

Lula Tells Trump Brazil's Democracy, Sovereignty 'Non-Negotiable'



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks during the inauguration of the Amazon International Police Cooperation Center, in Manaus, Amazonas state, northern Brazil, on Sept 9, 2025.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has rejected the Trump administration's 50 percent tariffs on Brazilian products and defended the country's democratic institutions and other policies in an opinion piece published in The New York Times on Saturday.

Affirming Brazil's openness to negotiate "anything that can bring mutual benefits," Lula stressed that "Brazil's democracy and sovereignty are not on the table."

In the article titled "Brazilian democracy and sovereignty are non-negotiable," Lula said that while the United States (U.S.)

has its legitimate goals such as reindustrialization, resorting to unilateral tariffs is "misguided" and "illogical."

He pointed out that Washington has recorded a \$410 billion surplus in goods and services trade with Brazil over the past 15 years, with nearly three-quarters of its exports entering Brazil duty-free.

He accused the U.S. government of "using tariffs and the Magnitsky Act to seek impunity for former (Brazilian) President Jair Bolsonaro," who was sentenced to more than 27 years in prison on Thursday for attempting a coup, arguing that the measures lack "economic rationale"

and are politically motivated.

The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act allows Washington to impose sanctions, including asset freezes, credit card cancellations, and travel bans, on foreign individuals accused of human rights abuses or corruption.

Addressing U.S. accusations over digital censorship, Lula said all platforms are subject to the same laws in Brazil and that regulation aims to protect Brazilians from fraud, disinformation and hate speech. He also defended Brazil's digital PIX instant payment system as promoting financial inclusion.

Refuting U.S. allegations of Brazil's failure to enforce environmental laws, Lula mentioned that the Brazilian government has cut the rate of deforestation in the Amazon by half in the past two years.

"There are no ideological differences that should prevent two governments from working together in areas where they have common goals," Lula said, adding that Brazil and the United States are "capable of respecting each other and cooperating for the good of Brazilians and Americans."

Russia Warns EU Over Frozen Assets Seizure Plan



MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia on Monday warned European states that it would go after any state which sought to take its assets after reports that the European Union was floating the idea of spending billions of dollars worth of frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine.

After President Vladimir Putin sent his army into Ukraine in 2022, the United States and its allies prohibited transactions with the Russian central bank and finance ministry

and blocked \$300-\$350 billion of sovereign Russian assets, mostly European, U.S. and British government bonds held in a European securities depository.

Reuters reported that European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen wants the European Union to find a new way to finance Ukraine's defense against Russia using the cash balances associated with Russian assets frozen in Europe.

Politico reported that the European

Commission is mulling the idea of using Russian cash deposits at the European Central Bank from maturing bonds owned by Russia to fund a "Reparations Loan" for Ukraine.

"If this happens, Russia will pursue the EU states, as well as European degenerates from Brussels and individual EU countries who try to seize our property, until the end of the century," former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev wrote on Telegram.

Russia will pursue European states in "all possible ways" and in "all possible international and national courts" as well as "out of court," said Medvedev, who serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council.

Russia says any seizure of its assets amounts to theft by the West and will undermine confidence in the bonds and currencies of the United States and Europe.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said on Monday that it was obvious that NATO was fighting against Russia by providing direct and indirect support to Ukraine.

"NATO is de facto involved in this war," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

U.S. Typhon Missile System's Presence in Japan Sharpens Asia Arms Race

IWAKUNI, Japan (Reuters) - The United States on Monday showcased its Typhon intermediate-range missile system in Japan for the first time, underscoring Washington and Tokyo's growing willingness to field weapons that Beijing has condemned as destabilizing.

The two-week drill involves 20,000 Japanese and U.S. troops, along with warships and missile batteries.

"Employing multiple systems and different types of munitions, it is able to create dilemmas for the enemy," Colonel Wade Germann, commander of the task force that operates the missile system, said at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in front of the launcher.

"The speed with which it can be deployed enables us to forward position it when required expeditiously," he said, adding Typhon will leave Japan after Resolute Dragon. He declined to say where the unit will go next or whether it will return to Japan.

The system's unveiling in western Japan follows its deployment to the Philippines in April 2024, a move that drew sharp criticism from Beijing and Moscow, which accused the U.S. of fuelling an arms race.

Germann declined to say whether the unit in Japan was the same one that was deployed to the Philippines. Typhon was still in the Philippines when Reuters last checked with the military on August 28.

The U.S. also conducted live-

fire exercises in Australia this year but its presence in Japan, closer to China, could prompt a stronger reaction, military analysts say.

"In the past, these deployments would have been nixed by DC and Tokyo bureaucrats out of fear of the Chinese reaction. You can see that's less of an issue than it was, say five years ago," said Grant Newsham, a Japan Forum for Strategic Studies research fellow and retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel who worked alongside the Japanese military.

Japan is also stepping up military spending. It is buying Tomahawk missiles for its warships and developing its own intermediate-range missiles as part of its biggest military expansion since World War Two.

