

Re: How the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.N. Human Rights Council (HRC) have subverted the Human Rights Concept and support Human Rights Abusers

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The U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act, WHO, PAHO, the UNHRC and the Cuban Mais Medicos Program (2022, updated in 2024)

The class-action of trafficked Cuban physicians in 2018 against the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), a subsidiary of a United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) under the **U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA)** has not gained much public attention. This case illuminates the suffering and abuse the TVPRA is designed to address and reveals the practice of international organizations such as **WHO** and **PAHO** to facilitate international human trafficking.

In 2018 four (4) Cuban physicians filed a class-action, ***Matos Rodriguez et al. v. Pan American Health Organization, No. 20-7114 (D.C. Cir. 2022)***, under the **TVPRA** and the **Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO)** in the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Florida after they managed to escape from Brazil. The complaint consisted of three (3) TVPRA claims and one (1) RICO claim alleging that they were trafficked by the Cuban government to perform forced labor in Brazil under a contract for the time period from 2013 to 2018, with PAHO acting as financial intermediary between Brazil and Cuba. The D.C. Court of Appeals determined that “PAHO entered into a bilateral agreement with the Cuban government to guarantee it would transfer resources from third parties as a way to compensate Cuba for the utilization of its medical professionals”. ...Brazil made payments to PAHO’s Citibank account in Washington, D.C. and then forwarded 85% to Cuba, 10% to the physicians and retained 5% for its services.”

In 2020 the case was removed to the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. On the second TVPRA claim, the D.C. District Court rejected PAHO’s claim that they were immune under the International Organization Immunity Act (IOIA) and the WHO Constitution. On March 29, 2022 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit unanimously affirmed the District Court’s denial of the defendant’s motion to dismiss and held that PAHO had “*the role of financial intermediary transferring money among Mais Medicos participants*” when it converted Brazilian reais to dollars and sent the dollars to the Cuban government, that “*the funds constituted a financial benefit in violation of § 1589 (b) TVPRA*”. The Court extensively discussed **PAHO’s claims of immunity under the International Organization Immunity Act (IOIA) and the WHO Constitution**. On March 29, 2022 the Court of Appeals confirmed that **Art. 67 (a) of the WHO Constitution did not render PAHO immune**, since the provision is not self-executing. Art. 68 of the WHO Constitution provides that the privileges and immunities “*shall be defined in a separate agreement to be prepared by the Organization in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and concluded between the members*” – special actions which were not taken. The Court remanded the case for further proceedings consistent with its opinion.

That Cuba has been supplying Cuban workers to foreign governments in exchange for money has been reported for a long time. Exploiting medical professionals generates more revenue than exploiting workers with less education. The **State Department 2016 Trafficking in**

Persons Report rated Cuba as a Tier 2 Watch List country. Being on the “**Tier 2 Watch List**” means that the country requires special scrutiny because of a high or significantly increasing numbers of trafficking victims. The 2016 report stated that “the government did not prohibit forced labor” and that “the government is the primary employer in the Cuban economy, including in foreign medical missions that employ more than 84,000 workers and constitute a significant source of Cuban government revenue.” In the ‘Protection’ section the report states that “some participants in foreign medical missions and other sources allege Cuban officials force or coerce participation in the program”: “Some Cubans working in missions abroad have stated that Cuban authorities withheld their passports and restricted their movements”. Additionally, the report states that “there have also been reports that Cuban authorities coerced participants to remain in the program by allegedly threatening them to revoke their medical licenses or retaliate against family members if participants leave the program” and that “reports of substandard working and living conditions and the presence of “minders” to monitor medical professionals outside of work also continued”.

The **State Department 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report** downgraded Cuba to a **Tier 3 country** and in the ‘Prevention’ section noted that “the government did not make efforts to prevent forced labor.” “Tier 3” means that the country neither satisfies the minimum standards nor demonstrates a significant effort to come into compliance. Countries in Tier 3 are subject to potential non-humanitarian and non-trade sanctions. The State Department reported in the ‘Trafficking Profile’ section that traffickers exploit Cuban citizens in forced labor and that “according to government officials the Cuban government employed between 34,000 and 50,000 healthcare professionals in more than 60 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and Portugal in foreign medical missions through contracts with foreign governments and in some countries, **with international organizations serving as intermediaries**”.

The 2019 State Department report stated that “in November 2018 Cuba ended the five-year-old “**Mais Medicos**” medical mission program in Brazil which was facilitated by a UN-affiliated organization, following demands from Brazil’s then president elect [Bolsanaro] to improve the treatment and employment of Cuban healthcare professions after allegations of coercion, non-payment of wages, withholding of passports and restrictions on their movement”, referencing the 2018 class action filed in the Southern District of Florida under the TVPRA and the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO). The report noted that “the Cuban government collected approximately \$7.2 billion in annual revenue from the export of services, including foreign medical missions in 2017”.

