

Over Bolsonaro Verdict,

Lula Defies U.S., Says Brazil Not ‘Banana Republic’



Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks during a meeting of leaders of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Bogota, Colombia, Aug 22, 2025.

SAO PAULO (Xinhua) – Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has rejected U.S. pressure over the conviction of former President Jair Bolsonaro, saying Brazil “is not a banana republic” that bows to foreign interference.

In an interview with Bandeirantes TV, Lula dismissed threats of new sanctions from US President

cannot interfere in the decisions of another sovereign nation. The United States must understand it is not dealing with a banana republic.”

Lula also brushed aside comments by White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt, who warned Washington could use “military means” to defend free expression abroad, calling them unworthy of a direct response.

After Thursday’s ruling, Trump told reporters he was “surprised” by the outcome and compared Bolsonaro’s trial to his own legal troubles in his country.

Washington announced recently it would revoke visas for Brazilian justices and imposed Magnitsky sanctions on Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who led Bolsonaro’s trial.

Trump has also cited the case as justification for slapping a 50 percent tariff on Brazilian exports.

China Condemns Sailing of U.S., British Warships Through Taiwan Strait



The Taiwan Strait seen in a 2023 file picture.

BEIJING (Dispatches) -- China’s military on Saturday strongly condemned the latest passage of U.S. and British warships through the highly sensitive Taiwan Strait, denouncing it as a deliberate act of provocation and destabilization in the region.

According to a statement from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command, the American destroyer USS Higgins and the British frigate HMS Richmond were involved in actions deemed as “trouble-making and provocation,” prompting Chinese naval and air forces to closely monitor and issue warnings to both vessels.

Beijing criticized the move as a dangerous provocation that sends “the wrong signals” to separatist forces in Taiwan and undermines peace and stability across the strait. The PLA emphasized that such

territorial sea of any coastal state.” However, critics argue that such language is routinely used to justify military provocations under a legal smokescreen, while ignoring the broader geopolitical consequences.

The growing pattern of Western warships transiting the Taiwan Strait — including Canadian and Australian vessels last week — reflects a coordinated military buildup aimed at pressuring China and inserting foreign influence into what is widely recognized as a core internal issue for Beijing. China has repeatedly stated that the Taiwan question is an internal matter, and any foreign military presence in the strait is viewed as a threat to its sovereignty and national security.

Earlier the same day, China’s third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, which is undergoing sea trials, also passed through the Taiwan Strait — a move that underscores China’s commitment to defending its maritime interests amid increasing foreign military activity near its borders.

The PLA reiterated its resolve to safeguard national sovereignty and regional stability and warned that continued foreign interference and military provocations would be met with firm responses.

China has long called for the U.S. and its allies to respect regional dynamics and refrain from turning the Taiwan Strait into a flashpoint through unnecessary and provocative shows of force. The steady buildup of U.S.-led military operations in East Asia, under the pretext of “freedom of navigation,” not only escalates tensions with Beijing but also threatens broader peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.

Russia Claims Another Village in Ukraine’s Dnipropetrovsk

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia on Saturday said it had captured a new village in Ukraine’s central Dnipropetrovsk region, which Moscow’s forces say they reached at the beginning of July.

The defense ministry said its troops had seized the village of Novomykolaivka near the border with the Donetsk region — the epicenter of fighting on the front.

DeepState, an online battlefield map run by Ukrainian military analysts, said the village was still under Kyiv’s control.

Russian forces are better equipped and vastly outnumber Ukrainian troops. They have been carrying out offensives in Ukraine for months and gaining ground across the eastern front.

At the end of August, Ukraine had for the first time acknowledged that Russian soldiers had entered the Dnipropetrovsk region, where Moscow had claimed ad-

vances at the start of the month.

The Russian army currently controls about a fifth of Ukrainian territory.

The Kremlin is demanding that Ukraine withdraw from its eastern Donbas region as a precondition for halting hostilities, something that Kyiv has rejected.

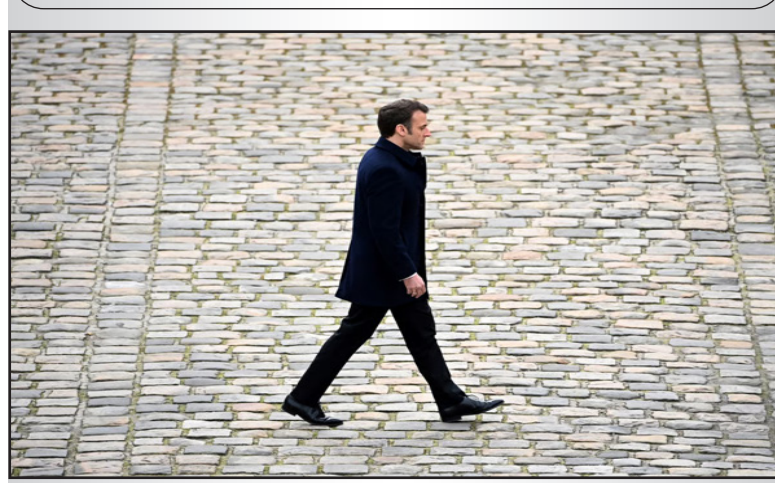
The Dnipropetrovsk region is not one of the five Ukrainian regions — Donetsk, Kherson, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Crimea — that Moscow has publicly claimed as Russian territory.

Russian battlegroups’ spokesmen reported that Ukrainian forces lost around 1,465 troops across all areas of the special military operation in the past 24 hours.

Reports from battlegroups East, North, West, Dnepr, Center, and South on Saturday also described in detail the enemy’s losses of hardware and equipment.

