



Miami Medical Team Foundation

January, 2000

Non-Profit Organization

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What is the MMTF

The Miami Medical Team Foundation (M.M.T.F.) is a group of idealistic and well intentioned human beings that have united under a strong leadership.

The M.M.T.F. is a non-profit, humanitarian, self-supported organization whose goals are the improvement of the sanitary and medical conditions in those Third World countries with desperate needs.

The M.M.T.F. works to provide relief for the people of those countries torn by natural or man-made catastrophes.

The M.M.T.F.'s central core is composed of Medical Doctors of all specialties, as well as Dentists, followed by another ring of Nurses and Physical Therapists, Medical Technicians and Pharmacists. Finally, we count with the association of well established logistics personnel, volunteer men and women who help in the collection, classification and packing of the donations.

The M.M.T.F. was founded in the early 1980s, when refugees began piling in the borders between Nicaragua and Honduras. Since then, the group has been involved in many different scenarios of tragedy and despair in five continents of our planet, providing assistance to a total of nineteen countries.

The modus operandis of the M.M.T.F. consists, among other things, in providing medical and surgical teams to the affected areas, and in other occasions, by shipping medical equipment which has been donated to our organization, to the different hospitals and clinics in the affected countries. The shipment of medications to these areas is another service that our organization provides.

On many instances, we have developed training programs in different fields of medicine and surgery, as well as technological teaching in laboratory, radiology, etc.

The M.M.T.F. members have always covered the expenses and cost of each and every humanitarian operation they embark on. We have not been granted by any institution or government agency, but are registered in the United States Agency for International Development (A.I.D.).

Physicians start a campaign for the release of Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet

Doctor Biscet has been jailed for accusations of "dishonoring the motherland"

Exiled Cuban medical doctors and professional associations of south Florida have announced an international campaign to ask for the release of Doctor Oscar Elías Biscet, imprisoned by the castrite state, indicted for "dishonoring the motherland." The initiative was inaugurated officially on December 3, date on which Cubans celebrate Doctor's Day in commemoration of Carlos J. Finlay's anniversary, the discoverer of the origin of yellow fever. In an open letter to all the international medical organizations, Cuban-American health-care professionals request solidarity to defend the Biscet case. This

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News From

Cuba

Independent Medical
Association of Cuba
and Independent Cuban
Journalists

Cuban citizen denied medical services because of his nationality

Havana, Cuba Press. December, 1999. Last Friday over forty people took part in a protest at the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes hospital in Bayamo, demonstrating against the hospital's administration, which denied medical care to a Cuban citizen stricken with cancer. The patient was transported to the Vladimir Ilich Lenin hospital, located approximately thirty kilometers from the first hospital, where a biopsy was supposed to be performed on the patient. The explanation offered by hospital officials was that ambulances are not permitted to travel outside the provinces, although that same Friday, a Spanish citizen paid for the ambulance service, and was transported to the city of Havana, which is approximately a thousand kilometers away.

There have also been protests from the province of Pinar del Río, referring to the difficulties encountered by the citizens regarding ambulance services. In order to transport the patients, according to the hierarchy of the Cuban health department, the ambulance must wait to have several patients who have been

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BRIEF RESUME OF Work performed

by the Miami Medical Team Foundation

- Medical/surgical assistance and transportation of donations to Nicaraguan refugees, in Honduras and Costa Rica, 1982-1990.
- Donations of 10 tons of humanitarian supplies to Chile after the earthquake, Oct. 1986.
- Medical assistance to El Salvador after the earthquake, Oct. 1986.
- Donation of 15 tons of medical equipment to Lima, Perú, in conjunction with the Women Auxiliary of the Dade County Medical Association, 1986.



October 1986. Contra's Camp in Nicaragua's Northern border. Tomás, MD (Contra's Medical Chief), Heriberto Cabada, MD; Ramón Alvarez Guedes, Manuel Alzugaray, MD



Jamba, Angola: Hospital Camp. August, 1988. Mario Soler, MD; Manuel Alzugaray, MD; Enrique Bassas (nurse)

- Medical, dental, surgical assistance, donation of hospital equipment and medications to Angolan refugees, 1987 and 1988.
- Donation of a complete 50-bed field hospital to the interim government of Afghanistan, 1989.
- Medical/surgical assistance and donation of equipment in the reconstruction of Panama, 1990-1991.
- Medical/surgical assistance and donation of equipment in the reconstruction of Nicaragua, 1990 to present.
- Medical/surgical assistance in conjunction with the Catholic University of Guayaquil, Ecuador, 1992-1993.
- Medical/surgical assistance to Poland, 1991.
- Medical/surgical assistance, Hospital of Bayaguana, Province of Monte Plata, Dominican Republic and donation of equipment to hospital, 1992-1993.



