

## **Protest in Brazil: tens of thousands of people called for Jair Bolsonaro to leave | Accusations of corruption are added to the claim for the management of the pandemic**

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“Jair will fall” says the phrase in Portuguese projected on the front of the Planalto Palace in Brasília. In the Brazilian capital, in São Paulo, in Rio de Janeiro and in hundreds of cities of the 27 states of the country this Saturday marches were held denouncing Bolsonaro for genocide and demanding his departure. What was new about the protests were the slogans against the “corruption” of the ruler accused of doing business with vaccines against the coronavirus and the participation of conservative parties.

Around 5.30 p.m., when the public continued to arrive, Tens of thousands of people lined about eight blocks of Avenida Paulista, which in addition to being the most important in São Paulo is a fairly reliable thermometer of national outrage. The fall of the president Fernando Collor de Mello in 1992 it began to germinate in the protests on that avenue.

“You see a lot of young people and people who did not come to the marches before began to be seen in Paulista. I think a part of the population realized that Bolsonaro is corrupt” says the political express during the Ricardo de Azevedo dictatorship, in a telephone dialogue with Page 12.

Some protesters toured the Monumental Axis, in the center of Brasília, with photos of Bolsonaro on which they stamped dollars, to symbolize the illegal activities with vaccines.

Others marched in front of Congress shouting “impeachment” and “superimpeachment”, this last expression was used last Wednesday when dozens of deputies from the Workers’ Party (PT) and the Socialism and Freedom Party (Pso) together with jurists presented a joint action in which the more than one hundred requests for impeachment entered since 2019 in the Chamber of Deputies were compiled. The “superimpeachment” had the support of deputies who come from the extreme right, such as Joyce Hasselmann and the retired porn actor, Alexandre Frota, both disappointed in the president. The rejection of the ruler who last week again threatened not to hand over the presidential sash to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, of the PT, is increasingly broad if he wins the 2022 elections. The latest poll gave Lula 49% against 23% of the current head of state.

The protests in Brasília and Rio de Janeiro, these carried out along Vargas Avenue, began in the morning. The Rio de Janeiro mobilization was very well attended and was attended by organizations of residents of the favelas, who repudiated the murders of the “Bolsonarista police.”

Militants from the Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB) marched through the center of São Paulo, led by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the former conservative president who recently had a meeting with his former rival Lula and later declared that he would vote for the PT to prevent Bolsonaro’s reelection.

The head of the PT, Glesli Hoffmann, applauded the unprecedented presence of the PSDB. “The movement to remove Bolsonaro is growing, we need all those who want democracy.”

This was the third opposition protest since May 29 One day, the forces of the democratic camp began to regain control of the street that had been taken from them by the official rallies, more than once led by Bolsonaro from Aeronautics helicopters or on horseback (displaying his poor horsemanship skills).

In recent weeks, along with his fall in the polls and the news about the coronavirus, the former captain stopped calling mobilizations in his support, replacing them with caravans of motorcyclists (probably police and military hidden under their helmets).

Get vaccinated

A group of social movements and parties held an emergency meeting last week in which it was decided to anticipate the protests for this Saturday. That to give immediate response to the vaccinagate scandal uncovered on Friday, June 25, at the Parliamentary Investigations Commission of the pandemic (CPI) where the deputy Luis Claudio Miranda He denounced a network of alleged corruption mounted in the government through over-invoiced contracts for the purchase of vaccines.

Miranda provided details about the signing of a contract for 20 million Indian vaccines, at \$ 15 a unit, 400 percent more expensive than the AstraZeneca, operation in which a firm that received a commission intervened and is linked to pro-government politicians. The money would be deposited to a Singapore offshore.

Miranda declared before the ICC that he had notified Bolsonaro in person about the alleged crime, which the president did not take any measures to prevent it.

The revelations caused a political shudder: the Planalto was paralyzed and the opposition denounced Bolsonaro for prevarication before the Supreme Federal Court, which this Friday ordered to open an investigation.

The stain reached the military because of Miranda’s complaint and that made by an AstraZeneca vaccine seller, suspicions arise about the former Minister of Health, General Eduardo Pazuello, and his ex number two, Colonel Elocio Franco. Everything indicates that while Bolsonaro obstructed the direct purchase of millions of vaccines from the laboratories, aggravating the health crisis, members of his government, with his possible consent, negotiated the purchase of other drugs with the payment of “commissions.” They made money with the pandemic.

The events this Saturday, once the participant public has been measured, will be a test on the impact of the scandal on the most politicized segment of society. If the protest was successful, this will fuel the impeachment request and the ICC investigations.

“As in Chile and Bolivia”

The National Union of Students, chaired by Iago Montalva, it deployed columns in São Paulo and Brasília, where the presence of young people and women was prominent.

The university community led the first major protests faced by the government that led to the resignation of the Minister of Education, Abraham Weintraubel, in the middle of last year.

For Montalva, the “growing political force” of the opposition concentrations is due to the “unity” between democratic and left-wing political movements and parties, comparable to that which existed in the “Diretas Já” movement, which emerged at the end of the military dictatorship (1964-1985).

“Our youth, mainly the poorest, have no perspective with this reactionary government that wants to end the public university and condemns us to unemployment.

Unemployment rose to 14.7 percent according to the state Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, which affects 14.8 million Brazilians of all ages. But the Getúlio Vargas Foundation and other academic centers, in a report published by the newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*, that one out of every two young people is unemployed.

“The youth do not accept a reactionary government like this, listen to the youth, the youth have no prospects,” declared the student leader. Montalva frames the Brazilian outrage within a regional process: “look what happened in the mobilizations in Chile, Bolivia, Colombia.”

The analysis with a Latin American prism of the university leader is completed with the comment of the former political detainee, Ricardo de Azevedo, on the regional implications that the meeting of Bolsonaro and the director of the CIA, William Burns, which took place last week in Brasília, could have.

“There is a lack of information about the meeting with the head of the CIA, but this may be related to Bolsonaro’s destabilizing position, he tried to destabilize the government of Venezuela, supported the coup in Bolivia and attacks progressive governments in the region” said de Azevedo.

“Bolsonaro advances towards a dictatorship”

Meanwhile, in one of the columns that shouts “Bolsonaro genocida” on Avenida Paulista, downtown São Paulo, is Ricardo de Azevedo, who in the 1970s participated in the armed resistance to the dictatorship of which he was a political prisoner.

“The afternoon is beautiful in Paulista, São Pedro is helping us because it is not raining, a lot of people are arriving, the presence of young people is very significant, the same as in the other marches,” says De Azevedo in telephone communication with *Page 12*.

De Azevedo is the coordinator of the “68 Movement Always in Struggle”, a group where participants in the historic mobilizations of that year against the regime meet.

“We are fighting against the dictatorship and today we are fighting against the threat of dictatorship that Bolsonaro represents. Bolsonaro’s objective is to implant one in Brazil. We can see concrete elements that show that he wants to move towards that, such as the threats to the Supreme Federal Court, the restriction of democratic freedoms, the militarization of the government “.

“There are many similarities with the military of yesterday and today. In the 70s there were hard-line soldiers and others like Ernesto Geisel (dictator 1974-1979) who proposed a limited opening. Confrontation is something common within the Armed Forces since the 1920s.

“These divisions were not seen during the progressive governments of Lula and Dilma because perhaps they concealed them, but today they can be clearly seen, there are clearly Bolsonarist sectors and other sectors that prefer that the armed forces play a more secondary role, sectors that seem to be more institutionalist “.