

# A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NATION

BY ANDRÉS DAUHAJRE JR.

Danilo will rest when he reaches the goal of 10 million tourists. Neither the sargassum nor the well-orchestrated campaign abroad about the death of American tourists, will stop him. He has formed an unbreakable alliance with the hotel businesses to avoid the entrance of sargassum to the beaches in the East coast. He is aware, on the other hand, that the perverse campaign about the low probability that tourists have of surviving in our geography, has its days numbered

Some think that the campaign has been orchestrated by countries that compete with the Dominican Republic in the tourism market. They maintain that, in the race to attract tourists, the Dominican Republic has taken a strong lead. To slow this growth, our competitors present cases of American tourists that have died in our country. The problem that this hypothesis faces is that the United States is the country with the widest and most varied base of statistical information in the world, which allows us to verify the validity or falseness of any hypothesis.

By entering the database of the US Department of State, we find the data on deceased US citizens in each country in the world. This data includes all deceased US citizens, including US tourists who died in the receiving country. We will use the data from 2018. The next step is to obtain information on the arrival of American tourists in each of the countries of the world in 2018, for which this information is available. We will only analyze the countries that received 50,000 or more US tourists. With both sets of information, we then went on to construct the following index: deaths of US citizens for every 100,000 US tourists.

In which country are US citizens most likely to die? "Dominican Republic!", the funny comedian would shout. Calm down, don't get carried away. The correct answer is Uruguay. Uruguay? Yes. In 2018, Uruguay led the world with an index of 7.5 deaths per 100,000 American tourists. Has anyone seen any news about this "genocide of Americans"? Nope.

## Deaths of us citizens for every 100,000 US tourists (2018)

Ranking	Country	Deaths	Tourists	Deaths (for every 100,000 tourists)
1	Uruguay	4	53,300	7.5
2	Thailand	33	498,257	6.6
3	Honduras	18	363,619	5.0
4	Kenya	4	115,701	3.5
5	New Zealand	11	334,172	3.3
6	Ukraine (2017)	5	153,778	3.3
7	Trinidad & Tobago	5	164,861	3.0
8	Ecuador	9	351,709	2.6
9	El Salvador	7	276,291	2.5
10	Nepal	2	79,146	2.5
11	Nicaragua	5	198,416	2.5
12	Cambodia	7	278,568	2.5
13	Saudi Arabia	3	119,773	2.5
14	Vietnam	17	687,226	2.5
15	Indonesia	7	162,892	2.5
16	Fiji	2	86,075	2.3
17	Colombia	13	574,559	2.3
18	Philippines	23	1,018,093	2.3
19	Costa Rica	24	1,217,511	2.0
20	Belize	6	306,987	2.0
21	Mexico*	196	10,075,187	1.9
22	Pakistan	2	108,594	1.8
23	Saint Marteen	1	54,875	1.8
24	Taiwan	10	580,072	1.7
25	Malaysia	4	253,384	1.6
26	Bolivia	1	64,853	1.5
27	Myanmar	1	65,057	1.5
28	Australia	11	744,072	1.5
29	Haiti	9	637,453	1.4
30	Chile	3	222,355	1.3
31	Bermuda	4	300,460	1.3
32	Sri Lanka	1	75,308	1.3
33	South Korea	12	967,992	1.2
34	Guyana	1	89,456	1.1
35	Cayman Islands	7	640,561	1.1
36	Panama	8	753,470	1.1
37	Romania	2	198,648	1.0
38	Turks and Caicos Islands	5	500,353	1.0
39	Bulgaria	1	101,220	1.0
40	Barbados	2	204,830	1.0
41	Jamaica	17	1,790,481	0.9
42	Poland	5	531,402	0.9
43	Brazil	5	538,532	0.9
44	Jordan	2	215,418	0.9
45	Japan	14	1,526,407	0.9
46	Lebanon	3	353,608	0.8
47	Peru	5	641,280	0.8
48	Kuwait	1	130,022	0.8
49	Slovenia	1	138,486	0.7
50	United Arab Emirates	3	416,811	0.7
51	Iceland*	5	694,814	0.7
52	South Africa	3	444,671	0.7
53	Greece	6	951,382	0.6
54	Cuba	4	637,907	0.6
55	Croatia	3	479,120	0.6
56	Ghana	1	162,975	0.6
57	Israel	4	676,900	0.6
58	Dominican Republic*	13	2,237,519	0.6
59	Hungary	4	725,000	0.6
60	China	13	2,360,957	0.6
61	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	186,234	0.5
62	Germany	14	2,909,152	0.5
63	India	7	1,456,192	0.5
64	Bahamas	9	1,936,347	0.5
65	Saint Lucia	1	218,570	0.5
66	Turkey	2	448,327	0.4
67	British Virgin Islands	2	479,327	0.4
68	Canada*	14	4,584,209	0.3
69	Russia	1	337,395	0.3
70	Argentina*	1	339,002	0.3
71	Morocco	1	375,984	0.3
72	United Kingdom	8	3,877,427	0.2
73	France	8	4,470,000	0.2
74	Spain	5	3,015,799	0.2
75	Hong Kong	2	1,304,000	0.2
76	Sweden	1	721,046	0.1
77	Netherlands	3	2,279,437	0.1
78	Austria	1	809,175	0.1
79	Switzerland	1	1,053,411	0.1
80	Italy	3	4,100,000	0.1

Note: For the Caribbean countries, the number of tourist arrivals by sea was adjusted by a rate of 1 day of permanence if the arrival is by cruise/X days of permanence if the arrival is by air, because the longer the tourist stays in the country, the higher the probability of dying. \* The data of tourist arrivals corresponds to arrivals by air, excluding arrivals by sea. \*\* Includes all tourists from the American continent. Source: Statistical institutes of each country (tourist arrivals) and US Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs (deaths of US citizens).

