



Empty streets, empty squares, but full hospitals

Yesterday was Peru's 199th Independence Day. But where normally long parades grace the streets there was a deathly silence.

Today, Wednesday, the official figure of people infected with the Coronavirus will probably cross the 0.4mio mark. Extensive antibody-tests suggest that 25% of Lima's, Peru's Capital, inhabitants (i.e. 2mio people) have either contracted the virus and recovered, are still infected or have died. Reliable mortality rates do not exist, but, sad to say, most large families have in the meantime had at least one casualty to report.

Over the past few days in Peru's second largest town, Arequipa, one could see patients forming long queues outside the hospitals. But many regions have run out of beds, equipment and staff.