

Lula vows to keep fighting for the poor

People are hungrier and have no jobs, Brazil's former President tells supporters after securing release

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRASILIA

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro asked his supporters on Saturday "not to give ammunition to the scoundrel," the day after popular leftist leader Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva walked free from jail.

Breaking his silence on the release of his arch-nemesis, Mr. Bolsonaro told his Twitter followers: "Lovers of freedom and good, we are a majority. We cannot make mistakes." He added that Mr. Lula was "momentarily free, but guilty."

Mr. Lula's dramatic exit from jail in the southern city of Curitiba on Friday came a day after a controversial Supreme Court ruling that could release thousands of convicts and undermine a sprawling corruption investigation called Car Wash.



Our leader: Supporters of Brazil's former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva celebrating his release from prison in Rio de Janeiro on Friday. • REUTERS

Court ruling
A 6-5 decision overturned a rule requiring convicted criminals to go to jail after losing their first appeal. Those convicts would remain free until they had exhausted their rights to appeal — a process critics say could take years in cases involving people able to afford expensive lawyers.

In an impassioned address to hundreds of supporters who greeted him as he walked out of the federal police headquarters, Mr. Lula, 74, vowed to keep fighting for poor people.

The former union leader who helped found the Workers Party (PT) also denounced the economic policies of Mr. Bolsonaro, who was swept to power in 2018 in an election Mr. Lula had

been widely tipped to win. "People are hungrier, they have no jobs, people work for Uber or delivering pizzas on a bike," Mr. Lula said in remarks sometimes drowned out by cheers from the crowd and fireworks overhead.

Mr. Lula, who led Brazil through a historic boom from 2003 to 2010, earning him the gratitude of millions

of Brazilians for redistributing wealth to haul them out of poverty, was serving eight years and 10 months for corruption. He was sentenced to almost 13 years in jail in February in a separate corruption case and still faces another half dozen corruption trials.

Mr. Lula has denied all the charges, arguing that they were politically motivated to

keep him out of the 2018 presidential election that was won by Mr. Bolsonaro. Justice Minister Sergio Moro, who convicted Mr. Lula when he was a judge in 2017, said the Supreme Court's decision must be respected, but he noted "Congress can modify the Constitution or the law" to allow the jailing of convicted criminals after their first appeal.

Even though he has been freed, Mr. Lula's criminal record will prevent him from resuming his political career.

That could change, however, if the Supreme Court were to decide in a separate case that Mr. Moro had been biased.

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Sanders welcomes move
Left-wing leaders from around the world, including Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and U.S. liberal presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders have cheered Mr. Lula's release.

"I am delighted that he has been released from jail, something that never should have happened in the first place," Mr. Sanders tweeted after Mr. Lula walked out.

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Iraq forces clear protest sites as leaders defend government

Nearly 300 people have died in more than a month

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Iraqi security forces began clearing protest sites in Baghdad and across the south on Saturday, after political leaders agreed to stand by the current government by any means necessary, including force.

The fractured political class appears to have rallied around embattled Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi, whose government was threatened by the largest and deadliest grassroots protests in Iraq in decades. On Saturday, security forces wrested back control of three bridges over River Tigris in the heart of Baghdad that had been partially occupied by anti-government protesters. They re-



Not giving up: A protest in Baghdad, Iraq, on Friday. • AP

took the Al-Sinek, Al-Shuhada and Al-Ahrar bridges that link the east bank, where the main protest camps are located, with west bank districts which are home to government offices and foreign Embassies. Nearly 300 people have died in protest-related violence since rallies erupted on October 1, spreading from Baghdad to

cities across the south. Public anger first focused on widespread corruption and a lack of jobs, then escalated into calls for the entire ruling system to be overturned. The protests initially took the government by surprise but Iraq's entrenched political class has since closed ranks to protect its rule.

Hong Kong sees huge rally after student's death

This was the 24th weekend of protests

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Tens of thousands of Hong Kongers packed into a park on Saturday night to mourn a student who died during recent clashes as police arrested a group of pro-democracy lawmakers, deepening the city's political crisis. The finance hub has been upended by five months of huge and increasingly violent pro-democracy protests, but Beijing has refused to give in to most of the movement's demands.

