

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 32

Condemning the violent insurrection in Brazil on January 8, 2023, and expressing United States solidarity with the people of Brazil, as well as support for safeguarding Brazil's democratic institutions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the violent insurrection in Brazil on January 8, 2023, and expressing United States solidarity with the people of Brazil, as well as support for safeguarding Brazil's democratic institutions.

Whereas Brazil is a strategic partner and major non-NATO ally of the United States, and the bilateral relationship, which includes cooperation on economic, environmental, defense, and human rights issues, is predicated on a shared commitment to democratic values, including absolute respect for free and fair elections;

Whereas the people of Brazil voted in the first and second round of general elections on October 2, 2022, and October 30, 2022, respectively, which were unanimously rec-

ognized as free and fair electoral processes by independent electoral observers;

Whereas Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won the second round presidential election on October 30, 2022, receiving 50.9 percent of all votes cast by Brazilians for the presidency and defeating incumbent president Jair Bolsonaro;

Whereas, in accordance with Brazil's constitution, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was sworn into office as the 39th President of Brazil on January 1, 2023;

Whereas, prior to Brazil's general elections, former president Jair Bolsonaro repeatedly made false and unfounded accusations questioning the transparency and integrity of the country's electoral processes, publicly attacked the impartiality of Brazil's Supreme Court and Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and encouraged his supporters to amplify these baseless claims;

Whereas, on July 6, 2022, the then-head of Brazil's Supreme Electoral Tribunal warned while in Washington, DC, that former president Jair Bolsonaro's undemocratic rhetoric and baseless allegations of electoral fraud exacerbated the risk of Brazil experiencing political unrest as or more severe than the United States Capitol insurrection on January 6, 2021;

Whereas, in the aftermath of Brazil's general elections, former president Jair Bolsonaro refused to formally concede to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and continued to share voter fraud conspiracies on social media;

Whereas, on January 8, 2023, one week after President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was inaugurated, supporters of former president Jair Bolsonaro engaged in a violent, organized siege of Brazil's presidential palace, Congress,

and Supreme Court and called for President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to be removed from office via military or other violent intervention if necessary, marking the worst assault on Brazilian democracy since the country’s transition from a military dictatorship in the 1980s;

Whereas, similar to the violent siege against the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, Brazil’s January 8, 2023, insurrection exposed the resiliency and fragility of democracy and the harmful consequences of public officials deliberately spreading electoral disinformation and disregarding the rule of law;

Whereas the heads of Brazil’s three branches of government issued a joint statement condemning the “terrorist acts” on January 8, 2023, and reaffirming support for Brazil’s democracy;

Whereas President Joe Biden swiftly condemned the “assault on democracy and on the peaceful transfer of power in Brazil”, and committed to fully supporting Brazil’s democratic institutions; and

Whereas Brazilian authorities are currently pursuing investigations to ensure all rioters, financiers, and public officials responsible for the events on January 8, 2023, are held accountable, including by examining the role of social media in organizing and amplifying the riots and opening investigations into the actions of former senior officials, including former president Jair Bolsonaro: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses its ongoing solidarity with the
3 people of Brazil and unwavering support for Brazil’s

1 democratic institutions in the aftermath of the Jan-
2 uary 8, 2023, insurrection;

3 (2) condemns the violent siege conducted by
4 former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro's sup-
5 porters against Brazil's presidential palace, Con-
6 gress, and Supreme Court that was fueled, in part,
7 by disinformation spread by former president Jair
8 Bolsonaro over several months;

9 (3) commends Brazil's electoral institutions for
10 conducting free, fair, and transparent elections on
11 October 2, 2022, and October 30, 2022;

12 (4) urges social media and group messaging
13 companies to take concrete steps to address the
14 ways its platforms are used to facilitate
15 disinformation and misinformation in Brazil, and to
16 work with Brazilian authorities to address any role
17 such platforms had in facilitating and amplifying the
18 violent events on January 8, 2023;

19 (5) urges the President to expeditiously review
20 all requests from Brazilian authorities related to the
21 investigation into the January 8, 2023, insurrection,
22 including any future extradition requests for former
23 senior Brazilian officials;

24 (6) encourages the United States Senate and
25 House of Representatives to support any requests

1 from the Brazilian Congress related to its investiga-
2 tion of the violent siege that occurred on January 8,
3 2023, including sharing best practices from the in-
4 vestigation conducted by the United States House
5 Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th At-
6 tack on the United States Capitol;

7 (7) endorses President Biden’s invitation of
8 President da Silva to Washington, District of Co-
9 lumbia, to continue United States-Brazil collabora-
10 tion on a wide-ranging shared agenda; and

11 (8) reaffirms its commitment to strengthening
12 the alliance and strategic partnership between the
13 United States and the Government of Brazil on the
14 defense of democracy and human rights and other
15 issues of shared priorities, including defense co-
16 operation, food security, environmental cooperation,
17 and inclusive and sustainable development.

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