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By Fernando de la Cuadra 24.08.2023

What is missing for Jair Bolsonaro to be imprisoned?



Sources: Rebellion / Socialism and Democracy [Image: Bolsonaro and his wife at an institutional act on April 5, 2020. Credit: Evaristo Sa/AFP, taken from Página 12] *In this article, the author analyzes the lines of investigation that compromise the legality of Bolsonaro's actions during his presidential term, so he wonders when he will be imprisoned.*

This It's a question many people are asking today, given that after all the information of the various crimes committed By the former president it seems almost obvious that he himself will be arrested. immediately to answer for their criminal actions before the Brazilian Justice.

The magistrate of the Federal Supreme Court, Alexandre de Moraes, has already defined the various lines of investigation by which the former captain could be framed for the various crimes committed during his management at the head of the Executive. There are five, namely: (a) dissemination of fake news through digital militias; b) negligence in dealing with the pandemic and attacking COVID-19 vaccines; (c) unjustified disqualification of the voting system and electronic ballot boxes; d) violent suppression of the Democratic State of Law and incitement to coup d'état; and (e) abuse of power in the exercise of his functions as President of the Republic and use of the governmental structure for the purpose of obtaining advantages.

Each of these lines of accusation have their respective splits. For example, the last item can be broken down into 3 other accusations: 1) malicious use of corporate cards; 2) insertion of false data on administrative management; and (3) misappropriation of fiscal resources and property received during State visits (case of jewellery and watches given by the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Bahrain).

Without However, despite all the accusations that weigh on the former President, Justice cannot order your imprisonment before issuing judicial conviction for their crimes. What the Minister Moraes, in a possible hypothesis, is to request imprisonment of Bolsonaro as a precautionary measure with the argument that Keeping him at liberty may represent an obstacle to the proper conduct of investigations, due to adulteration, concealment or destruction of evidence, by possible coercion of witnesses or the risk of fleeing the country to escape of the judicial process against him.

Although knowing the meticulous and cautious way in which magistrate Alexandre de Morais operates in the preparation of his sentences, it is difficult to think that he is capable of decreeing the arrest of Bolsonaro without having a strong volume of evidence that incriminates him. Elements to process it exist and many. Bolsonaro has been permanently cited as the intellectual mentor of the attacks that occurred on March 8 and his escape to Orlando before the end of his term does not exempt him from guilt for having hatched a conspiracy with the support of many military and, especially, of his Assistant of Orders, Lieutenant Colonel Mauro Cid, who is currently imprisoned for another illegality committed to protect the former President: the falsification of the vaccine certificates that Bolsonaro and his wife showed to the United States authorities so that they were allowed to enter that country.

Moreover, it is now also known that the former president clandestinely moved – on the presidential plane that took him to Orlando – a suitcase full of the gifts he had received from foreign delegations and heads of state of other countries on official visits. This with the purpose of selling such goods (jewelry and luxury watches) in the country of the

North. Bolsonaro alleges that these gifts are "very personal" and that, therefore, he has no obligation to register them as part of the Republic's heritage. For its part, the Court of Accounts of the Union (TCU), demanded Bolsonaro return all high-value objects received [1], an issue that the former president has done only in part, since some items are still missing to be reincorporated into the public patrimony.

Bolsonaro's participation in the scheme mounted for the sale of these assets abroad is already proven, but even so the magistrate Alexandre de Moraes is collecting more concrete evidence to demonstrate irrefutably the participation of the former President in the various crimes that weigh against him. For this reason, it is uncertain when an arrest warrant can actually be issued, although there is almost consensus among lawyers and members of the Federal Police that such an order can be issued at any time.

One of the edges of the "jewels case" that has not been investigated in depth, is the reason why the authorities of Arabia Saudi and Bahrain were so generous to the government Bolsonaro. What is known so far is that there were negotiations with authorities to buy some oil refineries located in Brazilian territory and also perform important investments in the field of agribusiness.

To the scenario of a possible prison of Bolsonaro for the crime of misappropriation of State property, we must add the recent eight-year ineligibility ruling decreed by the Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE). For this reason, the extreme Brazilian right is focused on the search for a substitute for the condemned leader who will not be able to attend the 2026 elections. Candidates are not lacking and some of them have already pointed out that they want to have Jair Bolsonaro next to them as "image" propaganda" to win the vote of the voters who continue supporting the former captain. It remains to be known, if a Bolsonaro prosecuted and Imprisoned may serve for his campaigns in the not very future far.

Note

[1] Among these objects are various white gold jewelry with diamonds encrusted (necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings, colleras, pens), watches of the brand Rolex, Cartier, Chopard, Hublot, Patek Philippe and other decorative pieces of a high amount.

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