

WEEKLY REPORT



08/28/21

POLITICS

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SAYS HE'S NOT SEEKING DEMOCRATIC "RUPTURE," BUT CALLS FOR "FREEDOM"

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said Thursday (26) he "does not even dream" of a "democratic rupture," but reiterated that society wants "freedom" and "free elections" in 2022 and not to be led by the "dictatorship" of "one or two" judges. In a live broadcast on his social networks, the conservative head of state reiterated that he plans to participate in demonstrations on September 7, Independence Day, called by his supporters to protest for freedom of speech and against undemocratic intimidation attempts by the Supreme Court. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO CALLS FOR PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 7

Jair Bolsonaro continues to attack the Supreme Court and inflame his supporters, who are planning a September 7 pro-Bolsonaro demonstration. Governors have warned Bolsonaro of the risk of inflaming the military police, and they asked for a truce and meeting to stop the institutional crisis. In a speech on Friday, Bolsonaro referred to the impeachment request of Supreme Court justice Alexandre de Moraes, raising the tension between the branches of the government. On Monday (23), the president returned to promoting the paper ballot. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL BOLSONARO SAYS SEPT 7 MARCHES WILL NOT BE VIOLENT

Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday said Brazilians need not worry, as the Sept. 7 nationwide marches by his supporters will not be violent. Concerns have been growing that Bolsonaro's supporters, riled by frustrations with the Supreme Court, federal election authorities and lawmakers, could strike out during the marches. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL GOVERNORS CONCERNED OVER BOLSONARO SUPPORT AMONG MILITARY POLICE

Brazil's state governors are concerned about military police turning out in support of President Jair Bolsonaro in an upcoming march, minutes published on Tuesday showed, as the far-right former army captain continues to sow doubt about next year's presidential election. Their concerns came to light in minutes of a Monday meeting of governors in Brasilia, in which they discussed a worsening political crisis in Brazil, as Bolsonaro picks fights with the Supreme Court and federal electoral authorities, and questions the credibility of the country's elections. Of Brazil's 27 governors, 25 signed the minutes expressing concern about the high level of support for the president among the country's roughly 500,000 military police, who report to state governors. [Read more.](#)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE REJECTED BOLSONARO'S IMPEACHMENT REQUEST AGAINST SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The president of the Senate, Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG), rejected President Jair Bolsonaro's impeachment request against Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes this Wednesday (25). Amid his escalating pro-coup discourse and the series of attacks on members of the court, Bolsonaro also filed a lawsuit against Moraes last Friday (20) and, in addition to his removal

from office, asked for the removal of the magistrate from his public functions for eight years. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO STILL WANTS TO IMPEACH STF JUSTICE BARROSO, BUT SUSPENDS PETITION

President Jair Bolsonaro is said to have decided to suspend for the time being the transmission to the Senate of the impeachment petition of Justice Luis Roberto Barroso of the Federal Supreme Court (STF), says Brasilia-based Metr  poles newspaper, which is usually well connected with politics in the capital. Still, advisers to the president suspect that Bolsonaro will keep the motion up his sleeve as a trump card. The idea is to develop it further in response to possible new judicial actions against him or his allies. [Read more.](#)

AMID INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS, BRAZILIAN STATE GOVERNORS WANT TO MEET WITH BOLSONARO

On Monday, August 23, 25 governors attended the national forum of state leaders at the Buriti Palace in Brasilia. The governors announced that they would seek a meeting with Jair Bolsonaro and hope to be received by the president. The governor of the Federal District, Ibaneis Rocha (MDB), said they agreed on the need to reduce tensions between the Planalto Palace and the Supreme Court (STF) and strengthen democracy. [Read more.](#)

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS STATUTE GIVING AUTONOMY TO BRAZIL'S CENTRAL BANK

Brazil's Supreme Court (STF) on Thursday 26) ratified a law enacted during the government of Jair Bolsonaro that gave autonomy to the Central Bank, which had been denounced as unconstitutional by two opposition political parties. The lawsuit, filed by the left-wing Workers (PT) and Socialism and Liberty (PSOL) parties, alleged a procedural defect, but the argument was rejected by an 8 – 2 vote at the full court, after a hearing that demanded two days of debates. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL PLANS TO ENCOURAGE LOWER ENERGY USE AMID DROUGHTS

