



Why is **Jair Bolsonaro**  
facing criminal charges  
in **Brazil?**

- The former president stands accused of orchestrating a criminal enterprise to undermine and ultimately abolish the rule of law in the country.

- The federal chief prosecutor exposed a plot to overthrow the government that ultimately led to attacks on the three branches of power.



- A police investigation uncovered plans to assassinate president Lula, vice president Alckmin, and justice Moraes.



- The supreme court (stf) has secured a fair trial and is waiting for the defendants' closing arguments to deliver a verdict.

- bolsonaro and his son are alleged to have colluded with trump allies in an attempt to extort the brazilian judiciary and government.





Jair Bolsonaro and seven former members of his government, including four generals, are defendants in a criminal case before the Supreme Court, accused of attempting to overthrow the constitutional order. The indictment, filed by the Federal Chief Prosecutor Office on February 18, relies on a Federal Police inquiry into the violent assaults on the seats of the three branches of government in Brasília on January 8, 2023, and related prior events.

The criminal case involves a total of 34 people, including top security officials who helped carry out the attacks. Jair Bolsonaro is directly accused of:

- **Leading an armed criminal organization**
- **Attempting to violently abolish the democratic rule of law**
- **Attempted coup d'état**
- **Causing damage to federal property through violence and serious threats**
- **Deterioration of a protected heritage site (The Three Powers Square is a UNESCO World Heritage site)**

The key pieces of evidence supporting the Federal Chief Prosecutor's case against Jair Bolsonaro and his associates are documents and recordings produced by the defendants themselves. Here are some notable examples:

- A video of an official cabinet meeting in which Bolsonaro orders government actions against the Electoral Tribunal, with one minister discussing illegal espionage targeting candidates, and another proposing to trigger a coup before the elections.



- Spreadsheets outlining police roadblocks planned for election day during the runoff, specifically targeting regions with strong support for President Lula.
- Digital files and personal notes detailing a campaign aimed at discrediting the electoral process both within Brazil and abroad.
- Falsified reports about vote counts in the 2018 and 2022 elections.
- Digital files containing drafts of decrees to annul election results, establish a military junta, shut down Congress, and arrest political leaders and Supreme Court justices.
- Digital plans for terrorist attacks labeled “Copa 2022” and “Punhal Verde Amarelo,” intended to assassinate President Lula, Vice President Geraldo Alckmin, and Justice Alexandre de Moraes.



The indictment also describes the roles of the 34 defendants in funding and organizing roadblocks on federal highways and protests in front of military bases, demanding a military intervention to block Lula's inauguration.



The individuals responsible for the attacks on the Federal Police headquarters and the arson of passenger buses on the day of the elected president's certification (December 12, 2022) came from the camp in front of the Army's headquarters in Brasília.



Terrorists who attempted to blow up a fuel truck at Brasília's International Airport on Christmas Eve of that year also originated from the same camp at the Army headquarters.



Bolsonaro is accused of running a criminal organization made up of his closest aides in the government and military:



**WALTER BRAGA NETTO**

Army general, former Minister of Defense, and Bolsonaro's 2022 running mate.



**AUGUSTO HELENO**

Army general, former head of the Institutional Security Office.



**ALEXANDRE RAMAGEM**

Ramagem, former head of Brazil's Intelligence Agency (Abin).



**ANDERSON TORRES**

Former Minister of Justice and former security secretary for the Federal District.



**ALMIR GARNIER, ALMIRANTE**

Admiral, former Commander of the Navy.



**PAULO SÉRGIO NOGUEIRA**

Army general and former Minister of Defense.



**MAURO CID**

Army lieutenant colonel and former aide-de-camp.

Under Brazilian law, the former president and his top associates face sentences that could add up to 43 years behind bars.

January 8th marked the final chapter in an ongoing plot to overthrow the government. It was also the last, posthumous act of Jair Bolsonaro's presidency. Donald Trump's attempt to pressure for Bolsonaro's trial to be halted amounts to resurrecting and finishing the failed coup — a move widely rejected by democracy supporters in Brazil and around the globe.

# Bolsonaro is not a victim of “a witch hunt”

The documents, testimonies, and tangible evidence of crimes against democracy attributed to Jair Bolsonaro and his associates were collected over 17 months of police investigation, overseen by the courts, and completed in November 2024. On February 18th, the Federal Chief Prosecutor’s Office filed charges, which were unanimously accepted by the five justices of the First Panel of the Supreme Court on April 11th.

Since then, all the defendants, their lawyers, and 61 witnesses they named have been heard. On June 26th, the Federal Chief Prosecutor’s Office asked for the conviction of the defendants, and the deadline for defenses’ final arguments was set—marking the last step before the trial.

It’s false to claim that Bolsonaro is a victim of political persecution. It’s also reckless for his ally Donald Trump to call it a “witch hunt.” The legal process is unfolding strictly according to due process. All the defendants have been guaranteed full defense rights ever since the police inquiry was opened on June 26, 2023.

Over these past two years, Bolsonaro has operated freely both inside and outside Brazil to oppose the criminal case. Instead of gathering evidence in his favor, he organized protests to attack the electoral system, the Supreme Court, and its justices; he threatened Congress to push for his amnesty; and he even sent his son, Eduardo Bolsonaro, to the U.S. to conspire with Trump’s officials for external intervention in Brazil’s judicial system.

It was only after this conspiracy was confirmed—through aggressive trade sanctions and explicit blackmail against Brazil by the Trump administration—that the Supreme Court issued its first injunction against Bolsonaro on July 17th. He was banned from traveling and from approaching foreign embassies in Brasília, and he was required to wear an electronic ankle monitor, measures provided for under Brazilian law for crimes like serious threats and obstruction of justice.

Once again, confirming the external conspiracy against the Brazilian judiciary, the day after, the Trump government retaliated by revoking the visas of Supreme Court Justices entering the U.S. And one week later, it imposed unilateral economic sanctions on Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the lead prosecutor in the case, under the Magnitsky Act.

The injunctions rendered by Justice Moraes were confirmed by 4 out of the 5 members of the Supreme Court's First Panel, which is responsible for overseeing the criminal case. Because Bolsonaro disobeyed these measures and challenged the authority of the Supreme Court, he has been under house arrest since August 4th—also a measure allowed under Brazilian law.



FUNDAÇÃO  
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