

## **Colombia: 253 Children Have Died Due to Lack of Medicines**

*www.360geopolitica.org*

In just 41 and a half months of Gustavo Petro's government in Colombia, 253 children have died so far—according to various reports—for not receiving life-saving medication on time.

This tragedy, highlighted by millions of citizens since his rise to power in 2022, reached a dramatic climax with the case of Kevin Arley Acosta Pico, a seven-year-old boy with severe hemophilia A. Kevin died after a head injury, without having access to the necessary treatment to control his condition.

***This is the first death of a child with hemophilia in three decades in Colombia due to lack of treatment.***

There are also multiple reports documenting deaths linked to lack of access to treatments since 2022, although many are not reflected in official statistics under “lack of medicines” as a direct cause.

In 2025, for example, more than 530 deaths of patients with rare diseases were reported in a context marked by treatment interruptions and obstacles to obtaining essential drugs.

Patient organizations estimated that in the same year, around 1,501 people with such conditions died, attributing these losses to delays in authorizations, late delivery of medicines, and discontinuity in medical care.

The difference between official and actual figures reflects a disconnect between

government reports and the daily tragedy faced by families.

At the same time, the Ombudsman's Office reported hundreds of thousands of complaints about the non-delivery of treatments between 2022 and 2025, revealing a structural crisis in the supply system. There was also an alarming increase in legal actions (tutelas) for the right to health due to delays in medicine provision, showing that the problem affects thousands of families nationwide.

### **Government Responsibility**

The Minister of Health and Social Protection, Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo, has held the position since May 1, 2023. A surgeon graduated from the University of Rosario, he claims to have specialized in cardiovascular and pediatric cardiac surgery in *Sweden*, including training at Uppsala University Hospital, although some details of his education have not yet been confirmed.

On May 12, 2025, during a public hearing in Neiva, Minister Jaramillo described the situation of Health Promoting Entities (EPS) as ***“in intensive care as part of pressure for the approval of the health system reform.”***

After the death of Kevin Acosta, the Petro government and Minister Jaramillo publicly blamed the boy's mother, questioning her knowledge and capacity, while the child's alleged medical history was released without authorization, to deflect institutional responsibility.

Kevin's mother, a brave but humble woman, has been publicly attacked, while the authorities responsible for ensuring

patients' lives and health – the president and the minister – evade their constitutional duty to guarantee access to vital medicines.

Several criminal complaints against Minister Jaramillo remain at the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation without receiving proper attention or due process.

The Attorney General, who is close to President Petro, has handled many of the cases that reach her office unevenly, including matters such as the illegal funds that entered the Petro Presidente campaign.

#### A Structural and Systematic Crisis

Reports from civil organizations indicate that, with the complicity of illegal armed groups and criminal networks, a state policy of systematic mistreatment of children and women in Colombia has been consolidated.

This crisis also manifests in the forced recruitment of minors, which occurs every two days under official silence.

The combination of state negligence, institutional corruption, and failures in security policy has turned the lack of access to medicines into a direct threat to the lives of the Colombian people, particularly children, highlighting a human rights crisis of dramatic proportions.

Meanwhile, some European countries, which have received multi-million-dollar contracts from the Petro government in *opaque deals*, continue spending large fortunes on image campaigns to present

this government internationally as an example of good management, ignoring the real tragedy experienced by the Colombian people.

Bogotá, Colombia, February 18, 2026.