In 2020 and 2021 the State Department continued to rate Cuba a Tier 3 country. The 2021 Trafficking Profile reiterated that the Cuban “government employed between 34,000-50,000 health care professionals in more than 60 countries, and that in some countries **international organizations serve as intermediaries or provide funds** for their work, with 75% of its exported workforce consisting of medical professionals and experts, estimating that the Cuban government collected \$6 billion to \$8 billion annually from its export of services, namely the foreign medical missions program.

It is obvious that Cuba has continued its trafficking and forced labor campaign of medical professionals in the Americas. The **2021 Trafficking in Persons Report for Venezuela**, another **Tier 3 country**, noted under ‘Prioritized Recommendations’: “Given significant concerns about forced labor indicators in **Cuban Medical Missions**, screen Cuban medical

professionals for trafficking indicators and refer those identified to appropriate services". Still, in 2019 Venezuela won a seat on the Human Rights Council, but was not reelected in 2022.

Human Rights Violators serve on the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

In 2020 Cuba, China, and Russia, all Tier 3 countries in 2024, were reelected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Cuba has held a seat since 2006. China has held a seat since 2006. Russia was suspended in 2022 and not reelected in 2023. It is no wonder that the reputation of the UNHRC has been considered tarnished by many people. In 2020 Jiang Duan, a minister at the Chinese Mission in Geneva was appointed to the UNHRC's Consultative Group where he will serve as one of only five (5) representatives to select inspectors on health, freedom of speech, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances. *Hillel Neuer*, the Executive Director of *U.N. Watch*, a Geneva human rights organization, responded to the appointment by saying that the appointment was "like making a pyromaniac into the town fire chief. It's absurd and immoral for the U.N. to allow China's oppressive government a key role in selecting officials who shape international human rights standards and report on violations worldwide." ¹

Hillel Neuer was interviewed by GB News on April 27, 2022 about actions by the U.N. and the UNHRC. Neuer pointed out that:

"the UNHRC is meant to be the world's highest human rights body. It's mandated to protect human rights", but the UNHRC has members who are "countries that commit gross and systematic violations of human rights. They crush dissidents, they jail journalists, they poison dissidents; China has herded one million Uyghurs into camps - why are the world's worst violators of human rights sitting as judges and guardians of human rights for the world? There's a **toxic alliance between the world's worst dictatorships – these can be Russia, Venezuela, Pakistan, Cuba, Eritrea – they're sitting on the Human Rights Council, but that is then legitimized by certain groups that have a radical anti-Western agenda.** It's Orwellian; it's the complete opposite of what the United Nations was meant to do, what the founders of the Human Rights Commission, such as Eleanor Roosevelt and the French philosopher Rene Cassin, they helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [intended]". ²

Neuer accused the UNHRC of "empowering terrorist groups like **Hamas and Hezbollah** who cheer their Commission of inquiry in pursuit of a dedicated agenda item to condemning **Israel** alone". When **Iran** began their 4-year term on the U.N.'s top women's rights body, the **U.N. Women's Rights Commission**, in March 2022 Neuer asked "why did the U.N. name one of the world's worst oppressors of women as a world judge and guardian of gender equality and the empowerment of women?" He pointed out that "Iran's persecution of women is gross and systematic, both in law and in practice. The U.N.'s own secretary-general has reported on Iran's persistent discrimination against women and girls."³

The 2020 Request for the Criminal Investigation of Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to the International Criminal Court for Crimes against Humanity

¹ *China's Appointment to U.N. Human Rights Panel Sparks Global Outcry*, Radio Free Asia, April 8, 2020; [fa.org/english/news/china/un-rights-04082020135543.html](https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/un-rights-04082020135543.html)

² <https://unwatch.org/hillel-neuer-gb-news-discusses-un-toxic-alliance-radical-left-ngos-dictatorships/>

³ *Iran to join U.S. women's rights commission*, UN Watch, March 24, 2022, <https://unwatch.org/2022/03/24/>

On December 1, 2020 the American economist **David Steinman** filed by email a criminal complaint with the **International Criminal Court** in the Hague, Netherlands, requesting an investigation of the actions by **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** “that are inconsistent with international criminal law”.⁴ Mr. Steinman served as senior foreign adviser to Ethiopia's democracy movement for 27 years, until 2018, following his assignment by the U.S. National Security Council as consulting expert regarding the overthrow of Haiti's corrupt ruler “Baby Doc” Duvalier. Steinman co-planned Ethiopia's 2005 civil resistance and election campaign and published his novel about the **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) dictatorship**, titled ‘Money, Blood and Conscience’ in 2018.

