

WEEKLY REPORT



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POLITICS

BOLSONARO ATTACKS BRAZIL JUDGES, WARNS OF "INSTITUTIONAL RUPTURE"

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Saturday called for the Senate to bring charges against two Supreme Court justices, warning of an "institutional rupture" in his latest clash with the judiciary as investigations threaten him and his allies. "It has been a while since Supreme Court Justices Alexandre de Moraes and Luis Roberto Barroso have exceeded constitutional limits with their acts," Bolsonaro wrote on Twitter. "Everyone knows the consequences, internal and external, of an institutional rupture, which we neither provoke nor desire." [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S ELECTORAL COURT ACCUSES BOLSONARO OF DISCLOSING CLASSIFIED POLICE REPORTS

The power struggle between the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE) and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has entered a new round. The TSE on Monday (9) accused President Jair Bolsonaro of disclosing confidential police documents and requested an investigation for this action by the Supreme Court, amid escalating tension between the president and the judicial branch of government. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CONGRESS BLOCKS CHANGES TO VOTING SYSTEM DESPITE MILITARY SHOW OF FORCE

Brazil's lower house of Congress voted down a plan by far-right President Jair Bolsonaro to alter the country's voting system on Tuesday, despite an unusual display of military hardware by the armed forces. Politicians of all stripes called the parade of navy tanks, armored personnel carriers, and amphibious vehicles a form of intimidation hours before lawmakers were set to vote on a constitutional amendment backed by Bolsonaro. Brazil's lower house of Congress voted down the proposal with 229 votes in favor, 218 against and one abstention, with dozens of lawmakers absent. The vote fell seventy-nine votes short of the three-fifths majority needed to approve a constitutional amendment. [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: WHY BRAZIL'S CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES REJECTED PRINTED BALLOTS, A BOLSONARO INITIATIVE

The Lower House of Brazil's National Congress rejected on Tuesday, August 10, the proposal to amend the Constitution (PEC) that would have mandated printed ballots in Brazil. The result was closer than expected, with 229 votes in favor, 218 against, and one abstention. Under the 1988 Constitution, to be enacted, a PEC requires the support of 60% of all members of the National Congress: 308 of the 513 deputies in the lower house, in two rounds of voting, and then forty-nine of the eighty-one senators. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO TAKES PART IN ATYPICAL MILITARY PARADE, SENDS AN AMBIGUOUS MESSAGE

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro took part in an uncharacteristic military parade in front of the presidential office and Congress in Brasilia amid a climate of institutional tension. Along with the commanders of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and several ministers, Bolsonaro watched the small convoy of military vehicles from the top of the ramp of the Planalto Palace, which

overlooks Congress and the Supreme Federal Tribunal (STF). Officially, the event was organized for armed forces members to present the president with an invitation to a military exercise held annually about 80 km from the capital since 1988. [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO ROLLS OUT TANKS TO COVER HIS WEAK POSITION

The clouds of dark exhaust spewing from aging tanks and amphibious vehicles rolling past far-right President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday were a poor smoke screen for a leader whose political support is slipping, and re-election is in trouble. Politicians and analysts said this week's unusual military display outside the presidential palace in Brasilia revealed not strength but the political weakness of a president on the ropes for failing to lead Brazil out of the coronavirus pandemic and an economic crisis. [Read more.](#)

SENATE APPROVES BILL THAT REVOKES NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

The Senate approved a bill Tuesday (10) that revokes the National Security Law, enacted in 1983, during the military dictatorship. The text, which also adds a series of crimes against democracy to the Penal Code, passed a symbolic vote and will be sanctioned by President Jair Bolsonaro (no party). To prevent the bill from returning to Congress, the rapporteur, Rogério Carvalho (PT-SE), did not change the version approved by congress in May and rejected all amendments. Although the bill had been on the agenda since last week, senators defended the approval on Tuesday (10) as a response to the military parade that took place on the same day in Brasília. [Read more.](#)

FORMER BRAZIL CONGRESSWOMAN GOES TO JAIL ON CHARGES OF KILLING HUSBAND

Flordelis dos Santos de Souza, a former Brazilian congresswoman accused of orchestrating the execution of her husband in June 2019, was arrested on Friday evening after being stripped of her parliamentary immunity. Flordelis, as she is widely known in Brazil, was charged with murder a year ago along with ten alleged co-conspirators in the death of her husband, pastor Anderson do Carmo. He was shot thirty times in the garage of their home. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CONGRESS VOTES ON "MINI" LABOR REFORM THAT CREATES NEW FORMS OF HIRING AND CHANGES THE RULES OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF LABOR LAWS

The House of Representatives voted on a mini-labor reform that creates new forms of hiring and changes the rules of the Consolidation of Labor Laws. The base text was approved on Tuesday (10) by 304 votes in favor and 133 against. Congressmen analyzed suggestions for changes in the proposal, which now goes to the Senate. If not voted on by September 7th, it expires. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STANDS AT 14.6%, REACHING 14.8 MILLION BRAZILIANS -IBGE