Guantánamo Naval Base. January, 1995. Joint Task Force 160 General Ayers (Marine Corp) shaking hands with Dr. Manuel Alzugaray.

- Medical Assistance to victims of Hurricane Andrew, South Florida, August to October, 1992.
- Program "Welcome to Freedom":



Guantanamo Bay during the Balseiros' Crisis. September, 1994. Mario Soler, MD; Alexis Abril, MD; US-Army medical doctor; Manuel Alzugaray, MD; Diego Falcón, MD; Alvarez Pérez, MD and Guarioné Díaz.

- a) Medical assistance and donations to the "Hogar de Tránsito del Balseiro", which provided temporary shelter to the Cuban Rafters in Key West, since 1992.
- b) Medical/dental services and donations of medicines, food and clothing to the "House of the Cuban Rafters" in Nassau, Bahamas, since 1993.
- c) Medical/dental assistance and donation of medicines to Cuban refugees arriving in Puerto Rico, in conjunction with UCE and "Casa Cuba" since 1994.
- d) Medical/dental assistance to Cuban refugees, donation of medicines, Cayman Island, since 1993.



Florida City. August 25, 1993. Diego Falcón, MD, in front of MMT Clinic after Hurricane Andrew.

- Program "Faith in Action" in conjunction with the "Ermita de la Caridad" a local Catholic church, sending medicines and personally delivering them to Cubans with no relatives in the United States and to political prisoners and their families, 1995 to present.
- Joint Task Force 160, Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba, Haitian and Cuban rafters crisis, 1994 and 1995.
 - a) Medical/dental teams visiting Guantanamo Naval Base on a weekly basis beginning September of 1994, to consult Haitian and Cuban refugees located in the Base. (As of September 1995, over 9,500 consultations were performed by the MMTF physicians).
 - b) Donation of 30 tons of Permalat milk and 10 tons of cereal to the refugees at the Base.
- Humanitarian help to the Island of Antigua after a hurricane in September 1995.

- Humanitarian program with the Ministry of Social Services of Haiti, donation of equipment to the Social Services Hospital from October 1995.

- Delivery of medicines and toys to the Ministry of Social Services of Haiti, January 1996.

- Delivery of medications and medical supplies to Cuban in Pachacamiya, Peru, 1996.

- Medical team back up to the flotilla "Democracy" 1996.

- Shipments of medications monthly to political prisoners in Cuban jails, since 1996.

- Delivery of a 40 container with medications and equipment to the presidency of Nicaragua, monthly-during 1997.

- Medical help to "Friends of Altai, Inc." (to the Altai Region in the former Soviet Union, to people exposed to 470 nuclear explosions from 1949 to 1967) since 1997.

- Donation of medicines and medical equipment to Ecuador to alleviate disasters caused by the "El Niño" phenomenon, in 1997 and 1998.

- Donation of medicines and medical equipment to Peru for disasters caused by "El Niño", 1997 and 1998.

- Donation of medications and medical books and literature to the "Colegio Medico Cubano Independiente" (Independent Cuban Medical Association, Havana, Cuba) since 1998.

- Hurricane George. Donation of 2 tons of medications, clothing, and food to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, September, 1998.

- Seminar in Preparedness for Biological, Chemical and Radioactive Warfare. Coral Gables Hospital, November 1998.

- Hurricane Mitch. "Operation Central America" monthly medical team to Honduras and Nicaragua. Donations of medications and clothing on a monthly basis. November 1998.

- Short-wave Radio Program to Cuba, transmitted by La Voz del CID from 1991 to 1995 and by Radio Martí from 1998 to present. The program offers information to physicians, and to all the audience, about medical advancements in U.S.A., besides serving as a bridge for the Independent Cuban Medical Association.



After Huracan Mitch, in Honduras. October 1998.

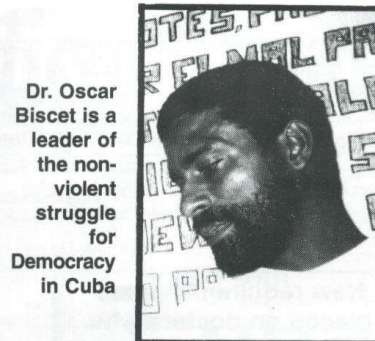
Alexis Abril, MD; Heriberto Casanova, MD; Jaime Campos, MD; Manuel Alzugaray, MD; Jacqueline Salazar, MD; Moreau, MD.



MMT warehouse in Miami, Florida.

Ricardo Madán (Chief of Logistics of the MMT); Mario Roque de Escobar (Assistant to the Chief of Logistics)

Rodolfo Rodríguez San Román (Cuban former political prisoner); Mario Soler, MD (Vice President of the MMT) and Agustín Robaina (Cuban former political prisoner).



