

Brazil: Escape from prison, Arresting Opp Leaders, Fractured Society

February 17, 2024

February 16, 2024: **BRASÍLIA**, Brazil: The Minister of Justice and Public Security, **Ricardo Lewandowski** claimed that 'historically, the first Escape from a **Federal Maximum-Security Prison** (FM-SP) of two prisoners from the **Mossoro penitentiary**' did not compromise the security of the five FM-SPs. He said that it was a "series of negative coincidences", which were exploited by the two prisoners.

Lewandowski announced the following measures for strengthening further the security of the five FM-SPs:

- 1) Modernizing and expanding the **video surveillance, alarm systems and sensors,**
- 2) Appointment of 80 additional Prison Officers,
- 3) More secure access control to federal prisons with **facial recognition system** for inmates, visitors, and administrators and
- 4) Additional walls around all federal prisons for better security.

February 15, 2024: **São Paulo**, Brazil: First Escape from a Federal Maximum-Security Prison: **Rogério da Silva Mendonça** and **Deibson Cabral Nascimento**, are the two prisoners, who escaped. The two have connections with a major Brazilian crime gang and were sent to Mossoro in September 2023 after taking part in a prison mutiny in the state of Acre, on the country's border with Peru and Bolivia. They are expected to be hiding in the forested area close the **penitentiary**.

The **city of Mossoro** is at 2,800 Km north of Sao Paulo. Brazil has **five maximum security federal penitentiaries**, and Mossoro has hosted some important drug traffickers over the last decade.

February 8, 2024: **Brasilia**: Lula's government accused **Bolsinaro** (*President from 2019 to 2023*) of having planned a military coup. A Colonel of Brazil's army was arrested. The Federal Police, on Thursday, 8th February, raided Bolsonaro's beach house and office of **Valdemar Costa Neto** (*Bolsinaro's political party*), confiscated his passport and accused him of editing a draft decree to overturn the election result of 2023.

A lawyer for **Bolsonaro**, the ex-President, said his client would comply with the order to hand over his passport. The ex-President had returned to Brazil in March 2023 - two months after the Congress storming - saying he had nothing to fear, despite facing a number of investigations. In June 2023, he was banned from running for office for eight years for casting unfounded doubts on Brazil's electronic voting system.

The President of **Valdemar Costa Neto**, was also **arrested** on Thursday when a search of his Brasilia home turned up **an unregistered firearm**. He was **set free provisionally on Saturday**, 10th February, but has been ordered by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes not to speak to others, implicated in the coup investigation. www.DiGiNews360.com notes that the arrest follows the usual pernicious practice of using a politicized judiciary to imprison opponents.

Since January 1, 2023, more than 1,400 people have been charged over their alleged role in the riots during the inauguration of Lula but so far only a few dozen have been convicted.

THIRD TERM as PRESIDENT: **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** (*commonly known as "Lula"*) is now serving his third term in office, after having earlier completed a term as the 35th President of Brazil from 2003 to 2010.

On **January 1, 2023**, Lula's inauguration was met with euphoria by his supporters. They were clad in the red colors of his **Workers' Party** and they gathered in front of the Congress in Brasilia to witness his swearing-in. Lula promised to rebuild **a nation** that he described as being in **"terrible ruins"**.

At the music festival "Lulapalooza", on January 1, 2023, one banner read: **"Love has won over hate"**. Shortly after being sworn in, Lula sought to instil a sense of hope in the people of Brazil and promised to **"make a Brazil of all, for all"**.

His predecessor, **Jair Bolsonaro**, had opted to avoid the handover ceremony by flying to the US before 1st January 2023, underscoring the stark contrast between their policies and approaches.



*Brasilia: National Congress:
The semi-sphere on the left is the seat of the Senate
The semi-sphere on the right is for the Chamber of the Deputies*

A SOCIETY with DEEP-SEATED DIVISIONS: www.DiGiNews360.com notes the irony that Lula, who wanted to heal the fractures in the Brazilian society, has become one pole of the society, which seems to have a deep-seated hatred for the other pole of the society.

Absence of Bolsinaro at the swearing ceremony of Lula and the arrest of the President of **Valdemar Costa Neto** show a complete of respect for the political opponents and the inability to appreciate them also as Brazilian patriots.



Brazil: GDP (2024 estimate): \$2.28 Tn (9th), GDP/capita: \$11,178 (78th);
 Capital: **Brasilia** (founded: 21 April 1960): 3rd-most populous city after São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro

Brasilia: Population (2017): Urban: 2.82 Mn, Metro: 3.55 Mn

Rio de Janeiro: Population (2020): Municipality: 6.2 Mn, Urban: 11,62 Mn, Metro: 12.3 Mn

São Paulo: Population (2020): Urban: 12.4 Mn, Metro: 22 Mn (Greater São Paulo),
 Macrometropolis: 33.65 Mn

The deeply divided Brazilian society requires a *Statesman* and a Brazilian patriot to come forward to unite the society towards common goals of Brazil. www.DiGiNews360.com hopes Brazil would be able to find such a *Statesman* in the not distant future.

Note: Please read ‘39th President of Brazil: Lula takes over’ dated January 1. 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/39th-president-of-brazil-lula-takes-over/>.