Steinman has strongly criticized Tedros, warning in 2021 against his re-nomination as WHO Director-General.⁵ Not only various world leaders, but also Ethiopia's Army Chief of Staff, General Berhanu Jula, has “called Tedros a criminal and said that he should step down from his position as director general of the WHO for seeking to procure weapons for the Tigray region, where the Ethiopian military is fighting local forces.”⁶

It is obvious that Tedros has friends in high places. In April 2021 the New York Times published a puff piece on Tedros, titled “The Anguish of the World's Doctor”. Nicholas Kristof starts out by making the false claim that “**he [Tedros] is the world's doctor**” and offers praise of Tedros who “has tirelessly led the global response to the coronavirus pandemic while privately nursing a piercing anguish” regarding the “crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing in Tigray.”⁷ First of all, Tedros is not a medical doctor - calling him “the world's doctor” is ludicrous. Secondly, there is overwhelming evidence of Tedros' responsibility and culpability regarding the atrocities committed by the TPLF dictatorship while Tedros was serving on the TPLF Executive Committee and as a minister for the TPLF government. Thirdly, claiming that “he [Tedros] wept when probed” about the atrocities and crimes against humanity in Ethiopia“ makes the journalist complicit in a cover-up of the true events. This is journalism that goes way beyond sugarcoating and puffery. This is deceptive, misleading reporting.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Tedros) is an Ethiopian national and has served as the first **non-physician Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)** since 2017. Prior to his 2017 election as Director-General of the WHO Tedros was a senior official and decision maker for the ruling Ethiopian party, **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**. He “**was, from 2012-2016, Ethiopia's third highest official as a foreign minister and a member of the eleven person TPLF Executive Committee that controlled the actor who carried out these actions.**”⁸

⁴ *Requesting an investigation by the International Criminal Court of Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*, posted on May 4, 2021, moneybloodconscience.com; **Note: As of 2024 this website is no longer available online.** *Chief Tedros Ghebreyesus is accused of aiding genocide in Ethiopia: Nobel peace prize nominee lodges complaint with International Criminal Court*, UK Daily Mail, Dec. 14, 2020; <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9052247/WHO-chief-Tedros-Ghebreyesus-accused-aiding-genocide-Ethiopia-nobel-peace-prize-nominee.html>

⁵ *American Economist issues statement warning against re-nomination of WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom*, <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/09/21/2300873/0/en/American-Economist-Issues-Statement-Warning-Against-Re-Nomination-of-WHO-Chief-Tedros-Adhanom.html>; <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/american-economist-issues-statement-warning-170600751.htm>; <https://www.pressrelease.com/news/american-economist-issues-statement-warning-against-re-nomination-of-21504870>. **Note: As of 2024 Steinman's statement is no longer accessible via any of the sites which published a respective link in 2021.**

⁶ *Ethiopia's military chief calls WHO head Tedros a criminal supporting a rebel region*, Washington, Post, Nov. 19, 2020

⁷ *The Anguish of the World's Doctor*, The New York Times, April 24, 2021

⁸ *Requesting an investigation, supra*

The **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** was a ruling party until 2018. In his request to the ICC for an investigation of the actions by **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** Steinman alleges that Tedros as “a senior TPLF official exercised control over the [Ethiopian] Security Forces. He was a crucial decision maker in relation to their actions that included killing, arbitrarily detaining, and torturing Ethiopians.”⁹ In his complaint Steinman referred to the U.S. Department of State Human Rights Reports of 2013, 2014, and 2015 which stated that “the Ethiopian authorities maintained control over the security forces...[and that] ...security forces committed human rights abuses.”¹⁰ Since 1976 the **TPLF has been listed as terrorist organization** in the Global Terrorism Database (GTD). Annual reports from Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International for 2006 to 2016 reveal abhorrent war crimes and human rights abuses by the Ethiopian government's security forces and police: torture (including children), rape, burning of villages, kidnapping, arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions, etc.)

