

Edited transcript

00:00

Hi, how's it going? I'm Eric. How are you? Good, good. And you? Ok, ok well, ok then we don't have all the time in the world, the first thing I want to ask is if you want to make a message for your family and your followers here, I'm recording.

00:30

To all my family and followers I already feel a little better, I am living the hell of Alcatraz. Conditions are not optimal. The medicine doesn't arrive on time. We bathe only once a week, but I am surviving thanks to the help of the lawyer I have right now, thanks to the help of my sister, thanks to all those colleagues who are supporting me. Thank you all for this support you are giving, I just want to get to my country, I just want to get to Venezuela, amend everything and get back to doing things as before, remember that adding is worth more.

01:23

Thank you! No, go on, I'm sorry.

01:29

But OK doctor? How are we doing?

01:35

Ok, so I'm already recording. I want you to give me a little more information about what your friends are saying about what happened on Tuesday.

01:49

I already called one of my colleagues Ok Cuba. Or you, anyone, any of what happened that night to tell him that the lawyer. Come, any of you. This is my lawyer, alright? He wants a person who remembers because I was unconscious. Call the boss. Who's there of the boys?

24:00

Okay.

03/02/25

Ah! Cuba Cuba My lawyer, to tell him what you told my brother.

02:45

Hello, sir! How are you?

02:48

Well, how are you doing? Luis had, well, we found out later that he had a broncho-respiratory [problem], something like that. Well, we did not know because we are not doctors, we were playing dominoes, and he was back in his bed, lying on his bed, and I saw that he sniffled, he put his face like he was gone, and he turned facing up.

03:17

Mm-hmm.

03:18

And not a second went by, and he went sideways, but turning on the bed, but with his back to us. Some guys came up for a moment and touched him, and he didn't react. He didn't react and right away we tried to give him first aid there, try to resuscitate him and that. And we called for them to open the tent to take him out, to take him out, form them to take him to get emergency care. He didn't react.

03:42

Excuse me, excuse me, it's very difficult for me to understand because you speak like a real Cuban. It's a compliment but it's a little harder for us to understand Cuban Spanish, do you understand? And now it seems that there is a problem with the connection but what I want to know is what did the officers inside when Luis had this problem?

18:35

Nothing, nothing, when they opened the door, we took him out practically dragged because he weighs, you understand, he weighs, there were three of us. I grabbed them by the armpits and two more companions grabbed him each one by one, by one, by one foot, but that was, uh, just to transport him to the corridor, because they do not allow us to be outside, and they reintroduced us to the box, to the tent as such, to the cage, but they left him lying on the floor, but they did not know, they have no medical training. Here the doctors have practically no training whatsoever. Besides, there are no specialists here either.

05:05

But how many minutes did they last?

05:09

Emergency care does not exist.

4 0511

Wait, but how many minutes did they last?

05:18

About half an hour. One started to say, take his pulse. They didn't even know how to take his pulse. Only what they did. All they did was turn him sideways and give him like a massage on the back but that's no good.

0:05:30

Okay, but they didn't call anyone, like a doctor or any nurses or anything for half an hour?

05:40

Outside someone who arrived and was going to want to give him some water. If you see a person who is like that, you can't give them water or he drowns, and at the end of the day he had a bronchial-respiratory [issue]. Imagine if they introduce the water he is going to choke even faster. But we told him, don't do that because you don't know what he has. What you have to try is to oxygenate him, you understand?

06:01

Not for half an hour, okay, and how many people in your location are sick right now?

06:10

We are 32 interns here but the box in front is also visible, the box next door, everyone was watching. There are four boxes here, four cages that are under observation that were watching what was happening to him. So, multiply 32 by 4 times, there were over 100 people practically watching what was happening to him.

There were 30 officials and they did nothing because they have practically no knowledge.

06:41

What is the percentage of people in detention right now who have health problems, who are sick now?

06:50

Mostly everyone here. All the staff gets sick because we don't get any sunlight down here.

07:01

Is it COVID?

07:03

I don't think there is COVID here, I don't know, I know there was a virus stuck here but I don't know if it will be COVID, I don't know, I have no information.