China Slams U.S. 'Bullying' Over Russian Oil Purchases



BEIJING (Reuters) - China accused the United States of "unilateral bullying" in calling on allies to impose tariffs on China over its purchase of Russian oil, fueling tensions as Chinese and U.S. officials met in Spain to try to resolve trade disputes.

China opposes Washington's request that the Group of Seven and NATO countries impose secondary tariffs on Chinese imports over its purchase of Russian oil, China's commerce ministry said on Monday, calling it "a classic example of unilateral bullying and economic coercion".

Officials from China and the U.S. on Monday entered a second day of talks in Madrid to try to seek common ground on issues including tariffs and a U.S. demand for divestment from TikTok by Chinese owner ByteDance.

Adding to tensions between the two countries, China's market regulator on Monday said a preliminary investigation found U.S. chipmaker Nvidia had violated the country's anti-monopoly law.

Trade ties have soured between the world's two biggest economies despite a fragile tariff truce reached in May and extended in August which prevented tariff rates on each other's goods from reaching three-digit levels.

But negotiators from the two sides still face thorny topics such as U.S. curbs of tech and chip exports, China's support for Russia as well as what Washington sees as insufficient efforts to stem the flow of precursor chemicals of fentanyl into the U.S.

In its statement, the Chinese ministry urged the U.S. to be "prudent in words and deeds" and to solve differences through equal dialogue.

White House Seeks \$58mn Security Boost After Charlie Kirk's Assassination



Following the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2024, a U.S. Secret Service counter-sniper team was seen on the White House roof.

WASHINGTON (NBC) - The Trump administration is asking Congress for an extra \$58 million to bolster security for the executive and judicial branches following the fatal shooting of conservative figure Charlie Kirk, according to a White House official.

The request to include the extra funding in an upcoming stopgap bill comes ahead of a September 30 deadline when the current federal spending law runs out. Punchbowl News first reported on the funding request.

The administration also signaled support for expanding resources to safeguard lawmakers, though it left the specifics of that decision to the legislative branch, the outlet reported.

Kirk's shooting at a university event in Utah this week has

raised new fears about the safety of public officials, particularly after the assassination attempt on Donald Trump during the presidential campaign last year.

Republicans are pushing for a short-term spending bill to keep the government open next month, but have so far rejected demands from Democrats to include health-care provisions in any extension. Republicans will need to secure votes from Democrats to pass a spending measure.

That sets up a showdown over expiring Obamacare subsidies and other health-care funding priorities, with Democrats vowing to block any measure that ignores them and some moderate Republicans signaling openness to a deal to avoid steep premium hikes for millions of Americans.

News in Brief

KHARTOUM (AFP) - The Sudanese government has criticized the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on Sudanese individuals and entities. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said such unilateral measures "do not help achieve the desired goals, including the realization of peace in Sudan and the preservation of international peace and security." "The Government of Sudan affirms that the best approach to resolving crises is fundamentally based on direct engagement, rather than relying on assumptions propagated by parties with political agendas that do not serve the higher interests of the Sudanese people," it said. The statement stressed that achieving peace in Sudan is primarily a Sudanese matter based on the aspirations of the people in all their components.

SEOUL (AFP) - The South Korean government said Monday it would review whether there were any human rights violations when hundreds of its citizens were detained in a massive U.S. immigration raid. Around 475 people, mostly South Korean nationals, were arrested at the construction site of an electric vehicle battery factory in the U.S. state of Georgia on September 4. The raid was the largest single-site operation conducted since U.S. President Donald Trump launched a sweeping immigration crackdown.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The man arrested in the killing of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk is not cooperating with authorities, but investigators are working to establish a motive for the shooting by talking to his friends and family, Utah Governor Spencer Cox said. Cox said the accused gunman, Tyler Robinson, 22, would be formally charged on Tuesday. He remains in custody in Utah. Investigators have yet to piece together why Robinson allegedly scaled a rooftop at Utah Valley University during an outdoor event and shot Kirk in the neck at long range on Wednesday.

SEOUL (Reuters) - The permanent mission of North Korea to the United Nations said the country's position as a nuclear weapons state was irreversible, denouncing U.S. "anachronistic" claims for denuclearization, state media KCNA reported on Monday. "The position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a nuclear weapons state which has been permanently specified in the supreme and basic law of the state has become irreversible," the DPRK permanent mission to the UN Office and international organizations in Vienna was quoted as saying. While criticizing the U.S. push for denuclearization as a "provocative act" of interfering in its internal affairs, Pyongyang defended its nuclear weapons as an "inevitable option" of defending the country from U.S. nuclear threats.

LONDON (The Guardian) - Three in four NHS hospital trusts are failing cancer patients, according to the first league tables of their kind, prompting experts to declare a "national emergency". Labor published the first league tables to rank hospitals in England since the early 2000s this week. The overall rankings score trusts based on a range of measures including finances and patient safety, as well as how they are bringing down waiting times for operations and in A&E, and improving ambulance response times. Guardian analysis of the underlying data has found that about three-quarters of trusts are failing to hit either of the two cancer targets in the tables. Ninety of the 118 trusts (76%) are missing the first target of ruling cancer in or out within 28 days of urgent referrals in at least 80% of cases.