

Glauber Braga: The Brazilian MP Who Refuses to Be Silenced

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In a dramatic showdown that has galvanized Brazil’s progressive movement, socialist parliamentarian Glauber Braga has become the focal point of a struggle against right-wing political persecution. His hunger strike, now entering its second week, represents more than just one man’s fight to save his political career—it symbolizes the wider battle for democratic principles in a nation where powerful conservative forces increasingly target vocal left-wing representatives. As the establishment attempts to silence this troublesome voice in parliament, a remarkable coalition of workers’ movements, indigenous rights groups, and cross-party allies is forming to defend not just Braga, but the very concept of political dissent in Brazil’s fragile democracy.[AN]



Since 10th April, Glauber Braga, an activist and parliamentarian from the Socialism and Freedom Party (PSOL) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has been on hunger strike following a decision by the Ethics Council of the Chamber of Deputies. This council, composed of a right-wing majority, approved a recommendation to remove him from his position as a federal deputy for breaching parliamentary decorum—a charge widely seen as disproportionate to the alleged offence. However, the measure remains subject to appeal and must be approved by Parliament.

The complaint was filed by the Free Brazil Movement (MBL). One of its members, who had been provoking conflicts with Glauber for months, unacceptably insulted the parliamentarian’s terminally ill mother. This follows a common tactic employed by far-right activists: provoke a left-wing activist, attempting to make them “lose their cool”, then film and share this “fight against the left” on social media. In this instance, the deputy responded with a kick.

The then-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Arthur Lira, initiated proceedings against Glauber Braga in retaliation for his exposés in the Brazilian Parliament regarding the “secret budget”—an opaque method of obtaining public funds for projects of interest to deputies and senators. These resources are allocated and approved by parliamentarians without any transparency regarding either the amount or the names of the parliamentarians involved. Lira is the main figure responsible

for and beneficiary of this procedure.

This questionable approach to handling public money has existed since 2020. According to the Supreme Court, Lira is under investigation for distributing 4.2 billion reais in amendments over the past two years.

Other forms of persecution by the institutional right regularly occur in cities where PSOL councillors operate, for example, when denouncing the genocide against the Palestinian people. The methods used by right-wing forces are not exclusive to parliamentary practice in Brazil and tend to be replicated in other countries, including France.

Today, Brazil is witnessing a significant wave of support for Glauber Braga and for overturning the decision of the Parliamentary Ethics Council. It is crucial to transform this offensive into hope for workers. Various unions, indigenous organisations, and numerous social movements have spoken out in favour of overturning Glauber's judgment. On its website, the National Federation of Oil Workers writes about "the popular mandate that disturbs the powerful" and adds: "This is a new episode in the political persecution of one of the few parliamentarians who has never bowed to the interests of elites hostile to workers".

The campaign in his defence is mobilising the entire left, including the non-parliamentary left, such as the PSTU, which is also defending Glauber's mandate—a deputy who is highly respected by the more radical left as well.

The PSOL, a party quite divided between its more leftist sectors and those closer to Lula's government, has united to defend Glauber's mandate.

Gleisi Hoffman, a minister in Lula's government responsible for relations with Parliament, and Lindbergh Farias, leader of the PT parliamentary group, are also mobilising in defence of Glauber. In other words, the campaign to defend him is bringing together the entire left.

This unity in struggle is full of hope for class struggle in Brazil. All are invited to join the solidarity movement with this activist of inestimable value to the struggles of working people worldwide!

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P.S.

Translated for ESSF by Adam Novak