



Brasília, March 27, 2020.

**Mrs. Michelle Bachelet Jeria**  
**High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**  
**Palais Wilson - 52 rue des Pâquis**  
**CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland**

**Reference:** Public health emergency resulting from the pandemic generated by the new coronavirus (Covid-19).

Madam High Commissioner,

**ENIO JOSÉ VERRI**, Brazilian, identity card [REDACTED] CPF [REDACTED] currently in the exercise of the mandate of Federal Deputy and, also, Leader of the Workers' Party (PT) Bench in the Chamber of Deputies, with address in the Chamber of Deputies, annex IV, office 627, Brasília/DF and e-mail address [dep.enioverri@camara.leg.br](mailto:dep.enioverri@camara.leg.br) ; and **PAULO ROBERTO SEVERO PIMENTA**, Brazilian, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] currently in the exercise of the mandate of Federal Deputy by PT/RS, with address in the Chamber of Deputies, office 552, Annex IV, and e-mail address [dep.paulopimenta@camara.leg.br](mailto:dep.paulopimenta@camara.leg.br), respectfully report the public health emergency situation resulting from the pandemic generated by the new coronavirus (Covid-19) and the irresponsible handling of the crisis by the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. Jair Bolsonaro, whose attitudes put the Brazilian population at risk in the midst of the pandemic declared by the World Health Organization.

## **I. Communication Object**

The purpose of the present communication is to provide information to the respectable United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, regarding the seriousness of the health crisis endured by the Brazilian population, due to the repeated conduct of the President of the Republic in the face of the public health emergency resulting from the pandemic generated by the new coronavirus (Covid-19), which exposes to serious damage both physical and mental integrity of the Brazilian population.

## **II. Context**

The world is baffled as the crisis generated by the pandemic of the new coronavirus (Covid-19) unfolds. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the outbreak of the disease caused by the new coronavirus constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Importance - the highest level of alert in the Organization, as provided for in the Health Regulations International.

No long after, on March 11, 2020, Covid-19 was declared by WHO as a pandemic. Furthermore, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) declared that we face today an unprecedented global health crisis in the 75 years of the United Nations history.

The World Health Organization (WHO), after highlighting that the spread of the coronavirus is accelerating, defended defensive measures associated with aggressive and targeted tactics. On the 23rd, the WHO launched an awareness campaign led by celebrities around the world, inviting the population to follow measures to prevent the spread of the disease. The main one, the drastic reduction in social mobility, in addition to the adoption of systematic personal and environmental hygiene measures, without human contact, especially in so-called risk groups.

In the fight against this acellular organism, directed by the World Health Organization, the medical community, scientists from all countries, researchers, health authorities in general and responsible leaders from all nations, have indicated as efficient

conduct to contain the spread of the virus isolation and confinement of people, except essential services and activities.

It is an efficient and responsible policy, which has already proved to be adequate in China, South Korea and other communities that have been successful in reducing and controlling the pandemic in their respective societies.

In Brazil, fully in line with these health guidelines, the Ministry of Health, Governors, Mayors and all responsible managers are also guiding and determining the temporary adoption of these restrictive measures, which are aimed at protecting life, especially those most vulnerable to contamination (elderly and people with chronic diseases).

In a different way, contrary to the guidelines of the health authorities and the scientific community, the President of the Republic and some of his acolytes, with the support and / or pressure of unscrupulous businessmen and investors, have been waging a real war in an attempt to frustrate or sabotage all these efforts in favor of the health and life of thousands of Brazilians, in an orchestrated action to minimize (cold or cold) the need for isolation and / or confinement of the population as a virus containment policy, all in favor, according to the official of the Nation, to protect the economy, albeit at the expense of life.

On March 15, when Brazil had more than 200 confirmed cases of the disease, including through community transmission, including people from its direct relationship, Bolsonaro decided to personally support a series of demonstrations in favor of closing the Congress and the Supreme Court, ignoring the quarantine to which it was confined by medical recommendation.

This crusade that has been conducted by the President of the Republic terrified Brazilian and world society on March 24, when in a national chain speech Bolsonaro showed his complete disregard for the seriousness of the ongoing problem and his inability to lead the nation, inviting the population to break social isolation, disqualifying the severity of the pandemic and minimizing its effects.

Bolsonaro declared that the country's routine should return to its reality and that Brazilian press spread panic in society, calling the disease caused by the coronavirus "mild flu".

During the speech, the President also confronted medical authorities, Governors and Mayors who adopted isolation measures against the spread of the virus, generating, in addition to the public health crisis already in place, a political and institutional crisis.

