

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2026

Secretary Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
600 19th St NW
Washington, DC 20431

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write regarding the Department of State's manufactured diplomatic dispute with Brazil, which has resulted in the revocation of Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti's diplomatic visa¹. This unnecessary escalation is the latest of a series of actions that has driven a rupture in our relationship with the largest democracy and economy in South America. At a time when the Trump Administration claims to be prioritizing the Western Hemisphere, this misguided decision further damages America's reputation in the region and pushes Brazil closer to the hands of our adversaries.

The extraordinary and unprecedented revocation of Ambassador Ribeiro Viotti's diplomatic visa represents yet another example of the Trump Administration's punitive treatment of a democratic partner in the region. The Trump Administration has driven a wedge in our bilateral relationship with Brazil by levying 50% tariffs on Brazil, and sanctioning one of its Supreme Court justices all in a failed effort to protect former President Bolsonaro convicted of plotting a violent coup and an assassination plot against his political opponents. Following his meeting with President Lula, President Trump praised President Lula, declaring "I had a great meeting with the president of Brazil," later describing Lula as "a good man" and "a smart guy." Yet we are concerned that subsequent actions from the State Department has sought to torpedo the relationship with Brazil to manufacture this diplomatic crisis months away from elections in Brazil.

The revocation of Ambassador Ribiero Viotti's visa is just the latest escalation in the Trump Administration's sustained effort to influence the results of Brazil's 2026 elections. From officials in your Department travelling down to meet with former President Bolsonaro, who was convicted for his violent coup attempt to subvert the will of the Brazilian people in 2022, to sanctioning Supreme Court Justice de Moraes in an attempt to protect former President Bolsonaro from prosecution, to questioning the credulity of free and fair elections in Brazil, the Trump administration has repeatedly sought to influence Brazil's internal political affairs in ways that threaten the country's democratic institutions and electoral processes. In addition, your State Department named Darren Beattie "Envoy for Brazil," in February of this year, an individual with a well-documented history of racist and inflammatory rhetoric, including

¹ [Trump Administration Revokes Visa of Brazil's Ambassador in the U.S. - The New York Times](#)

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declaring that “competent white men must be in charge,” and was once fired from the Trump White House for speaking at a conference attended by prominent white nationalists.

Public reporting² indicates that U.S. officials sought to travel to Brazil to raise unfounded concerns regarding Brazil's electoral system and that the Brazilian government denied those visas because it believed such visits would result in another attempt to influence Brazil's 2026 elections. While diplomatic disagreements between allies are not uncommon, the decision to revoke the visa of a sitting ambassador represents a substantial escalation that should be reserved for the most severe of cases. Brazil is one of the United States' largest trading partners, an important regional security partner, and one of the world's largest democracies. Actions that unnecessarily strain this bilateral relationship have implications extending well beyond the immediate diplomatic dispute. Congress therefore has an obligation to understand why the Department of State departed from established practices and took the extraordinary step to revoke the Brazilian Ambassador's visa. Furthermore, we request further information regarding the State Department's provocations to upset the bilateral relationship following the productive Trump-Lula meeting in May 2026.

We respectfully request responses to the following questions:

1. What specific facts or circumstances formed the basis for the Department's extraordinary determination that revocation of the Ambassador's visa was warranted?
2. The revocation of the Ambassador's visa was reportedly a retaliatory action after Brazil denied the visas of Riley M. Barnes, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), and Samuel Samson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL). What was the intended purpose of their travel to Brazil, and what meetings were planned in Brazil?
3. What level of coordination did the Department have with the White House? Was the President informed of this decision to revoke the visa of Ambassador Ribiero Viotti?
4. Did the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or any other senior State Department official authorize contacts with Jair Bolsonaro, Flávio Bolsonaro, Eduardo Bolsonaro, or their representatives concerning the revocation of Amb. Ribiero Viotti's visa?
5. Why did State Department officials seek to scrutinize Brazil's electoral system in the middle of an active presidential campaign, and what specific evidence does the Department possess that Brazil's election system may lack credibility?

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/25/world/americas/brazil-united-states-election-voting.html>

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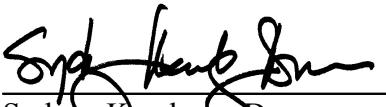
6. Does the Department believe Brazil's 2022 presidential election was free and fair? Does it have any evidence that Brazil's 2026 election will not be?

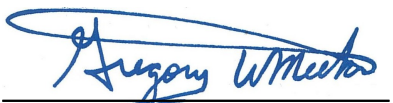
7. Has the administration conducted any assessment of whether these actions could undermine U.S. relations with Brazil, push Brazil closer to China, or damage cooperation on counternarcotics, regional security or trade?

Given the significant implications of this matter for United States diplomacy and our bilateral relationship with Brazil, I respectfully request that the Department provide written responses to these questions sufficient to explain the Department's decision-making process, no later than

October 20th 2026. The United States benefits helping Brazil strengthen its democracy, not supporting those that tried to subvert the will of the Brazilian people in a violent coup attempt in 2022. U.S.-Brazil relations should be grounded in respect for the democratic choices of the Brazilian people, not determined by whether the candidate favored by President Trump prevails.

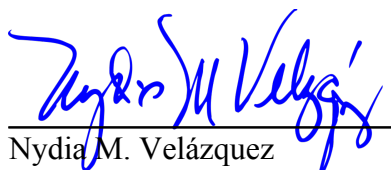
Sincerely,

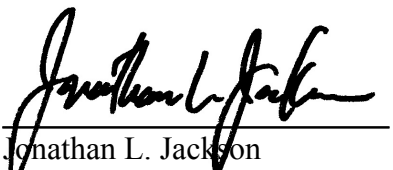

Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign
Affairs

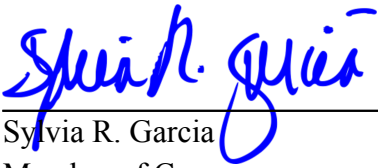

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress


Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

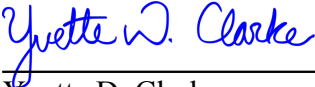
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