

# *Cuba Condemns Parliamentary Coup in Brazil*

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Havana, April 18 (RHC)-- Cuba condemns the parliamentary coup underway in Brazil and expresses its strong support for the people of the sister South American country and their democratically elected leaders.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry (MINREX) issued a statement in which it states that right wing sectors in Brazil have perpetrated the first step of what would constitute a parliamentary coup against the legitimate government of the Workers' Party (PT) and President Dilma Rousseff.

The MINREX statement notes that the months-long maneuver in the Brazilian House of Deputies was orchestrated by the country's oligarchy in alliance with the reactionary press, openly supported by the corporate media and imperialism.

"As denounced by President Rousseff, former President and Workers' Party leader Luiz Inacio "Lula" Da Silva and by Brazilian social movements, this is an attack, based on unproven, groundless accusations, on Brazilian democracy and a legitimate government that was elected at the polls by a majority of the people.

The Cuban foreign ministry further recalls that since the first Workers Party government led by Lula took office in 2003, important social programs have been implemented in Brazil, which have had a significant

impact on the less privileged sectors of the country's population.

It adds that under the Workers Party's leadership, the South American country has become an influential international actor, a strong defender of just causes, and a promoter of unity and integration among all Latin American and Caribbean states.

In its statement, MINREX stresses that the coup plotting aims to end the cycle of governments of the Workers Party in Brazil, thus rolling back the social gains won by the Brazilian people over the past 13 years. "It also seeks to install a neoliberal government, which would allow big transnational companies to plunder the country's vast natural resources."

MINREX further adds that the coup against Brazilian democracy is part of the current right-wing offensive against Latin American integration and regional progressive processes. "And it is also directed toward the group of countries known as BRICS -- a bloc of powerful economies, which have challenged the hegemony of the U.S. dollar."

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