

## 'Yes, It Was a Coup:' International Tribunal 'Rules' on Brazil's Democracy

Par [Telesur](#)

Mondialisation.ca, 22 juillet 2016

[Telesur](#) 21 juillet 2016

Région : [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Thème: [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

The [International Tribunal for Democracy](#) convened this week in Rio de Janeiro for a mock trial that found that Brazil is in the throes of a coup and the impeachment process against suspended President Dilma Rousseff should be called off.

The panel of international jurists unanimously found that the removal of Rousseff from office "violates all the principles of the democratic process and Brazilian constitutional order."

While the ruling does not carry the weight of law, it followed a two-day trial that had all the hallmarks of a legal inquiry, including statements from witnesses and arguments from the prosecution, which were adjudicated by a jury of international experts from Mexico, Argentina, Italy, France, and the United States, among other countries.

The ruling explained that the underlying evidence was the lack of legal basis for the impeachment given that Rousseff had not been determined guilty of a criminal act or violation of the constitution that rises to the level of an impeachable offense.

By not adhering to constitutional and legal requirements for an impeachment process, the jury argued, the impeachment process was a blow to democracy and should be nullified.

U.S.-based human rights lawyer Azadeh Shahshahani, a jury member in the mock tribunal, slammed the United States for not condemning the political crisis in Brazil, according to Brasil de Fato. When prompted by journalists, U.S. spokespeople have repeatedly refused to comment on Brazil beyond expressing faith in the country's institutions to deal with the situation.

Brazil's International Tribunal for Democracy, organized by social movements with international support, was modeled off the Russell Tribunal, also known as the International War Crimes Tribunal, that symbolically put U.S. foreign policy and military intervention in Vietnam on trial in the 1960's.

Rousseff was [suspended from office on May 12](#) in a move that has been widely condemned as an institutional coup aimed at reinstating to political power a corporate elite that has been unable to beat Rousseff's Workers' Party in four consecutive presidential elections dating back to 2003.

Installed "interim" president Michel Temer and his all-white-male cabinet has swiftly moved to unfurl a series of neoliberal policies and cut social programs championed by Rousseff and her Workers' Party predecessor former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Meanwhile, Temer and his allies have become increasingly embroiled in major corruption scandals of their own, namely the case known as Operation Car Wash dealing with bribery in the Petrobras state oil company. A series of leaked wiretap recordings have also revealed that some of Rousseff's main rivals conspired with the Supreme Court to oust the sitting president and stall the corruption investigations.

The ruling from the International Tribunal for Democracy comes just weeks before the Senate is set to hold a final vote on whether to permanently remove Rousseff from office, and install Temer until the 2018 election. Temer can't run in the next election because he is banned from standing for public office for the next eight years, which would not prevent his installation to the post.

A recent report by the Public Prosecutor's office found that [Rousseff is not guilty of any crime](#). The final vote on her political fate is expected in late August.

La source originale de cet article est [Telesur](#)

Copyright © [Telesur](#), [Telesur](#), 2016

---

Articles Par : [Telesur](#)

**Avis de non-responsabilité :** Les opinions exprimées dans cet article n'engagent que le ou les auteurs. Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation se dégage de toute responsabilité concernant le contenu de cet article et ne sera pas tenu responsable pour des erreurs ou informations incorrectes ou inexactes.

Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation (CRM) accorde la permission de reproduire la version intégrale ou des extraits d'articles du site [Mondialisation.ca](#) sur des sites de médias alternatifs. La source de l'article, l'adresse url ainsi qu'un lien vers l'article original du CRM doivent être indiqués. Une note de droit d'auteur (copyright) doit également être indiquée.

Pour publier des articles de [Mondialisation.ca](#) en format papier ou autre, y compris les sites Internet commerciaux, contactez: [media@globalresearch.ca](mailto:media@globalresearch.ca)

[Mondialisation.ca](#) contient du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur, dont le détenteur n'a pas toujours autorisé l'utilisation. Nous mettons ce matériel à la disposition de nos lecteurs en vertu du principe "d'utilisation équitable", dans le but d'améliorer la compréhension des enjeux politiques, économiques et sociaux. Tout le matériel mis en ligne sur ce site est à but non lucratif. Il est mis à la disposition de tous ceux qui s'y intéressent dans le but de faire de la recherche ainsi qu'à des fins éducatives. Si vous désirez utiliser du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur pour des raisons autres que "l'utilisation équitable", vous devez demander la permission au détenteur du droit d'auteur.

Contact média: [media@globalresearch.ca](mailto:media@globalresearch.ca)