Tensions have soared since the death on Friday of Alex Chow, 22, who succumbed to head injuries sustained during a fall as

police skirmished with demonstrators inside a car park last weekend. The rally — one of the few in recent months to obtain police approval — means Hong Kong has witnessed 24 weekends of protest in what has become the most profound challenge to Beijing's rule since the 1997 handover.

The rally came after police brought charges against at least seven lawmakers, who now face up to a year in jail if convicted. The charges relate to chaotic scenes that broke out within a legislative committee in May as pro-democracy lawmakers tried to stop a controversial Bill being discussed.

University set ablaze by Chile protesters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SANTIAGO

Demonstrators in Chile set a university building ablaze and ransacked a church on Friday at the close of a rally, marking three weeks of unprecedented protests against inequality.

Protesters clashed with police who had set up barricades to protect private Pedro de Valdivia University, and shortly thereafter, the wooden roof of its 100-year-old administration building began to burn, witnesses said. Nearby, hooded protesters looted the church of La Asuncion, dragging furniture outside and setting it alight.

ELSEWHERE



Bolivian government decries 'coup attempt'

LE PAZ
The government of Bolivian President Evo Morales, in picture, denounced what it called a coup by violent groups on Saturday, as some police forces carried out acts of "mutiny" in support of Opposition protests amid a weeks-long stand-off over a disputed election. • AFP

Sharif to leave for London today

LAHORE
Pakistan's ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will leave for London on Sunday for treatment as his condition remains critical, a senior PML-N leader said on Saturday. Mr. Sharif agreed on Friday to go to the U.K. for the treatment, heeding doctors' advice and accepting his family's request. • PTI

Iran begins enriching uranium to 5%

TEHRAN
Iran said on Saturday that it is now enriching uranium to 5%, after a series of steps back from its commitments under a 2015 accord. "Based on our needs... we are currently producing 5%," said Atomic Energy Organisation spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi. • AFP

Bangladesh moves citizens away from coast

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOUSOUNI ISLAND

Bangladeshi authorities on Saturday ordered more than 4,00,000 people to flee coastal villages and islands as Cyclone Bulbul headed for the Bay of Bengal coast. The eye of the storm, packing winds of up to 120 km per hour, was expected to hit land around the Bangladesh-India frontier late on Saturday.

A storm surge up to 2 m (7 feet) high was predicted along the coast, Bangladesh's Meteorological Department said. Bangladesh troops were sent to villages to help with the evacuation. About 55,000 volunteers were also going door-to-door to warn residents. Minister for disaster management Enamur Rahman said the evacuation

of 4,00,000 people would be completed by Saturday evening. "We've already evacuated some 3,91,000 people," he said.

1,500 tourists stranded
About 1,500 tourists were stranded on the southern island of Saint Martin after boat services were suspended due to bad weather. Bangladesh's two biggest

ports, Mongla and Chittagong, were closed because of the storm and flights into Chittagong airport have also been halted.

Bulbul was expected to hit the coast at the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, which straddles Bangladesh and part of eastern India and is home to endangered species including the Bengal tiger.

On Berlin Wall anniversary, Merkel urges Europe to defend values

'We have to do our part for freedom and democracy'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday urged Europe to defend democracy and freedom as Germany marked 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, warning that such gains must not be taken for granted.

At a solemn ceremony in a church standing on the former "death strip" that divided East and West, Ms. Merkel said the Berlin Wall reminds "us that we have to do our part for freedom and democracy".

'Not self-evident'
"The values upon with Europe is founded... they are anything but self-evident. And they must always be



Angela Merkel placing a candle at the Berlin Wall Memorial on Saturday. • AFP

lived out and defended anew," she told guests from across the continent.

On November 9, 1989, East German border guards, overwhelmed by large

crowds, threw open the gates to West Berlin, allowing free passage for the first time since the Berlin Wall was built. The momentous event would end up bringing the communist regime crashing down, and led to German reunification a year later.

