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'Lula is Political Prisoner': American Association of Jurists

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A specialized NGO having UN consultative status affirms that imprisonment of Lula Da Silva seeks to remove him from the Brazilian political process.

The American Association of Jurists (AAJ), an NGO with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), has published a statement recognizing [former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva](#) as a political prisoner.

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Lula's sentence "was issued as a consequence of an accusation produced by violating the due process of law, that prejudiced (his) [right to a defense, and without evidence](#)," the AAJ said Thursday and pointed out that Brazilian far-right politicians, "benefited in the elections while Lula da Silva was isolated (in prison) as a presidential candidate and had the broadest popularity in the electoral polls."

The AAJ, which already denounced Lula's 12 year sentence at the 2018 UN Human Rights Council general session, saying that Brazil's Superior Electoral Tribunal invalidated his candidacy for the presidency, forbade him to speak from prison and prevented the Workers' Party (PT) from using his image in the electoral campaign. These measures were taken despite the fact that the country's constitution guaranteed Lula the presumption of innocence.

"Such conditions demonstrate a detention that was made by violating fundamental guarantees, endorsing clearly political motivations, lacking connection with a properly and well defined offense, and having a duration and accessory penalties which are aimed at both moving Lula da Silva away from the national political process and laying foundations to discriminate against people endorsing different ideological tendencies through irregular procedures," the AAJ explained.

According to the Council of Europe's jurisprudence, this makes Lula a political prison.

His current situation could also be described as a case of "prison of conscience," affirms the AAJ.

Evidence of the mishandling of Lula's case became evident March 4, 2016 when Curitiba's Judge Sergio Moro authorized searching the former president's apartment because he was considered "a likely ??????suspect" of money landry and corruption.

This raid began a ["lawfare on Lula"](#), using the judicial system, supported by Brazil's mainstream media, to eventually indict him Sept. 20 for allegedly receiving bribes from Odebrecht construction company in the form of remodeling of a three-floor beach apartment.

In May 2017, Lula was allowed to provide his first testimony in the so-called 'Triplex Case', which showed he did not own any such apartment. Nevertheless, in July 12, Moro condemned Lula to nine years and six months in prison.

Six months later, Jan. 24, 2018, Curitiba's Federal Court sentenced Lula to 12 years in prison with no time to appeal just when all the polls indicated that he was the favorite to win the ??presidential elections.

In January 2019 after [far-right politician Jair Bolsonaro](#) won the Brazilian presidency, he appointed Sergio Moro as his Minister of Justice.???????

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