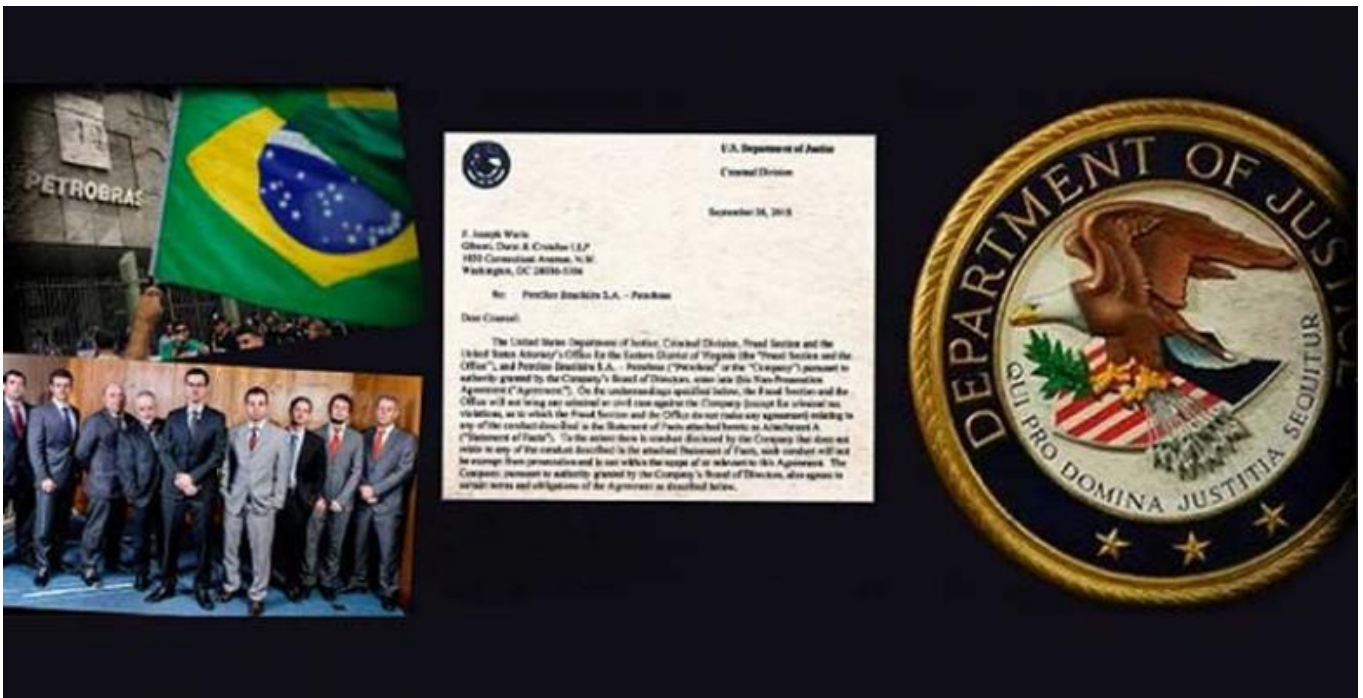

Lula's defense team in Brazil denied access to Lava Jato-US ties

By: PL
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Brasilia, Jul 1 (Prensa Latina) Brazilian Justice Minister Andre Mendonça denied to the defense team of former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva access to some documents on collaborations of the Lava Jato operation with the United States, Legal Consultant website informed.

Mendonça received on Tuesday an opinion from the Advocate-General of the Union in which it states that the provision of the information could jeopardize ongoing judicial measures, such as the seizure of passports, prisons, and search and seizure operations.

The first request was made on March 16, based on the Access to Information Law.

Such measure was adopted in a defensive investigation front, authorized by a provision of the National Council of the Order of Attorneys of Brazil that allows that the defense team requests documents directly from public and private bodies, without going through the judicial power.

In the request, Lula's defense team cites the statements by Kenneth Blanco, former assistant attorney general of the United States Department of Justice, and Trevor McFadden, former assistant to the Secretary General of that office.

He also made reference to the case of the Guaruja triplex apartment, in which Lula was convicted of allegedly receiving a property as a bribe from the OAS company. In exchange, the former head of State would facilitate contracts with state-owned Petrobras.

In February, Lula denounced that Lava Jato (car wash) operation openly identifies with the interests of the US Government, committed to dismantling Brazilian companies.