

WEEKLY REPORT



02/20/21

POLITICS

BRAZILIAN FAR-RIGHT CONGRESSMAN SILVEIRA ARRESTED FOR MAKING THREATS TO SUPREME COURT, RULE OF LAW

Congressman Daniel Silveira (PSL – RJ) was arrested on Tuesday night, February 16th, by order of STF Justice Alexandre de Moraes, as part of an investigation into verbal attacks on the Supreme Court's justices and fake news. [Read more.](#)

TIME MAGAZINE NAMES LEFT-WING LEADER GUILHERME BOULOS ONE OF THE 100 GLOBAL EMERGING LEADERS

The leader of Brazil's MTST (Homeless Workers Movement) Guilherme Boulos was elected by Time magazine as one of the 100 "emerging leaders who are defining the future", according to a list released on Wednesday, February 17th. Boulos, former candidate for mayor of São Paulo for the PSOL party, is part of the annual Time 100 Next list. According to the magazine, "his surprising performance [in the mayoral election] in the influential city [of São Paulo] established him as a rising name in Brazilian politics and provided the left-wing a new path." [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: LEFT-WING TAKES OFF AGAIN IN LATIN AMERICA – BUT NOT IN BRAZIL

The first sign of a Latin American left-wing revival was given in December 2018 in Mexico, with the election of Andrés Manuel López Obrador as President and Claudia Sheinbaum as Mayor of the capital. [Read more.](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH SUSPECTS THAT BOLSONARO GOVERNMENT IS SECRETLY TRYING TO CHANGE BRAZIL'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

The Bolsonaro administration has established a working group to propose changes to the National Human Rights Program, the most important statement of human rights policy in Brazil. The working group does not include any civil society representatives, Congress, or the justice system, and all its discussions are secret. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO BILLS WILL FACE RESISTANCE IN HOUSE AND SENATE THIS YEAR

While the new Congressional summit embraces the government's priorities regarding the economic agenda, the conservative agendas that are more aligned with President Jair Bolsonaro will continue to face resistance in the House and Senate. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO'S GUN SALE INCREASE DECREES RAISE INSECURITY AND ISSUE MAY REACH SUPREME COURT

President Jair Bolsonaro used Friday, the eve of a near-carnival in Brazil, to sign four decrees that further ease the sale of weapons and reduce inspection by the relevant bodies. It is the thirtieth normative act published in the past two years by Bolsonaro, as part of a policy that has contributed to an increase in the number of guns in circulation in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

WITH NO AID AND UNDER PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS, ECONOMISTS SEE RECESSION RISK IN BRAZIL

Amid the pandemic upsurge, the Brazilian economy began 2021 with signs of a slowdown. With no emergency aid for casual workers, discontinued in January, a contraction of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in this first quarter was already on the radar. Now, there is a growing number of analysts who expect a drop in the second quarter too, creating what the market calls a “technical recession”, when the economy contracts for two straight quarters. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CONGRESS TO ANALYZE EMERGENCY AID BILL NEXT WEEK - SENATE PRESIDENT

Brazil's Congress will next week analyze a constitutional amendment that aims to revive emergency cash transfers to millions of the country's poorest and most vulnerable people, Senate President Rodrigo Pacheco said on Thursday. Emergency aid to over 60 million Brazilians as the COVID-19 pandemic raged last year expired on Dec. 31, but a second wave of the virus and a faltering economic recovery have forced the government to extend it, albeit at lower rates. [Read more.](#)

HALF OF BRAZILIAN COMPANIES STARTED 2021 WITH DROP IN PROFITS, SAYS FGV

Almost half of Brazilian companies started 2021 with a profit below that registered in the same period last year, according to a survey by FGV / Ibre. The special survey shows that 48% of companies reported lower profits, 35% reported stability and 17% said they had a better result than January 2020. In the researchers' assessment, the upsurge in the pandemic and the withdrawal of emergency aid are factors that point to a worsening of these results in the coming months. [Read more.](#)

DESPITE BRAZIL GOVERNMENT'S CRITICISMS, CHINA'S HUNGER FOR BRAZIL'S PRODUCTS HIT A RECORD

Although open criticism of China has become almost a refrain of Brazilian foreign policy during the first two years of President Jair Bolsonaro's administration, China's hunger for Brazilian products hit a record last year – and should grow even more in coming years. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO TO OUST PETROBRAS CEO AFTER FUEL PRICING SPAT