Brazil on Wednesday said it was looking at rolling out measures next month to incentivize consumers to use less energy, as the worst drought in nearly a century hits power generation, fans inflation and hurts agribusinesses. "The idea of the program is to reward consumers who make an effort to reduce the load and contribute to increasing safety and reducing the cost of generation," Brazil's electric energy secretary Christiano Vieira said at a press conference. Earlier on Wednesday, Reuters reported that the measures aim to lower the country's electrical load by 10% and reduce demands on the system by 7,000 megawatts to avoid energy rationing, according to a source. [Read more.](#)

DROUGHT-STRUCK BRAZIL EXPECTS SEPT RAINFALL WELL BELOW AVERAGE

Rainfall in key energy-producing regions of drought-struck Brazil is likely to remain well below average in September, the national grid operator ONS said on Friday, doing little to relieve high energy prices and headaches for agribusiness. Brazil, one of the world's agricultural superpowers, is grappling with one of its worst droughts in nearly a century. The lack of rainfall has hurt farmers and forced the country to rely more on costly thermoelectric power plants, stoking inflation and dragging on the economy. With reservoirs low at key hydroelectric dams, the government is encouraging Brazilians to consume less power, but has so far ruled out energy rationing. [Read more.](#)

BRASIL CONSIDERS UNDERGROUND WATER USE AS ANSWER TO WATER CRISIS

Researchers at the Geological Service of Brazil—SGB in the original Portuguese acronym—on Tuesday (Aug 24) suggested the use of underground water as a possible answer to the aggravated water risk in the country's Southeast and Central-West. The alternative is based on a survey published today, conducted at the meteorological water stations operated in the basis

of the rivers Grande, Paranaíba, and Tocantins, which add up to 80.86 percent of the energy storage capacity in the two regions' subsystem. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO USE COP26 TO BOOST IMAGE OF COUNTRY'S FARMING

Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply wants to revert the environmentally negative image that agribusiness has overseas. Government officials will use the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to improve its reputation. While participating Tuesday (Aug. 24) in the debate Pro-climate: Agribusiness, Food Security, and Sustainability, promoted by Brazil's National Industry Confederation (CNI), Agriculture Minister Tereza Cristina said that COP26 will represent an opportunity for the country to show the world "the positive role of Brazilian agribusiness in mitigating emissions and adapting to climate change." [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN INDIGENOUS PROTEST AGAINST CHANGE IN LAND RECOGNITION RIGHTS

Approximately 6 thousand indigenous people from 170 ethnic groups are camping in Brasília as Brazil's Supreme Court deliberates on a cut-off date for land recognition rights. The issue should start being discussed in a session held today (Aug. 26). Since last Sunday, the indigenous people have set up a camping site dubbed Luta pela Vida ("Fight for Life"), in the Esplanade of Ministries, where they are visited by supporters from society and politicians. A few acts of protest were staged against the measures that may limit land recognition rules and against violence targeting indigenous people, like land invasion. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN POPULATION REACHES 213.3 MI IN 2021

The Brazilian population reached 213.3 million on July 1, 2021, according to an estimate made by the government's statistics agency IBGE. Last year, Brazil was home to 211.7 million people. The estimated growth of the population from 2020 to 2021 was 0.74 percent, as per IBGE data. Reported as the most populous states are São Paulo (46.65 million), Minas Gerais (21.41 million), and Rio de Janeiro (17.46 million). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL JUDGES SEEK HUMANITARIAN VISA FOR AFGHAN JUDGES

Two of the main judges' associations in Brazil have made efforts this week in Brasília to seek to provide a humanitarian visa for the 270 female judges of Afghanistan after the Taliban resumed control of the country. According to a communication sent to Brazil's Foreign Ministry Tuesday (24) by the head of the National Association of Federal Judges of Brazil (Ajufe), Eduardo Fernandes, the Afghan magistrates "are in danger for carrying out the duty and also having tried and condemned members of the regime that resumed control of the country." Additionally, the head of the Brazilian Magistrates' Association (AMB), Renata Gil, yesterday (25) met with the president of the Commission of Foreign Relations of the lower house, representative Aécio Neves to call from his to help granting the visas. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

NEW LAW IN BRAZIL ENDS NEED OF PRIOR APPROVAL OF PATENTS FOR HEALTH PRODUCTS BY ANVISA

President Jair Bolsonaro signed into law, on Thursday (26), the provisional measure (MP) 1040 of 2021, which facilitates the opening of companies and seeks to improve the business environment in Brazil. The text ends with the need for prior consent from the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) for patents on pharmaceutical products and processes. [Read more.](#)