Tedros has been accused of being China's man. In 2020 Tedros supported China's version of the origin of Covid-19, down-played the seriousness of the virus and denied human-to-human transmissibility, thus preventing effective containment of the virus. He praised China for their response to the outbreak and inhibited any meaningful investigation of the origin of the virus. It is notable that China has made major investments in Ethiopian construction and infrastructure projects since 2000. By 2019 Ethiopia's debt to China amounted to about \$26 billion. Critical voices in Ethiopia considered the debt to China insurmountable, with China disproportionately benefitting from the infrastructure projects in Ethiopia, also blaming TPLF for using the Chinese Industrial zone in Duken as coverage for illegal export and for underpaying local labor involved in opal mining.¹¹ The Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, in office since 2018, supposedly renegotiated the repayment for 60% of its external debt.¹² Abiy was rewarded with the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize – over the other 2019 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, David Steinman

What Tedros is about can be gleaned from the fact he named Robert Mugabe in 2017 as “goodwill ambassador” to help combat communicable diseases in Africa even though President Mugabe was considered responsible for the collapse of the public health care system and major rights abuses in Zimbabwe. It was only when human rights organizations and medical professionals expressed outrage that Tedros rescinded his decision.

Mr. Steinman alleges “**crimes against humanity as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, that the crimes were committed by Tedros himself, jointly with others and/or by individuals he effectively controlled, including but not limited to the Ethiopian security forces, civil servants, regional paramilitaries, and local police (Subordinates)**”.¹³

The Complaint's allegations are:

- Tedros “was one of the major decision makers for the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF)”, “an ethnic based political organization that effectively controlled” the government from

⁹ *Complaint to ICC, supra*

¹⁰ *Complaint, 'Tedros' Control Over Security Forces 2013-2015', supra*

¹¹ *China in Ethiopia: Between a savior and an exploiter?*, Global Voices, Sept. 24, 2021

¹² *Ethiopia's China Challenge*, March 27, 2019, africareport.com

¹³ *American Economist Issues Statement Warning Against Renomination of WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom*, *supra*

1991 to April 2018". "The TPLF's hold on power in Ethiopia relied on election fraud, violence and intimidation". "Tedros was complicit in and a major actor in these activities during the regime's latter years". "From 2012 to 2016 Tedros was Ethiopia's third highest official as foreign minister and a member of the eleven-person TPLF Executive Committee that controlled the actors who carried out the actions".

- "Tedros and those under his control" committed genocide in violation of **Article 6** by "killing, and causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the Amhara, Konso, Oromo and Somali tribes with intent to destroy those tribes in whole or in part."

- Tedros' subordinates committed crimes against humanity in violation of **Article 7**, such as "murder of political dissidents, forcible transfer of populations to make way for real estate transactions benefitting the TPLF political elite", "unlawful imprisonment, including children, in cruel and inhumane conditions that violated fundamental international law", "torture of political prisoners....Also, putting political prisoners in cells with wild animals by Liyu police", "mass rape by Ethiopian soldiers and/or controlled regional paramilitaries, including "break and rape (the practice of rape after breaking limbs)", "forced sterilization of Amhara women", enforced disappearance of persons kidnapped or murdered by security or paramilitary forces".

- "Tedros' crimes were part of a plan or policy pursuant to Article 8(1). Tedros' actions were not isolated incidents. They were part of crimes that the totality of human rights reports establish so widespread, frequent, and predictable so as to demonstrate the existence of a plan or policy or a part of a large-scale commission of such crimes that demands prosecution pursuant to Article 8(1) of the Rome Treaty".

- "Despite Ethiopia being a non-signatory state to the Rome Statute, the ICC has territorial jurisdiction over Tedros' crimes in Ethiopia under the "effects doctrine" which gives the ICC jurisdiction when a signatory state has been injured in some way by the crime of the non-signatory state (Ethiopia)". The complaint cites the ICC decision in the case of Rohingyas deported from Myanmar to Bangladesh where the Court accepted jurisdiction although the crime had been committed in Myanmar which is not a State Party (ICC Dec. No. ICC-01/19, November 14, 2019) and several other examples of cases involving harm to member states alleging that "Tedros' crimes took place directly in African member states' territory". Jurisdiction may also be derived "pursuant to Articles 12 and 13 of the Rome Statute", since "one or more countries injured by the crimes are signatories, including Switzerland where Tedros resides, works and often is present".

As of May 22, 2022, the website of the International Criminal Court did not list Tedros as one of 47 defendants on the docket. As of September 28, 2024 Tedros is not listed as one of 58 defendants. There are no decisions or orders available that refer to Mr. Steinman's complaint and there is no evidence that criminal charges were filed against Tedros. The ICC does not issue a formal statement if no investigation is opened. The only way to obtain a formal statement would be to send an inquiry to the Office of Prosecutor (OTP), an independent organ of the court. The OTP conducts preliminary examinations and investigations. It can be assumed that the ICC punted this criminal matter, since the WHO is well-connected with international organizations. The ICC website states that "political considerations never form part of the Office's decision making". This statement contradicts recurrent accusations of political partisanship made by various authors and international entities that the ICC prioritizes politics over law.

