



HEALTH POLICIES FOR LEPROSY IN BRAZIL: THE COMPULSORY ISOLATION AND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL REDRESS FROM 2007.

Laurinda Rosa Maciel *

** Fiocruz/Casa de Oswaldo Cruz (Brasil)
laurindamaciel@gmail.com*

Abstract

The public policy of isolation hospital for leprosy patients in Brasil was established with the approval of the Regulation of the Departamento Nacional de Saúde Pública in 1923, and set standards and duties Inspetoria e Profilaxia da Lepra e Doenças Venéreas. However, in 1949, with Law 610, this policy was enforced with more rigor, including being accepted complaints and denunciations for cases that remain undisclosed in the social environment. The isolation was used in some states until the 1980s, when the leprosy institutions was transformed into research centers or general hospitals and were definitely open.

According to some leprologists, the act of isolating compulsory aimed to assist and support patients, without forgetting, however, to safeguard the healthy population. Possible damage caused by this policy were minimized or not considered, resulting in social problems for patients who had curtailed and broken families lives.

In September 2007, by Law 11520, the Lula government has instituted a pension indemnity to repair patients who are proved to have been submitted to compulsory hospitalization in hospitals colony. This financial compensation was a way to minimize the damage caused by state action with the act to isolate. The cases are judged by the Comissão Interministerial de Avaliação that was created to grant or not such requests are presented in the form of process.

The purpose of this communication is to analyze the role of the state as responsible for providing assistance and care when hit by leprosy, but that, in achieving such action has proven to be dealing with growing repression and violation of the rights of individual freedom in the name of public health and well-being of healthy community. Finally, the communication will be shown two case studies.