

# *Cuba denies misuse of official passports*

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Havana, November 14 (RHC)-- The director-general of Consular Affairs and Cubans Residing Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ernesto Soberón, denounced on Thursday the false allegations in Ecuadorian media about the alleged misuse of Cuban diplomatic and official passports.

"There is no evidence to support those allegations. Bearers of these passports rigorously comply with the provisions of the Vienna Convention," the official wrote on Twitter.

On Tuesday, Minister María Paula Romo, when announcing that Ecuador was terminating its agreement of health cooperation with the Caribbean nation, said that the Government of Quito was calling the attention of 250 Cuban citizens entering the territory with official passports.

Romo considered that the figure stood out and that Ecuadorian authority would check with the Cuban embassy and that they were told that most of the people who entered the country with those passports were doctors, serving in compliance with the collaboration agreement.

According to the Ecuadorian newspaper *El Universo*, the minister clarified that there are no elements to assure that Cuban citizens were involved in the recent protests that took place in that country.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez recently stated at the UN General Assembly that Cuba's collaborative medical programs were suffering attacks sponsored by the current U.S. Government.

Rodríguez noted that those programs are "aimed at the most needy communities, based on a sense of solidarity and the freely voluntary disposition of hundreds of thousands of Cuban professionals, which are implemented on the basis of cooperation agreements signed with the Governments of those countries and

have enjoyed, for many years, the recognition of the international community, of the UN itself and of the World Health Organization as an exemplary example of South-South cooperation".

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