In spite of Mr. Steinman's warning in 2021, Tedros was re-elected as Director-General at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2022. The public may agree with Mr. Steinman and understand the risks of allowing Tedros a second term: "To leave a man with a long and proven history of cover-ups in charge of an organization that's supposed to alert the world to grave danger would be insane. "The odds of another pandemic during the next director-general's term are roughly one in six – the same as Russian Roulette".¹⁴

The fact that the **WHO** has proposed that they should become the global arbiter for any and all future pandemics and epidemics in the world should scare everyone. Main-stream media has ignored reporting about the World Health Assembly (WHA) vote on the proposed **WHO Pandemic Treaty and amendments to Articles 12 and 59 of the International Health Regulations**. Respective meetings have taken place since May 2022, with the latest meeting of its 194 member countries on June 1, 2024.¹⁵

These amendments will render Tedros the sole arbiter in case of a "health emergency". The amendments provide that the "WHO Director-General can declare a health emergency in a country without consulting with the country, without getting any information from the country, and if the country resists, he can go ahead and, within 24 to 48 hours, begin to mobilize all of the resources of the UN against the country....He doesn't even have to know the source or the exact nature of the emergency, so they are making him a dictator over declarations of health emergencies."¹⁶ The mere suspicion of a "health emergency" of possible concern to other nations would suffice for the WHO to take action. This new tool can be used to issue economic or financial actions against the targeted nation by nations aligned with WHO. These amendments were proposed by the United States and are supported by the European Union, Canada, UK, Switzerland, Norway and sixteen other nations. A simple majority of the 194 member countries of the WHO would make these amendments binding international law as of November 2022. Any member country can withdraw their approval within six months (under the current regulations the grace period is eighteen months).

U.K. Members of Parliament have issued warnings and calls to take action against the WHO Pandemic Treaty. The Telegraph reported in 2023 that "MPs fear new Treaty designed to increase the organization's powers would enable it to enforce border closures and vaccine passports."¹⁷ In May 2024 Nigel Farage called for "taking back control of all areas of health policies that impact citizens' rights and freedoms by withdrawing from the one-size-fits-all-treaties and mandates that dictate or put pressure on governments to implement measures which control people or tell them how to live their lives."¹⁸ Farage called on the WHO "to stop taking money from private citizens, corporations, and other non-state actors, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to avoid them gaining influence which they may use to undermine nation states." The reader commentaries show how concerned U.K. citizens are about the impact of the pandemic treaty on democracy and being a nation state: They asked whether "this Treaty was the first step in the creation of a world government", "how long before climate

¹⁴ *Steinman Statement*, supra

¹⁵ *World Health Assembly agreement reached on wide-ranging, decisive package of amendments to improve the International Health Regulations*, News Release, June 1, 2024, <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-06-2024-world-health-assembly-agreement-reached-on-wide-ranging--decisive-package-of-amendments-to-improve-the-international-health-regulations--and-sets-date-for-finalizing-negotiations-on-a-proposed-pandemic-agreement>

¹⁶ *Steinman's Statement*, supra

¹⁷ *WHO would gain powers to impose lockdown on UK*, The Telegraph, May 25, 2023

¹⁸ *Nigel Farage: We must stop the pandemic treaty and take back control from the WHO*, The Telegraph, May 13, 2024

change was declared by WHO to be a global health emergency” and otherwise urged “shutting down this WHO powergrab.”

Even an opinion article in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), titled “The new pandemic treaty: Are we in safer hands? Probably not”¹⁹ expressed reservations and criticized that the WHO retained oversight through a “third committee” of the World Health Assembly, stating that “truly independent monitoring and review [was] non-negotiable” and that it required political state leaders at the highest level, not the WHO, to carry the decision making responsibility for compliance.”

It is time to either rehabilitate the United Nation and its organs (UNHRC, WHO, PAHO, etc.) or to realize that the United Nations no longer serves the purpose that they were founded for, namely:

“To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging **respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion**“, United Nations Charter, Chapter 1, Art. 3 (3).

It is time to take action to enforce human rights in the world and to give meaning to the Human Rights Council by ensuring that the most basic human rights are protected, instead of protecting human rights abusers while promoting mere political correctness. It is understandable that informed people consider the United Nations to have outlived their usefulness and to question their existence and viability.

¹⁹ *The new pandemic treaty: Are we in safer hands? Probably not*, BMJ 2024.384, February 22, 2024