The unemployment rate was 14.6% in the quarter ended in May (March, April, and May), virtually unchanged from the quarter ended in February (14.4%). In practice, 14.8 million Brazilians are looking for a job in the country. The data come from the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (Pnad), released Friday (30) by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL INFLATION UP 0.96% IN JULY

The National Broad Consumer Price Index (IPCA), which gauges changes in prices for families with an income between one and forty minimum wages, went up 0.96 percent in July, the biggest result for the month since 2002, when the increase stood at 1.19 percent. The data were disclosed on Tuesday (Aug. 10) in Rio de Janeiro by the government statistics agency IBGE. [Read more.](#)

CENTRAL BANK TO DO THE "NECESSARY" TO KEEP INFLATION IN CHECK

Brazil's Central Bank President Roberto Campos stated once again today (Aug. 12) that the financial institution will do "what is necessary" to keep the inflation within the established range of targets. "We will use every existing tool as they are needed, to have the inflation rates anchored in the medium and long runs," Campos Neto said at the 33rd National Congress of the Brazilian Bars and Restaurants Association, Abrasel. [Read more.](#)

WHY BRAZIL'S ENHANCED FAMILY GRANT THREATENS THE SPENDING CAP

President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday (30) said he intends to raise the average amount of Bolsa Família (Family Grant) by at least 50% and even argued that the country should go into debt to pay for the social program. The president said that on Friday he would meet with the federal government's economic team to determine the Bolsa Família's new amount, which is currently "low" at R\$192 (US\$37). [Read more.](#)

DEFORESTATION IN BRAZIL'S AMAZON EDGES DOWN, STILL HIGH UNDER BOLSONARO

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest fell 10% in July from a year earlier, after four straight monthly increases, preliminary data showed on Friday, but destruction remains far higher than before President Jair Bolsonaro took office. Cleared forest in the month of July totaled 1,498 square km (578 square miles), nearly twice the size of New York City, according to government space research agency INPE. [Read more.](#)

COCOA GIANT IN BRAZIL SLAVE LABOUR PROBE SAYS IT CAN'T TRACE SUPPLIES

One of the world's top cocoa processors has told a Brazilian court investigating child and slave labor it cannot trace its supplies, contradicting its own public statements and raising fears exploitation may be going unchecked. Olam International is one of three food companies being sued by Brazilian state prosecutors for failing to address labor abuses in their supply chains. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL HITS NEW RECORDS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION

Brazil set ten new records in energy production from renewable sources in the Northeast. The data were released by the National Electric Energy System Operator, ONS. Four records were reported in average wind energy and four in instantaneous wind energy (when winds lead to a peak in production), in addition to two records under solar energy production. The country's Ministry of Mines and Energy mentioned the index registered on July 22, when for the first time the force of the winds generated energy capable of fueling 102 percent of the entire Northeast region for 24 hours. On that day alone, more than an average eleven thousand megawatts of wind energy. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIANS ARE MORE ATTENTIVE TO FAKE NEWS BUT NOW MISTRUST EVERYTHING

Eight out of ten Brazilians (79%) consider the spread of false news, or "fake news," to be a severe problem, according to a survey conducted by the IDEIA and Vero institutes, which polled 2,000 people nationwide in July. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

BRAZIL SENATE APPROVES BILL THAT COULD ALLOW CORONAVIRUS VACCINE PATENTS TO BE BROKEN

Brazil's Senate on Wednesday approved a bill authorizing the president to temporarily break patents for vaccines and their ingredients in health or public emergencies, such as the coronavirus pandemic. The bill, having already passed in the lower house, will go to President Jair Bolsonaro for signature. Bolsonaro has spoken against the proposal, saying it could harm Brazil's relationship with vaccine producers and that the country would not have the technology to produce vaccines even if the patents were broken. The Senate restored provisions removed

by the lower house, including some that would require patent holders to share information and biological material necessary to reproduce vaccines and potential penalties should they not comply. [Read more.](#)

COMPULSORY LICENSE ON VACCINES AGAINST COVID FACES RESISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

The compulsory license of patents on vaccines against Covid faces resistance from the federal government and the pharmaceutical industry. In the assessment of government officials and businessmen, the measure would not solve the problem in the short term, said Folha de S.Paulo this Thursday (12). The bill approval was commented by the Ministry of Economy. For the Special Secretary for Productivity and Competitiveness, Carlos da Costa, the measure is harmful to the country and consumers. In the secretary's assessment, the law may have an effect contrary to what was expected by lawmakers, ending up making it difficult for Brazil to produce and purchase these items. For him, the biggest bottleneck in this area is not the existence of international patents. The holders of these rights are open to licensing the products, but the problem lies in the transfer of technology between countries, a time-consuming process. The secretary stated that the ministry is still evaluating the text approved by Congress to decide on a request to veto Bolsonaro. [Read more.](#)