Russia launched its “special military operation” in Ukraine in February 2022

Over 100 French MPs Move to Depose Macron



PARIS (TASS) - More than 100 French lawmakers have signed a proposal to remove President Emmanuel Macron from office.

“As many as 104 lawmakers with La France Insoumise, representatives of overseas territories, and members of the green and communist parties have signed a proposal on dismissing the president of the republic,” Mathilde Panot, leader of the

left-wing La France Insoumise faction, wrote on her X page.

In her previous post, she wrote that the lawmakers had presented “Emmanuel Macron with a choice: either resign or be impeached.”

On September 9, the La France Insoumise party initiated the process to impeach Macron with the Bureau of the National Assembly, or the lower house of French parliament.

Trump Presses NATO Nations to Halt Russian Oil Purchases



Rosneft’s Russian-flagged crude oil tanker Vladimir Monomakh transits the Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey, July 6, 2023.

BEDMINSTER (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States is prepared to impose fresh energy sanctions on Russia, but only if all NATO nations cease purchasing Russian oil and implement similar measures.

“I am ready to do major sanctions on Russia when all NATO nations have agreed, and started, to do the same thing, and when all NATO nations stop buying oil from Russia,” Trump said in a social media post.

In recent weeks, the United States has stepped up pressure on NATO countries to tighten energy sanctions on Russia in a bid to help end its war with Ukraine — a conflict Trump has struggled to bring to a close despite repeated threats of harsher penalties on Moscow and its partners.

Trump has also faced criticism at home for repeatedly setting two-week deadlines for Russia to de-escalate and allowing them to pass without concrete action. An August Reuters/Ipsos poll found that 54% of Americans including one in five of Trump’s Republicans believe the president is too closely aligned with Russia.

The Group of Seven nations’ finance ministers further sanctions on Russia and possible tariffs on countries they consider “enabling” its war in Ukraine.

Energy revenues remain the Kremlin’s single most important

source of cash to finance the war effort, making oil and gas exports a central target of Western sanctions. But officials and analysts warn that aggressive curbs on Russian crude also carry risks of driving up global oil prices, a prospect that could strain Western economies and weaken public support for the measures.

Since 2023, NATO member Turkey has been the third-largest buyer of Russian oil, after China and India, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Other members of the 32-state alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia.

Trump, who is spending the weekend at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club, said NATO, acting as a bloc, should impose tariffs of 50% to 100% on Chinese imports, a move he argued would weaken Beijing’s economic grip on Moscow.

Trump has imposed an extra 25% tariff on imports from India to pressure New Delhi to halt its purchases of discounted Russian crude oil, bringing total punitive duties on Indian goods to 50% and souring trade negotiations between the two democracies.

But Trump has refrained from imposing additional tariffs on Chinese imports over China’s purchases of Russian oil, as his administration navigates a delicate trade truce with Beijing.

News in Brief

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump has said that he would send National Guard troops to Memphis, Tennessee, to combat crime, following his administration’s unprecedented police takeover in Washington, D.C. last month. Trump has sought to make crime a central issue even as violent crime rates have fallen in many cities. His crackdown on Democratic-led municipalities has spurred protests, including a demonstration by several thousand people in Washington last weekend. “We’re going to Memphis. Memphis is deeply troubled,” Trump said in an interview with the Fox News “Fox and Friends” program at a studio in New York. “We’re going to fix that, just like we did Washington.”

KINSHASA (AP) - A motorized boat capsized in northwestern Congo’s Equateur Province, killing at least 86 people, state media reported Friday. The state news agency reported that the accident occurred on Wednesday in Basankusu territory, and that most of the victims were students. It was not immediately clear what caused the accident although state media attributed it to “improper loading and night navigation,” citing reports from the scene. Images that appear to be from the scene showed villagers gathered around bodies as they mourned.

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the country will present a policy of jointly advancing nuclear arms and conventional military might during an upcoming key meeting of its ruling party, state media KCNA reported on Saturday. While inspecting weapons research centers on Thursday and Friday, Kim said “the 9th Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea would put forward the policy of simultaneously pushing forward the building of nuclear forces and conventional armed forces in the field of building up national defence”, KCNA said. Kim also on Friday oversaw a shooting drill by North Korean military and inspected a hospital construction site, KCNA said.

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepalese authorities lifted the curfew in the country’s capital and surrounding areas on Saturday as calm returned following the appointment of the Himalayan nation’s first woman prime minister in the wake of protests this week that killed at least 51 people and collapsed the government. In the capital, Kathmandu, and neighboring Lalitpur and Bhaktapur areas, officials told people they could move around freely while markets reopened and traffic returned on the streets. The massive demonstrations began on Monday over a social media ban and quickly turned violent, with protesters attacking government buildings and police opening fire.

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australia said on Saturday it would spend \$12 billion (\$8 billion) to establish defense facilities in Western Australia to help deliver submarines under the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal. The AUKUS pact, agreed upon by Australia, Britain and the U.S. in 2021, aims to provide Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines from the next decade to counter China’s ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. President Donald Trump’s administration is undertaking a formal review of the pact.

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain’s biggest company AstraZeneca has paused a planned 200 millionpound (\$271.26 million) investment in its Cambridge research site, a spokesperson said, the latest drugmaker to pull back on its business in Britain. The decision on the investment, which had been set to create 1,000 jobs, means none of AstraZeneca’s planned new funding - originally announced in March 2024 - is currently proceeding. In January, the company scrapped plans to invest 450 million pounds in its vaccine manufacturing plant in northern England, citing a cut in British government support. U.S. drugmaker Merck & Co this week blamed the UK’s challenging business environment as it abandoned a new research centre in London.