The full transcript of the statement follows:

*“Ever since we rescued our brothers in Wuhan, China, in an operation coordinated by the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs, a yellow sign has appeared for us. We started preparing to face the coronavirus, because we knew that sooner or later it would come to Brazil.*

*Our Minister of Health met with almost all the Secretaries of Health of the states so that the strategic plan to fight the virus could be built and, since then, Dr. Henrique Mandetta has been doing an excellent job of clarifying and preparing the SUS for the care of patients. Mas, o que tínhamos que conter naquele momento era o pânico, a histeria. But, what we had to contain at that moment was panic, hysteria. And, at the same time, devise a strategy to save lives and prevent mass unemployment. We did so, almost against everything and against everyone.*

*Much of the media went against the grain. They spread the sense of dread, having as their flagship the announcement of a large number of victims in Italy, a country with a large number of elderly people and a totally different climate. A perfect scenario, enhanced by the media, so that a real hysteria spreads throughout our country.*

*However, it is clear that, from yesterday to today, part of the press has changed its editorial. They ask for calm and tranquility. That's really good. Congratulations, Brazilian press. It is essential that balance and truth prevail among us.*

*The virus has come, it is being faced by us and will soon pass. Our life has to go on. Jobs must be maintained.*

*The livelihood of families must be preserved. We must, yes, return to normality. A few state and municipal authorities must abandon the scorched earth concept, such as banning public transport, closing stores and determining mass confinement. What is happening in the world has shown that the risk group is that of people over 60 years old.*

*So, why close schools? Fatal cases of healthy people under the age of 40 are rare. 90% of us will have no manifestation if we get infected. Yes, we must be extremely concerned about not transmitting the virus to others, especially to our dear parents and grandparents. Respecting the guidelines of the Ministry of Health.*

*In my particular case, due to my athlete's history, if I were infected by the virus, I wouldn't have to worry, I wouldn't feel anything or I would be, at most, suffering from a cold or a mild flu, as "the well-known doctor" from "that well-known television" said.*

*While I am speaking, the world is seeking treatment for the disease. The American FDA and Albert Einstein Hospital, in São Paulo, are seeking proof of the effectiveness of chloroquine in the treatment of Covid-19. Our government has received positive news about this medicine manufactured in Brazil and widely used to fight malaria, lupus and arthritis.*

*I believe in God, who will train scientists and researchers from Brazil and the world to cure this disease*

*I take this opportunity to honor all health professionals. Doctors, nurses, technicians and employees who, in the front line, welcome us in hospitals, treat and comfort us. Without panic or hysteria, as I have been saying since the beginning, we will overcome the virus and be proud to be living in this new Brazil, which, yes, has everything to be a great Nation. We are together, increasingly united, God bless our dear homeland."*

Bolsonaro's speech, with a strong economic nature to the detriment of public health and life, generated, minutes after its publication, a political, health and insecurity crisis for the population.

Entities from the medical and scientific community published open letters in response to the President, recommending concern and social isolation. Leaders of the Brazilian Parliament, in an official statement, considered very serious the position expressed by the President on national television.

However, without finding an echo in his deleterious behavior, without support in the national and international scientific community, repudiated in the political environment and without support in most of Brazilian society for his daydreams, the President of the

Republic, with his Secretariat of Communication, produced a criminal advertising, under the title "BRAZIL CANNOT STOP", urging the population, in practically all aspects, to continue their lives, ignoring the ongoing threat that could, if the isolation measures are frustrated, claim thousands of Brazilian lives, as has already been happening in several countries in Europe (Italy and Spain) and Asia (China, Iran).

It is an immoral and criminal campaign, which misinforms and deceives the Brazilian population, minimizing, for the benefit of the economy and to the detriment of life, the seriousness of the pandemic installed in the country and in several nations of the world.

As if that were not enough, the President issued a Decree stating that religious activities of any nature are considered essential services and, therefore, can function normally, despite the guidelines of health authorities for the prohibition of agglomerations of any nature. In this moment of seriousness, the measure frees up religious ceremonies that invariably bring together many people, perhaps multitudes in certain places, where the spread of the virus will find fertile ground in our country, with consequences that are difficult to measure.

Based on the statements and acts of the President, his allied groups called for public acts claiming for an end to social isolation, the reopening of companies and the normalization of trade services, creating chaos in the population, inciting the population against local governments and crowding people in different cities in the country.

### **III. Request**

Faced with the repeated criminal conduct of the President of the Republic in the course of the crisis due to the public health emergency resulting from the pandemic generated by the new coronavirus (Covid-19), the Workers' Party hereby reports the seriousness of the situation that threatens to overwhelm our Nation.



In this moment of fragility and political, institutional and health crisis, we believe that a statement of support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would be relevant.

Believing in a favorable statement in this regard, we subscribe.

Sincerely,

***Enio Verri***

Federal Deputy - PT/PR

Leader of the Workers' Party in the Chamber of Deputies

***Paulo Roberto Severo Pimenta***

Federal Deputy - PT/RS