

## 19 DOCUMENTED DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CUBAN REGIME IN 2019

in chronological order by date of death

### WORKERS IN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSIONS



**Olga Sánchez Rojas, M.D.**, age 56, died on April 30, 2019, in Quito, Ecuador, when a gas leak in her apartment caused an explosion (injuring nine other people).

**Roberto Celorrio Rodríguez, M.D.**, age 50, was stabbed to death on June 18, 2019 in Cuenca, Ecuador. He had been working at the José Carrasco Arteaga Hospital of Cuenca for over a year.



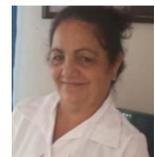
**Julio Oliva Vargas, M.D.**, age 36. The doctor, a specialist in anesthesiology, was found dead on July 6, 2019 in a bathroom at the Marco Vinicio hospital in Sucumbíos, Ecuador, where he had been working for three years.

**Reinier Estrada Batchelor, M.D.**, age 34. A doctor, specialist in imaging sent by the Cuban government to work in Ecuador, was found dead on July 22, 2019 inside the X-Ray room at the Hospital Básico de Amaluza. The cause of death was not reported. He was the fourth Cuban doctor reported to have died in Ecuador in 2019.



**Juan Obana Borges, M.D.** The specialist in intensive care and internal medicine died on September 11, 2019 in strange circumstances at the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris of a reported heart attack after his asylum request was denied by France. He was being escorted back to Cuba by Cuban state security agents after being expelled from Cuba's medical mission to Mauritania. In Mauritania, he had refused pressure from the hospital director to release a patient early from the ICU and had been demoted. Coworkers speculated that his death resulted from extreme stress or was provoked by Cuban agents.

**Luisa Cardentey.** The nurse died in Ixcán, Guatemala from unreported causes on September 26, 2019.



**Marisol Noa, M.D.** The doctor, head of Cuba's contingent delivering eye care in Guatemala (*Operación Milagro*), died on December 1, 2019 in Cuba of an unspecified illness contracted in Guatemala.

## DEATHS IN CUSTODY



**Iván Ponce de León**, age 45, died at Havana's Calixto García Hospital on April 27, 2019, eight days after receiving a brutal beating from police officers while under arrest at a police station.

**Armando Sosa Fortuny**, age 76, died on October 29, 2019, at the Amalia Simoni Hospital in Camagüey, where he had been transferred a month earlier after his health had deteriorated from complications of diabetes and a cerebral ischemia. The political prisoner had spent a total of 43 years in Cuban jails (1960 to 1978 and 1994 until his death).



**Michel Zayas García**, age 53, reportedly committed suicide on November 11, 2019. A worker at the Ministry of the Interior, he had been arrested for trying to sell gas tanks to the black market. He had a nervous breakdown and was moved to a psychiatric hospital, where he reportedly used his pants to hang himself.

**Alexei Roque**, age 42, a common prisoner, died on November 28, 2019, at Arica prison in Cienfuegos after complaining for five days of high fever and strong headaches but receiving no medical attention.



**Lázaro Abreu Godínez**, age 45, died in prison on December 2, 2019, after going on a hunger strike for 58 days in order to protest his arbitrary detention. The seller had been fined 500 Cuban pesos, and he had been sentenced to three years in prison for buying a speaker. He left a two year-old son.

*Four prisoners reportedly committed suicide (possibly extrajudicial killings) at the provincial prison of Las Tunas, Granma province: Jorge Alvarez Pérez, age 27, on January 20, 2019; Wilber Carrasco Pérez, March 8, 2019; Armando García Alvarez, April 13, 2019, and Miguel Sánchez Carralero, June 7, 2019.*

## OTHER DEATHS



**Eneida Milián**, age 81, drowned on April 23, 2019 in an overflowed river in the Darién jungle, between Colombia and Panama, while trying to reach the United States by foot. She was with a group of relatives (including her daughter, three grandchildren, and two great-grand-children) that had been walking for 16 days after leaving Capurganá, Colombia.

**Yons Corrales Contreras**, age 35, was murdered December 2, 2019, in Montevideo, Uruguay while trying to defend a friend from an assailant. He had left Cuba seeking to reach the United States from Uruguay, working there to save the funds needed to continue his journey to the U.S.



See all case details at  
[CubaArchive.org/our-database](https://CubaArchive.org/our-database)

\*Cuba Archive believes most deaths in custody go unreported. In addition, it also attributes to the Cuban regime deaths of a political nature in Venezuela, particularly those of members of the military killed in custody while under Cuba's control, not included in the above summary.

[www.CubaArchive.org](https://www.CubaArchive.org)

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