INPI HAS ALREADY RESOLVED 100,000 BACKLOG PATENT APPLICATIONS

During the first day of the ABPI's International Congress on Intellectual Property, held from August 23 to 26, INPI's director of Patents, Computer Programs and Integrated Circuit Topography, Liane Lage, highlighted the efforts of INPI's servers and collaborators to achieving

the goal of reducing by 80% the amount of 149,912 patent applications filed by the end of 2016 and included in the Backlog Combat Plan. [Read more.](#)

USE OF THE MADRID PROTOCOL BY BRAZILIAN COMPANIES WILL BE DEBATED IN SEPTEMBER

The INPI, the US Consulate General in Recife, the American Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) will promote, on September 22, at 2 pm, the webinar "Madrid Protocol and global brands: opportunities and challenges for Brazilian companies". The event is supported by the Brazilian Export and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brasil) and Porto Digital in Recife. The online seminar is aimed at companies interested in the international market, with the objective of presenting to this audience the ways to protect their brand and benefit from the Madrid Protocol. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY EXTENDS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ABOUT CRITERIA FOR DRUG PRICING

A communication from the Secretary of Advocacy for Competition and Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economy was published in the Official Gazette of the Union, on the extension, for another thirty days, of the closing date of the Public Consultation SEAE No. 2/2021, which establishes criteria for setting the prices of new products and new drug presentations. Thus, the deadline for submission of contributions, which would be until August 27, is now until September 26, 2021. [Read more.](#)

WOULD NEW DRUG PRICING BE A CHANCE FOR ADHERENCE TO MORE TECHNOLOGIES?

Since July, changes in drug pricing rules are under public consultation. The proposal is from the Department of Competition and Competitiveness Advocacy of the Ministry of Economy and would change the regulation currently dealt with in Resolution 2/2004 of the Medicines Market Regulation Chamber (CMED), an inter-ministerial body. According to the Secretariat, the objective is to expand the supply of medicines and new technologies in the Brazilian market. The discussion about the need for changes in this regulatory stage, which precedes the sale of any drug, has been going on for years. However, the pharmaceutical industry's concern is that the proposal does not get off the ground. This public consultation ends at the end of September. After this period, the final text can be published. [Read more.](#)

STF WILL DECIDE IN THE PLENARY THESIS ON THE SUPPLY OF HIGH-COST MEDICINE

Suspended since August 2020 after Minister Gilmar Mendes' request for a review, the judgment of RE 566471, which will define the exceptional criteria in which the State must provide high-cost medication, will be finalized in a session of the physical plenary of the Federal Supreme Court (STF). The ministers have already made the decision on the merits, but a thesis with general repercussion remains to be established, which will be applied in similar cases that are being processed in the lower courts of the Judiciary. Gilmar Mendes paralyzed the debate on the thesis with a request for views. [Read more.](#)

PATIENTS WANT SUS TO PROVIDE MEDICATION USED TO TREAT MUSCLE ATROPHY

Entities representing patients with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) complained about the delay in the inclusion of gene therapy for the treatment of the disease in the Unified Health System (SUS). The matter was debated at a hearing of the Social Security and Family Committee of the Chamber of Deputies this Wednesday (25). Gene therapy or gene therapy is the insertion of genes into an individual's cells and tissues for the treatment of a disease, in particular hereditary diseases. The Zolgensma drug is a pioneer in the genetic treatment of AME, but its main obstacle is its high cost, which reaches more than two million dollars, which leads families to go to court to buy the drug through the SUS. [Read more.](#)

CHANGES IN HEALTH PLAN RULES ARE DEBATED AT A MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' ONCOLOGY WORKING GROUP

Meeting of the Oncology Working Group of the Chamber of Deputies with medical entities and patient associations, this Tuesday (24), debated the veto of PL 6330/2019, which amends the Health Plan Law to expand access to treatments home antineoplastics for oral use. Also discussed were proposals to the draft Provisional Measure that the Ministry of Health is considering presenting to prevent parliamentarians from overthrowing the veto. [Read more.](#)

OPINION - ADI 5529 AND ITS IMPACTS ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

