

Press release

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Contact: wbo@braziloffice.org



BRAZIL REPORT: Four Crucial Themes for the 2022 Elections

WASHINGTON D.C., April 29, 2022 – The Washington Brazil Office delivered to the international community and U.S. government authorities a report on four crucial themes for the 2022 Brazilian elections. The document, written by scholars based in the U.S. and Brazil and in consultation with Brazilian civil society, focuses on four areas: 1) Democracy and Human Rights; 2) Amazon, Environment, and Climate Change; 3) Socio-economic Issues and Challenges; and 4) The Role of Social Movements.

In the face of risks presented by the next presidential elections, experts addressed important issues related to the respect for democratic norms, the future of the Amazon, and the deterioration of human rights in Brazil. The report calls attention to significant events from the last year which contributed to the consolidation of the social, political, and economic crisis in the country, while addressing ways in which U.S. foreign and domestic policies can be leveraged to help defend democracy, human rights, and the environment in Brazil.

"The policies of President Jair Bolsonaro have led to an international isolation of Brazil because of his administration's systematic violation of human rights, environmental protections, democratic norms, and the well-being of the nation. That is why we created the Democracy Observatory to monitor the elections." said James N. Green, president of the Board of Directors of the WBO.

The WBO Democracy Observatory seeks to monitor the process of strengthening democratic institutions, public liberties, respect for the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary in Brazil. The Observatory supports evidence-based public policies, foreign policy, State reforms and spaces for social participation that strengthen the Rule of Law and respect for the Constitution in Brazil.

The executive director of the WBO, Paulo Abrão, states that it is necessary for the international community to start following the Brazilian elections immediately: "The integrity of the electoral process is being threatened by official speeches questioning the transparency of the voting system, the absence of political neutrality of the armed forces, and the emergence of radical extremist groups attacking democratic institutions. We call on the international community to turn their eyes to Brazil before the elections are held".

According to Pacto pela Democracia, a network with more than 200 social organizations, democracy in Brazil is under threat: "The democratic crisis, which started before the current government, was drastically accentuated under the Bolsonaro administration... In inhospitable

times like these, organized civil society has been acting together, on major fronts, coalitions and campaigns, gaining strength, relevance and security by acting in this way” says Pedro Kelson.

According to Tracy Devine Guzmán, Associate Professor of Latin American Studies at the University of Miami, “since January 2019, Native Brazilians have lived with intensifying threats to life and land from a variety of external threats whose transgressions have been met by the Bolsonaro administration not only with impunity but encouragement”.

The environmental situation in Brazil is also highlighted in the report as it steadily deteriorates. For Andrew Miller, Director of Advocacy at Amazon Watch, “the Amazon rainforest has reached a tipping point and risks a catastrophic ecological implosion due to short-sighted policies aggressively promoted by the Bolsonaro government... We should support the grassroots social movements - including Indigenous Peoples and rural Afro-Brazilian Quilombola communities - that offer sustainable, community-led solutions to protect the rainforest, biodiversity, and their own rights”.

The WBO is an independent institution that connects, supports and carries out advocacy, knowledge and cooperation activities to strengthen civil society, protect human rights, promote sustainable and socio-economic development, and defend democracy and the rule of law in Brazil. Our objective is to produce knowledge and support the international work of all sectors that need support, action, bilateral exchanges, knowledge production, and the construction of cooperative relations between Brazil and the United States and/or with international organizations and bodies headquartered in the United States. Currently, the following Brazilian NGOs and social movements are affiliated with the WBO: 342 Artes; Article 19; Bem-Te-Vi Association; Brazil's Indigenous Peoples Articulation (APIB); Brazilian Association of Anthropology; Brazilian Association of International Relations (ABRI); Brazilian Association of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transpeople and Intersexuals (ABGLT); Cidade Segura Institute; Citizenship Action; Colective of Black Entities (CEN); Dom Helder Camara Center for Studies and Social Action (CENDHEC); Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns Commission for the Defense of Human Rights; Educational Center for Black People and the Working Class (UNEAFRO); Geledés; Greenpeace Brazil; Homeless Workers Movement (MTST); Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST); Marielle Franco Institute; Memory, Truth and Justice Collective; Movement of those Affected by Dams (MAB); National Coordination for the Articulation of Quilombos (CONAQ); National Council of Extractivist Populations (CNS); National Movement of Human Rights (MNDH); New Paradigms Institute, Pact for Democracy; Peregum Black Reference Institute; Saúde e Alegria Project; Sou da Paz Institute; Themis: Gender, Justice and Human Rights; and Vladimir Herzog Institute.

The full report is available [HERE](#).