

# URGENT ACTION

## LACK OF OXYGEN TO TREAT PATIENTS IN MANAUS

Manaus, the capital of the Amazonas State, is facing a health crisis due to a spike in COVID-19 infections coupled with what health workers, media outlets and state officials have labelled as a critical lack of oxygen to treat patients currently hospitalized. Other cities and states nearby could also be at risk of facing a similar situation. Despite an initial supply of oxygen by the federal government, authorities must ensure its continued supply and other equipment needed to guarantee the right to health of the people of Manaus.

**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER**

**Minister of Health**

**Eduardo Pazuello**

Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco G.

Brasília, Distrito Federal – Brazil.

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Dear Minister Pazuello,

*I am writing to express my concern regarding the current situation in the hospitals of Manaus. The city is facing a spike in COVID-19 infections, hospitals at maximum capacity, and a lack of oxygen to treat patients. While the federal government has now sent oxygen tanks to the city, these are insufficient to meet current demand. Other cities and states in nearby regions could also be at risk of facing a similar situation.*

***I call upon you to take all the necessary steps to guarantee the right to health of patients in the city of Manaus and other cities in nearby regions that could face similar risks, by ensuring that they are equipped with an adequate supply of oxygen and other necessary medical supplies, and by using maximum available resources to ensure that proper treatment is provided based on international, scientific standards.***

Yours sincerely,

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Manaus is a city of 2 million people and the seventh-largest city in Brazil. With more than 1,500 people hospitalized with COVID-19 in the city currently, and thousands more infected, it is currently one of the world's COVID-19 hotspots. With hospitalizations breaking records, health facilities have been left without oxygen. On 15 January, international media reported that the Brazilian air force made an emergency delivery of oxygen to the city, however this is not sufficient to stem the crisis. The state is being forced to send patients to other states. Cemeteries are full with hours extended for the burial of the bodies. To try and stem the propagation of the virus, the state government decided to ban the circulation of people between 7 pm and 6 am in Manaus. Since the beginning of the pandemic, around 6.000 have died in the State of Amazonas, most of them in the capital city Manaus.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Portuguese

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 12 March 2021

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** COVID-19 Patients in Manaus (They, them, theirs)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** n/a