But the euphoria for liberal democracy that characterised the epochal event then has somewhat dissipated three decades on, as the Western alliance that helped secure those achievements is riddled with divisions.

Cracks have appeared within the European Union as former eastern bloc countries like Hungary and Poland are accused of challenging the rule of law.

SUDOKU

3			9	1				
								8
	2	6		3		1		
	8	5	4				7	
9				7				1
	1				5	4	6	
		7		4		9	3	
8								
			5	7				6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	4	6	7	8	2	5
8	7	4	9	5	2	3	1	6
5	6	2	8	1	3	9	4	7
2	4	5	6	3	1	7	8	9
3	1	6	7	9	8	2	5	4
7	9	8	5	2	4	1	6	3
9	2	1	3	4	6	5	7	8
6	8	3	2	7	5	4	9	1
4	5	7	1	8	9	6	3	2

'Trump asked Ukraine to probe Joe Biden, son'

Transcripts of hearings give details

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

There was no hinting around, it was a straight-out trade, two key White House officials told impeachment investigators. If Ukraine's new leader wanted an Oval Office welcome from Donald Trump — and he did — he would have to open a public probe into the President's Democratic rival Joe Biden and his son.

"There was no ambiguity," said Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, an Army officer assigned to the National Security Council, recounting an extraordinary day of meetings at the White House last summer.

Impeachment inquiry

According to transcripts released on Friday in the House Democrats' impeachment inquiry, Lt. Col. Vindman and Fiona Hill, a former White House Russia adviser, both gave first-hand

descriptions of scenes central to the Congressional probe. Lt. Col. Vindman testified that Gordon Sondland, a Trump donor serving as Ambassador to the European Union, told the visiting officials that if they hoped to win that coveted face-to-face meeting, "the Ukrainians would have to deliver an investigation into the Bidens."

In another episode that day at the White House, Ms. Hill testified that Mr. Trump's National Security Adviser John Bolton "immediately stiffened" as Mr. Sondland "blurted out" that he had worked out with Mr. Trump's acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney just that trade — the Ukrainians' probe for an Oval Office welcome.

The hundreds of pages of transcripts showed the investigation's deep reach into the White House ahead of next week's public hearings.

Dangerous trail



Massive displacement: Catastrophic bushfires in eastern Australia killed at least three people during the week and forced thousands from their homes, with the death toll expected to rise as firefighters struggled to rescue affected people. Picture shows a fire raging in Bobin, 350 km north of Sydney, New South Wales, on Saturday. • AFP

FB deletes articles identifying whistleblower

Several conservative outlets, including Breitbart, have named the person

MARC TRACY

Facebook has taken down articles posted by the far-right site Breitbart that purported to identify the whistleblower who triggered the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump, just two weeks after including the site in the line-up of publishers whose work would be featured in a new news product.

The President and his supporters have argued that the whistleblower should be identified because, they say, his revelations about a phone call between Mr. Trump and the President of Ukraine were politically motivated. But others have urged the protection of his anonymity, citing his safety and deference to whistleblower statutes, which are



On the streets: A protest against U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington on Friday. • AP

designed to encourage people to bring information to light in the public interest. In an article on Friday, Breitbart said its posts naming the person were taken down on Wednesday. Facebook said it was taking down any mention of the name throughout the platform, regardless of the source.

"Any mention of the potential whistleblower's name violates our coordinating harm policy, which prohibits content 'outing of witness, informant or activist,'" a Facebook spokeswoman said in an emailed statement. "We are removing any and all mentions of the potential whistleblower's name and

will revisit this decision should their name be widely published in the media or used by public figures in debate." Although several conservative outlets have named the person thought to be the whistleblower, other outlets have chosen not to do so.

YouTube's decision

YouTube said on Friday that it would remove videos that mentioned the person's name, but Twitter said such references did not violate its policies.

An attorney for the whistleblower has urged continued anonymity for his client: "Identifying any suspected name for the whistleblower will place that individual and their family at risk of serious harm," the attorney, Mark S. Zaid, said in a statement on Twitter this week. • NY TIMES