Dr. Oscar Biscet is a leader of the non-violent struggle for Democracy in Cuba

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet

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doctor is President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and an active dissident in the Cuban non-violent civic struggle. Dr. Biscet remains detained since November 3, and has been taken to the Havana Psychiatric Hospital, also known as Mazorra, to receive treatments for alleged "mental disorders." "Dr. Biscet refused to undergo said treatments protesting the psychiatric tortures to political prisoners that have been have carried out for years in that hospital," indicated Laida Carro, a human rights activist. On the eve of the IX Ibero-American Summit in Havana, Fidel Castro, on November 1, accused Dr. Biscet of "being somewhat crazy [...] and that perhaps what he needs is psychiatric treatment." Among the organizations that signed the document are the Miami Medical Team, the Cuban Medical Convention, the Association of Cuban Pediatrics in Exile, the Cuban-American Psychiatrists Association and the Committee in Support of the Lawton Foundation, as well as the South Florida chapter of the American Psychiatrists Association, the Medical Association of Clinics, Hospitals and Analogous entities (PACHA) and the Central-American Medical Association. In October this year, Dr. Biscet sent out a letter to Jaroslav Blahos, President of the Czech Medical Association, headquartered in Prague, denouncing the falsification [by the Castro government] of Cuban health-system statistics and the genocidal practices imposed [by it] on the island for "diminishing infantile mortality and developing the human organs commerce." In that letter, the dissident also alluded to the use of psychiatry as a method of torture and repression against members of the internal opposition. Dr. Biscet was given the Purkinje Medal, which the Czech Medical Association offers to prominent health-care professionals.

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referred to the hospital, at approximately thirty kilometers from town, in order to transport them by groups.

Recently, a young pregnant woman, in labor pains, as well as a child with high fever, were forced to wait over twelve hours at the medical post, before being transported to the main hospital facility.

New requirements are placed on doctors who want to leave Cuba

Havana, Cuba Press. A new official resolution from the Cuban government imposes new restrictions on physicians who want to leave the country. A waiting period of three to five years has been placed as part of the conditions, during which time, the government will re-assign these doctors and paramedics to new posts at will. Once they have been assigned to the new units, the doctors will periodically be evaluated, and depending on the outcome of these evaluations, based on their work, they will or not be allowed to leave the country. Dozens of doctors have already been denied exit visas since the new regulation was implemented, which was also used during the first 20 years of Castro's rule.

Family members are forced to bring food to their hospitalized relatives

Pinar del Río, UPECI. Due to the lack of food in this province's hospitals, health system authorities asked farmers to reinforce their hospitalized relatives diets by

bringing vegetables, beans, fruits and meat.

Among the most alarming cases are those of pregnant women, who are giving birth to underweight and undernourished babies, which represent an average of over 6.3% of those babies born alive.

Serious problems at a Las Tunas hospital are denounced

Las Tuna, Cuba Press. The provincial hospital "Doctor Ernesto Guevara" largest medical facility in the province of Las Tunas, is experiencing serious difficulties related to patient care. This facility's laboratory has not performed any tests on patients for several weeks, citing lack of qualified personnel.

A patient who traveled 30 kilometers from the town of Jobabo stated: "It is enough already, we are tired of the lack of respect for the population, and on top of that, they blame the embargo".

The lack of hygiene and lighting, the poor quality of the food, and the lack of concern for the patient's well being make this medical facility a "living hell", stated one of the relatives of the aforementioned patient.

Cases of Leptospirosis grow in Villa Clara

Havana, December 6 (Mery Miranda, Cuba Press). The increase of leptospirosis, an illness produced by rodents, in Villa Clara province has as its main cause the accumulation of river and flood waters in the last days of November. A source at the

provincial Public Health Department said to this journalist that a focal point at the semi-urban areas of Arroyo Frío, in the town of Camajuaní, had 17 cases reported among a population of 2,000 inhabitants. The aforementioned source expressed that other factors are the clogging of the sewage conduits, the debris and solid waste, as well as the rice crops.

Diarrhea sickness spreads in Cuba

Havana, November 29 (Eduardo G. Estrada, UPECI). A diarrhea outbreak is named as one of the main causes for infantile nourishment deficiency in Cuba. The gastro-enterology wards of the pediatric hospitals are continuously filled with those suffering from it. A pediatrician, that prefers to remain anonymous, expressed to the UPECI press agency that the acute diarrhea sickness is currently considered a potential danger for infantile mortality with children of less than one year, besides being the main cause for nourishment deficiency. On the other hand, the shortness of medication forced the Public Health Department management to decide not to administer anti-diarrhea medicine to the patients. It currently fights the sickness mainly by re-hydrating the victims. According to the source, the contamination of water destined for human consumption, the infectious focal points and the alimentary unbalance are the factors that propitiate the acute diarrhea outbreak. The official press has been forced to promote a widespread program by which the population is exhorted to take care of their hygiene.

We may give you additional information about medical situation in Cuba