Infografía: José M. Medrano

Who follows Uruguay? "Dominicana!" he yells again. Wrong. The second place corresponds to Thailand, with 6.6 deaths per 100,000 American tourists. Honduras, with 5.0 deaths per 100,000 tourists, occupies the third position, followed by Kenya (3.5), New Zealand and Ukraine (3.3); Trinidad-Tobago (3.0), Ecuador (2.6), El Salvador, Nepal, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Fiji (2.5); Colombia and the Philippines (2.3); Costa Rica (2.0) ..... "and Dominicana?" the comedian returns to ask. Patience, we will get there.

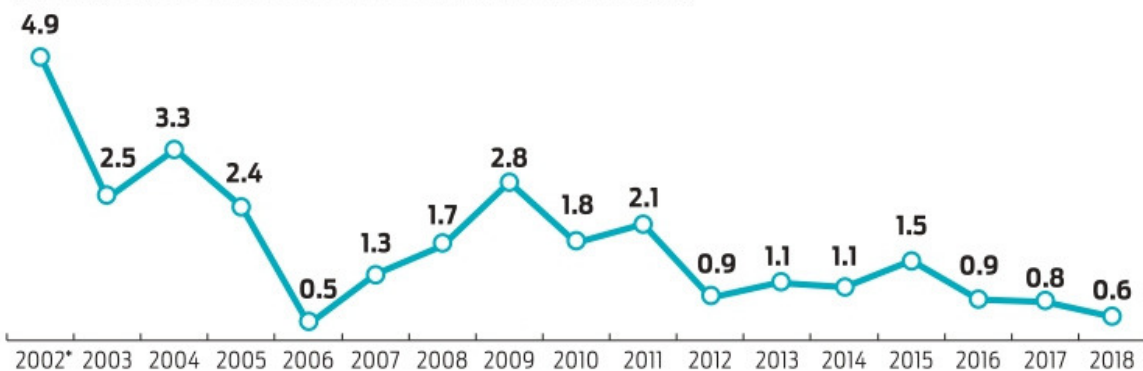
The list continues with Belize (2.0), Mexico (1.9), Pakistan and Saint Marteen (1.8); Taiwan (1.7), Malaysia (1.6), Bolivia, Burma and Australia (1.5); Haiti (1.4), Chile, Bermuda and Sri Lanka (1.3); South Korea (1.2), Guyana, Cayman Islands and Panama (1.1); Romania, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bulgaria and Barbados (1.0); Jamaica, Poland, Brazil, Jordan and Japan (0.9); Lebanon, Peru and Kuwait (0.8); Slovenia, United Arab Emirates, Iceland, and South Africa (0.7); followed by Iceland, South Africa, Greece, Cuba, Croatia, Ghana, Israel and, finally, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, and China (0.6).

Given that Argentina (0.3) is the only country in the region with a lower index than the Dominican Republic (0.6), because Saint Kitts and Nevis, Bahamas and Saint Lucia with 0.5 are very close to ours, the hypothesis that the perverse campaign originates in competitors such as Mexico, Jamaica or Costa Rica, where it is more probable that an American will die during a visit, cannot be validated.

Others say that the campaign has been orchestrated internally, in order to harm the government and bring Danilo down, with disregard of whether it affects tourism and generates an economic crisis. This hypothesis is much less credible than the previous one. Why? Very easy. First, because opposition is smarter than some recognize. It would not, therefore, touch on such a dangerous "key". Take a look at the second graph and you will understand why. The Dominican Republic, with 0.6, currently exhibits the lowest death rate of US citizens for every 100 thousand US tourists that visited us, of the last 16 years. This contrasts with an average of 3.6 during October 2002-December 2004 and 1.7 during 2005-2012.

## Deaths of US citizens in the Dominican Republic

(For every 100,000 tourists from the USA that visited the D.R. by air)



\*Data corresponds to the period October-December 2002. Source: Central Bank of the Dominican Republic and US Department of State – Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Computer graphics: Jose M. Medrano

Second, because the opposition is aware that a crisis in the tourism sector that triggers a hike in the nation's economic uncertainty, can become a double-edged sword. No one should forget that the determining factor behind the modification of the term-limits in New York that allowed Michael Bloomberg to opt and be elected for a third consecutive term in 2009 was the global financial crisis that began with the collapse of Lehman Brothers. Entrepreneurs do not commit suicide. Faced with disturbances that could negatively impact the new backbone of our economy, tourism, and raise the level of economic uncertainty, surely, they will not take risks. They will want experienced hands, totally committed to the economic and social progress of the nation, to continue guiding us to reach the goal of 10 million tourists.

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