

WE ARE BRAZIL

A personal account of one of the thousands of
Marias and Anas

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My name is Mariana, the combination of the two most common female names in Brazil, MARIA and ANA. As the name says, I'm Brazilian. I am also one of the country's 211.5 million inhabitants. But, luckily for me, I am not part of the group of more than 501,985 confirmed cases of COVID-19, or 28,872 deaths. (1,2)

About a 1000 deaths are recorded every 24 hours. Every day, hundreds of Marias and Anas die. I live in Brazil, the country with the 2nd most confirmed cases in the world and the 4th highest number of deaths. (3)

In these 8,516,000 km² of land, we Marias and Anas not only have to worry about COVID-19, we are also faced with a lack of empathy and compassion throughout many parts of society. Economical issues are placed higher in value than life despite the current ravaging pandemic. (4) Brazil's government reflects the inconsequential position of many Brazilians, ultimately declaring the whole COVID-19 threat a hysteria. This strengthens the rumor that COVID-19 is nothing more than the flu, resulting in many people adopting an attitude of breaking social isolation, which therefore endangers the entire population. (5, 6)



It is important to note that during this period of social isolation, there have been many personnel changes in the Ministry of Health. Those who were in favor of quarantine were replaced or asked to stop being part of the government. This resulted in increased confusion within our country about public health affairs.

And because of that, Marias and Anas, Joãos and Josés from all over Brazil are infected and many of them are dying. The truth is that, in this challenging context, everyone has to make a difference, and we will only solve the problem by working together and thinking about each other. More compassion within our community is urgently needed.



My name is Mariana, the combination of the two most common female names in Brazil, MARIA and ANA. As the name says, I am Brazilian. I am the daughter of Ana and José, I am the sister of Juliana and Isabella, I am the girlfriend of Lucas. He is the son of Juan, husband of Leila, who is the mother of Felipe and Lucas. Lucas is thus boyfriend of one of the thousands of Marianas in Brazil, one of the thousands of Brazilians who can be contaminated every day, in an endless cycle, where only awareness can improve things.

Brazil is a country where confusion prevails in the middle of this worldwide pandemic, where half the population does not respect quarantine, where health ministers are disposable and where money and personal needs are placed above life. (5)



It is sad, it is death, it is contamination, it is a need for change and it is Brazil. It is the reality of Marias and Anas. It is the personal account of one of them. It is the outburst of one of them. It is the request for help and relief for population awareness, basic education, citizenship, empathy and compassion, for health.

My name is Mariana, the combination of the two most common female names in Brazil, MARIA and ANA. I am Brazilian and, today, I fear, I fear for my country, I fear for Brazilians, I fear for the thousands of Marias and Anas. I fear for us humans, I fear for the future and I long for a solution.

Mariana can be contacted on Twitter: @costarighi

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