Industry whose strategic character was once again attested by the covid-19 pandemic, the pharmaceutical area is probably one of the most regulated, requiring large initial investments in view not only of the high regulatory standard, but also the high cost of developing new products. As an industry with high risks and high barriers to entry, legal certainty becomes essential for a healthy business environment. However, recent decisions by the Federal Supreme Court (STF) have brought uncertainty to innovative industries in the pharmaceutical area. On April 7, Minister Dias Toffoli decided to grant an injunction in the direct action of unconstitutionality (ADI) No. 5529 applicable only to patents on "pharmaceutical products and processes and equipment and/or materials for use in health" in order to determine the suspension of the application of the sole paragraph of article 40 of the Industrial Property Law, which determined that patents would have a minimum term of ten years from the date of their granting as compensation for the delay in the examination. The decision caused astonishment in the pharmaceutical industry not only for the urgent allegation of the suspension of a rule in force for 25 years, but for re-establishing a discrimination against the pharmaceutical field that was believed to have been eliminated with the approval of the TRIPs treaty in 1994. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO WANTS DATE FOR ENDING MASK USE

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Monday that he will ask his health minister to set a date to end the use of face masks as a means of reducing transmission of COVID-19 in Brazil. Masks have become a political issue in Brazil, with Bolsonaro long ranting against their use and frequently refusing to wear one in public despite a legal requirement to do so. In the radio interview, the president argued that with much of the population already vaccinated or having caught the virus, masks are not needed. [Read more.](#)

ITAMARATY COVERTLY SECURED VACCINES FROM INDIA AND FOR 10% OF THE AMOUNT PAID BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

After unsuccessful attempts to secure 2 million vaccine doses in India last January, leading to a loss of US\$ 500,000 for Fiocruz, Itamaraty secretly negotiated with the Indian government. Brazil's foreign ministry managed to transport the same doses for US\$ 55 thousand, about 10% of the amount paid by the foundation. The entire operation was carried out in secrecy, and the Ministry of Health only found out when the cargo was about to board the Emirates plane at Mumbai airport. [Read more](#)

BRAZIL TO GIVE COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS TO ELDERLY AND VULNERABLE

Brazil will give booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines to people with compromised immune systems and those over the age of 70 beginning in mid-September, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday. Vaccines from AstraZeneca (AZN.L), Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N), or Pfizer (PFE.N) will be used for the booster shots, the ministry said in a statement. The information differs from remarks on Tuesday by Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga, who had said vulnerable people and over 80-year-olds would receive an additional jab of the Pfizer. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN PHARMA FIRM TO PRODUCE PFIZER/BIONTECH VACCINE FOR DISTRIBUTION IN LATIN AMERICA

The consortium of the U.S. pharmaceutical company Pfizer and the German laboratory BioNTech announced Thursday (26) an agreement with the Brazilian multinational Eurofarma

for the local production of its Covid-19 immunizer and its distribution in Latin America. [Read more.](#)

INOVIO TO START COVID-19 VACCINE TRIAL AFTER BRAZIL REGULATOR'S NOD

Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc said on Thursday it would start a large study for its experimental COVID-19 vaccine in the next few weeks, after the drugmaker received authorization from Brazil's regulatory agency. The company is currently working on importing the vaccine to Brazil and expects dosing of trial participants to begin in September, Chief Executive Officer Joseph Kim told Reuters. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL STUDY FINDS CORONAVIRUS IN FETUS'S VITAL ORGANS

A Brazilian study has for the first time shown the presence of the novel coronavirus (Sars-CoV2) in different organs of a fetus—the heart, the windpipe, the kidneys, the brain, and the liver. Previous research had demonstrated signs of the virus in the umbilical cord and the placenta, but this is the first time it is detected in fetal tissues. It was also the first time scientists observed that Sars-CoV2 caused a lung infection in the fetus of a mother that had been infected with the virus. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL REPORTS 577,565 DEATHS FROM COVID-19

The number of lives lost to the COVID-19 pandemic has reached 577,565, after the 920 new deaths caused by the disease from Wednesday to Thursday. The figures can be found in the daily update published by Brazil's Ministry of Health on Thursday (Aug. 26) evening. The report combines data on cases and deaths collected by state health secretariats. The amount of people who caught COVID-19 in Brazil since the beginning of the pandemic now stands at 20,676,561. In 24 hours, 31,024 positive diagnoses of the disease were confirmed. [Read more.](#)



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