0:07:11

Okay, are there any old people there? Are there people who are a little more vulnerable to COVID or TB?

07:20

In the classroom in front of us next door there are 60-year-olds.

07:25

Do you have masks or something to protect yourselves?

07:31

No, the masks here are not given to you, they are taken away, but look, I myself got a mask.

07:37

Okay.

07:38

That depends which doctor, understand, can facilitate it, but it really is not allowed.

07:45

Ok, they are not allowed to people who want to wear them?

07:54

Yes, exactly, do you allow masks here exactly? Or they take them away because they told me it was the nurse that had blue ones, she said they were taking them away. That's why I tell you, you understand. They are already confirming to me that they are taking them away.

8:06

And since on Tuesday Luis had that problem, did the officers say anything?

08:14

We knew that Luis was going to present a problem, because practically we are all presenting it, for a few days of problem breathing, because myself the nostrils, both were bothering me, you understand? Now there are several cases here that had like a flu, a cold. But we never thought it would turn out like this nor did we know what he had. We knew we had a cold, but we didn't know at the time what was happening to him because he was having like a pre-infarct.

08:45

What do officials say when someone tries to ask for medical attention?

08:54

Yes, they have delayed medical care, it takes hours. Right now I have a toothache from a week ago with antibiotic and you have to wait up to 12 hours, I have already gone through it with a toothache. Now I'm currently talking to you with toothache.

Here the attention is too slow, too slow, too slow.

09:13

You can, you can explain a little more. I want all the facts of what happened in this half hour.

09:24

At that time there was practically no help towards the person, towards Luis and when the cart arrived with the stretcher, as such, his first aid did not come with it, it came with nothing and it is as if they were walking on the catwalk, they came slow, walking as if nothing had happened, they mounted him and they walked away. That is, there was not the right attention in the sense of haste, of trying to use every possible minute to be able to save his life because you do not know what is happening to him. If you come with a stretcher, you have to come with all the utensils, I do not know if it is the right word, but you have to come with first aid to give oxygen even if it is manual, understand? To take the pressure at that moment, as you are walking, as you are running, or that for me must be running, to go a little in a hurry, to where they have the cart, the vehicle, to be able to move it, do you understand? And this is not that many feet away from here, this should be about 50, 60 feet, from here because I have gone to the clinic.

10:34

Mm-hmm.

10:35

I think that it should have been there when we went outside, from here where we are outside, I think there are more like 60 feet, it is not far.

10:52

Well, yes, another question that you would like.

10:56

I don't know, I just want to know the most information you can give me, because...

11:02

More information: medical care is very bad because I have already gone and I repeat, there is no medical training here, specialists, dermatologists to see the skin, a dentist, for example, which is what I have also needed. Specialists as such, they do not exist.

A fast emergency team doesn't exist either, do you understand? I see that everything is like a protocol they decide, as a protocol to this and they already go like one step at a time, but a very slow step, very slow. And I do not see that they do not have assistance for a person who is having an emergency...

11:53 AM

Thank you. OK. I only have three minutes. Pass me Luis please. Thank you sir, I'm recording everything.

12:11

Record it all. Whenever we do an intervention, everything is always recorded, with family members... Well, it's good that you do that.

12:14

Is it okay with you if I publish this information?

12:26

Yes, yes, yes. Okay, okay, it's happening, it's happening because since you're going to make it public, that's it.

12:30 PM

OK. Thank you. Pass me to Luis again. OK, Luis, thank you very much for that I am recording already. I have one final question. Your sister wants to know if there are attorneys who have tried to contact you in detention.

12:58

No, not me.

13:00

OK. Thank you. I'm fighting, I'm trying to do everything we can to free you. OK. The thing you have to know is that people out here get very angry about what is happening to you and all the other detainees. OK. I just want you to stay calm if you can. OK. It is very important and you are not alone. You are not isolated. OK. We're here. OK. Can you listen to me? Luis OK. Another topic. Some. A few more questions for me? Luis. I'm asking because they're going to cut you off. More so for me.

13:50

Okay, uh, can I call you tomorrow.

13:52

Sure. Please. Call me when you want tomorrow, okay Luis? We're out here. Ok... see ya later.