status of the events in question within 24 hours. It is urgent that Brazil is at least demanded to explain its devastating policies, which threatens millions of Brazilian lives and put the global effort to end this pandemic at serious risk.