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro moved to replace the head of state-run oil company Petrobras, naming a retired army general with no oil and gas experience as CEO after weeks of clashes with the current chief executive over fuel price hikes. In a late Friday statement from the Mines and Energy Ministry, first shared on Bolsonaro's Facebook page, the government said it had decided to appoint former Defense Minister Joaquim Silva e Luna to run Petróleo Brasileiro SA, as the firm is known formally. Current CEO Roberto Castello Branco, backed by investors for his efforts to sell underperforming assets and cut debt, would be the second Petrobras leader in three years to fall over the political fallout from fuel pricing. In 2018, then-CEO Pedro Parente resigned when the government forced fuel prices lower in a concession to striking truckers. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL, US DISCUSS ENVIRONMENT

Brazil's Minister of Foreign Relations Ernesto Araújo and Minister of the Environment Ricardo Salles held an online conference Wednesday (Feb. 17) with the US presidential envoy for climate, John Kerry, to discuss climate change and efforts against deforestation. Kerry was appointed in November as the main representative of the Joe Biden administration in matters of climate and the environment. On social media, Minister Ricardo Salles reported that, in addition to climate change, the Amazon, and the United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate, the meeting also revolved around an event being organized by the US government on the environment. The Earth Summit is slated to be held on April 22 in Washington. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

BRAZIL GUARANTEES VACCINES FOR EVERYONE OVER 18, YET ONLY 9% HAVE BEEN DELIVERED

Brazil reached a desired level of pandemic control last Tuesday, February 16th. With the confirmation of the purchase of 54 million CoronaVac doses, produced by Sinovac Life Science pharmaceutical company in partnership with the Butantan Institute, the country has enough to immunize the whole population over 18 years of age. There are currently 162.8 million Brazilians over the age of 18, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN CAPITALS SUSPEND 1ST DOSE VACCINATION; MAYORS' GROUP CHALLENGES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Less than a month after the start of vaccination, capital cities are beginning to suspend campaigns for lack of inventory. Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and Cuiabá have already announced that the first dose of the immunizer will not be administered until new deliveries come in. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH PROMISES MORE VACCINE DOSES IN FEBRUARY THAN BUTATAN CAN DELIVER

Amid a lack of Covid-19 vaccine doses, leading some cities to interrupt their campaigns, the Minister of Health, Eduardo Pazuello, informed governors that the ministry will deliver 11.3 million doses in February. The volume, however, is above that predicted by the laboratories that supply the vaccines. According to the health ministry, 2 million doses of the Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine will be imported from India by Fiocruz. In February, the Ministry of Health foresees 9.3 million doses of the Coronavac vaccine, developed by the Chinese company Sinovac and produced in Brazil by the Butantan Institute. [Read more.](#)

'SPUTNIK V-BR': AMBASSADOR BELIEVES RUSSIAN VACCINE MAY BE FULLY PRODUCED IN BRAZIL

Russia's ambassador to Brazil, Sergey Akopov, is excited about the prospects of producing the Russian vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, the Sputnik V, on Brazilian soil. Akopov praised the facilities of Brazilian pharmaceutical company União Química, its production partner in the country, and believes that Brazil will not need to import raw materials for the production of the Russian vaccine. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL EXCEEDS 10 MILLION COVID CASE MARK, WITH 1,432 DEATHS IN PAST 24 HOURS

The country has registered 10,028,644 infections and 243,610 Covid-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic, according to the media consortium. The rolling average of deaths has remained above the 1,000 mark for 29 days. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO SEND ENTOURAGE TO ISRAEL TO SEE SPRAY AGAINST COVID-19

President Jair Bolsonaro said he will send a Brazilian entourage to see the nasal spray EXO-CD24 against COVID-19, currently being developed by Tel Aviv's Ichilov Medical Center, in Israel. "We're also making the arrangements to have an entourage go to Israel for the spray to cure COVID-19, EXO-CD24. Hopefully, it is going to go well," he said in a video recorded on São Francisco do Sul beach, on the coast of Santa Catarina state, on Tuesday (Feb. 16). The president and his family members spent the Carnival week at the Marechal Luz fort, a reserved military area. "By all accounts, the treatment against COVID-19 with this spray in serious cases should in all likelihood prove successful," the president added. Brazil, he went on, should participate in the next stage of tests on this product, currently in phase 2. [Read more.](#)

MASSIVE CONSOLIDATION WAVE LOOMS IN BRAZIL'S PRIVATE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Brazil's public health system has been pushed to the breaking point by one of the world's deadliest coronavirus outbreaks, but its private healthcare sector is experiencing an unlikely deal making boom. The push to consolidate, which comes amid rising demand even beyond the pandemic thanks to an aging population, has spawned the country's biggest takeover deal so far this year, its top IPO in recent years and has lured investors ranging from U.S. private equity firm Carlyle Group Inc to venture capital funds and one of Brazil's most prominent real estate developers, Cyrela founder Elie Horn. [Read more.](#)



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