JUDGE DENIES JOHNSON & JOHNSON PATENT TERM EXTENSION

Judge Waldemar Cláudio de Carvalho, of the 14th Federal Civil Court of the Federal District, denied a request by Johnson & Johnson for the patent extension of the Stelara drug, used in the treatment of moderate to severe psoriasis. Initially, the patent would expire on 2/7/2027, but the term was adjusted — following the decision of the Federal Supreme Court (STF) that annulled a provision of Law 9,279/96 (industrial property law) — for 8/7/2021. [Read more.](#)

LIRA INDICATES CONGRESS MAY OVERTURN BOLSONARO'S VETO ON ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY BILL

The president of the Chamber, Arthur Lira (PP-AL), said this Monday (9) that the presidential veto of the bill that forced health plans to fund oral medications for cancer patients will be overturned by deputies and senators. According to the newspaper O Estado de S.Paulo Lira hinted that the government is considering sending a Provisional Measure on the matter, which would avoid defeat. To supporters, President Jair Bolsonaro justified that there was no funding source foreseen to release the measure - although the law involved only the private system. "If there is no new MP, the ban on oral cancer treatment will probably fall," said Lira, in an interview with the website O Antagonista. Approved by Congress earlier this month, the proposal faced resistance from health care providers. On the other hand, medical entities are in favor because they saw more comfort and options for those undergoing treatment. These associations criticized the president's decision. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSMAN REQUEST BILL ABOUT SUSPENSION OF DRUG READJUSTMENT TO BE ANALYZED BY ONE MORE COMMITTEE

Congressman Otto Alencar Filho (PSD-BA) presented application 1631/2021, proposing that the Commission for Economic Development, Industry, Trade and Services (CDEICS) analyze Bill 939/2021. Authored by senator Lasier Martins (Podemos-RS), the proposal amends Law No. 10,742 of October 6, 2003, which establishes rules for regulating the pharmaceutical sector, to suspend the annual adjustment of drug prices for the year 2021. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH COMMITTEE IN THE FEDERAL SENATE WILL EVALUATE THE POLICIES ABOUT PRICING AND INCORPORATION OF TECHNOLOGIES IN THE SUS

The Health Committee of the Federal Senate approved, on Tuesday (10), the application (REQ 2/2021), for the evaluation of the pricing policies and processes, incorporation and dispensing of technologies in the System. Health Service (SUS). The initiative, by Senator Mara Gabrilli (PSDB-SP), will be conducted with public hearings, meetings, and requests for information, which will result in a report with suggestions for improvements in the legislation. [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL SENATE APPROVES CREATION OF A PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON RARE DISEASES

The Senate Social Affairs Committee approved application 1/2021, which creates the Permanent Subcommittee to monitor and improve public policies aimed at people with rare diseases. Senators Mara Gabrilli (PSDB-SP) and Paulo Paim (PT-RS) made the request. In 2019, the subcommittee, which was also requested by Senator Mara Gabrilli (PSDB-SP), worked on a temporary basis, and discussed the main problems related to care provided to people with rare diseases in the country. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL ASKS PFIZER FOR EXPLANATION ON THIRD DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE

Brazil's sanitary regulator Anvisa asked for more information from pharmaceutical company Pfizer on the third dose of the laboratory's vaccine against COVID-19, named Comirnaty. The agency now wants data from the studies conducted by the company on the administration of the extra shot, as well as the results obtained by the research. A meeting with Pfizer representatives on the topic has also been requested. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S PRIVATE CLINICS LOOK FOR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN COVID-19 VACCINATION

After plans to buy India's Covaxin vaccine fell through in the wake of a series of charges filed in Covid's CPI against the product's representative in Brazil, the country's private vaccination clinics face a double hurdle to participate in the campaign against coronavirus. Brazilian companies face a shortage of purchasable vaccines and Brazilian legislation. [Read more.](#)

ICU OCCUPANCY FOR COVID-19 IN BRAZIL AT LOWEST SINCE 2020

For the first time since October 2020, no Brazilian state has more than 80 percent of ICU beds for COVID-19 occupied in Brazil's public hospitals. The announcement was on Wednesday (Aug. 11) by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), tasked with drafting the COVID-19 Observatory Report. According to Fiocruz researchers, the country is facing the best moment regarding bed occupancy since the indicator started being monitored by the Observatory report team. In this week's analysis, they once again underscore that the vaccination campaign has made an enormous difference reducing severe cases of the disease and argue that the access to inoculation should be expanded and accelerated. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL REPORTS 39,982 NEW CORONAVIRUS CASES, 1,148 DEATHS

Brazil recorded 39,982 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the past 24 hours, along with 1,148 deaths from COVID-19, the Health Ministry said on Thursday. Brazil has registered more than twenty million cases since the pandemic began, while the official death toll has risen to 566,896, according to ministry data. [Read more.](#)