

Geneva, 27 April 2018



Her Excellency Ms. Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Chemin Louis-Dunant 15 (6th Floor)
1202 Geneva

Email: delbrasgen@itamaraty.gov.br

Call for impartial review of former President Lula's case, his immediate release, and to be allowed to run for president

Dear Honourable Ambassador Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo,

We call on the Government of Brazil to comply with its treaty obligations, customary international law, and protect the fundamental rights to due process of law and to a fair trial.

We urge the Government of Brazil to adopt the following measures:

1. The immediate release of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, at a minimum, until the appeals process has been completed, in accordance with the Brazilian constitution.
2. An impartial review of Mr. Lula's case by a judiciary not connected to the Temer administration.
3. That Mr. Lula be allowed to run for the presidency in this year's election.

The right to a fair trial and the due process of law are bedrock principles of a democratic order. These rights have been enshrined in numerous international human rights instruments,

including article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and article 8 of the American Convention on Human Rights. They are also recognized as customary international law.

Despite having ratified these instruments, the Government of Brazil has violated and continues to violate these fundamental human rights by engaging in a blatantly politically motivated prosecution of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to prevent him from running for office in the elections later this year.

The international trade union movement has recognized, in many opportunities, the important contributions, which extended beyond Brazil, made by the governments of President Lula in creating an international paradigm of economic growth with social inclusion through the generation of employment and income for millions of Brazilians, combining national sovereignty and international solidarity. Furthermore, we condemned the 2016 coup d'état, perpetrated on behalf of interest groups and resulting in the loss of national patrimony and serious deterioration of social and workers' rights.

We stand in solidarity with former President Lula and the hundreds of thousands of people, who have participated in the democratic and peaceful demonstrations in support of him throughout the country, and especially the most recent ones in the south of the country.

In this respect, we reiterate our call on the Brazilian authorities to rigorously investigate and punish the perpetrators of the criminal attack, including gunshots, against the participants of former President Lula's convoy in the State of Paraná last month, and to ensure normalcy and peace in the exercise of the political process, so that Brazil can resume a democratic coexistence.

We defend Mr. Lula's constitutional right to prove his innocence by appealing the convictions by politicized sectors of the lower courts, as well as to uphold his constitutional right to free movement, to speak out freely and to run for the next presidential election.