

# *Protests Across Brazil as Court Upholds Conviction of Lula da Silva*

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Brasilia, January 25 (RHC)-- In Brazil, an appeals court has upheld the conviction of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for corruption, dealing a blow to the highly popular left-wing leader's bid to run in Brazil's upcoming presidential election.

The judges ruled Wednesday to increase Lula's prison sentence, sparking protests across Brazil. Lula served as president from 2003 to 2011 and is currently leading in the polls for October's presidential election.

On Wednesday, Lula called the ruling politically motivated and said it makes him want to run even more. At a rally in Sao Paulo, he told supporters: "What I am starting to realize is that everything they do is to try to prevent me from being a candidate, not even to win, but to just be a candidate. But this provocation is so big that it's giving me a little itch, and now I want to be a candidate for president."



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