

# [***Brazilian police launch investigation into Bolsonaro's 2-night sleepover at Hungarian embassy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BNF-NSC1-DYMD-61W9-00000-00&context=1516831)

The Associated Press

March 28, 2024 Thursday 10:37 PM GMT

Copyright 2024 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

**Dateline:** SAO PAULO

**Body**

SAO PAULO — Brazil's Federal Police on Monday launched an investigation into former President Jair Bolsonaro's two-night stay last month at the Hungarian embassy in Brasilia, amid widespread speculation from his opponents that he may have been attempting to evade arrest.

A Federal Police source with knowledge of the investigation confirmed to The Associated Press that it was undertaken in response to a report from The New York Times, which featured security camera video of the Hungarian ambassador welcoming [*Bolsonaro*](https://apnews.com/hub/jair-bolsonaro) on Feb. 12 and footage of Bolsonaro from the rest of his stay. Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, one of the leaders of a global far-right movement, is a key international ally of his.

The visit took place just days after Federal Police seized Bolsonaro’s Brazilian passport and [*raided the homes of his top aides*](https://apnews.com/article/brazil-police-bolsonaro-allies-search-coup-a060e6570a03f9b094ebdcfa2847736d) as part of a probe into whether they plotted to ignore 2022 election results and stage an uprising to keep the defeated leader in power.

Bolsonaro has denied wrongdoing regarding this investigation, and multiple others targeting him.

Were the Federal Police to obtain an arrest warrant for the former president, officers would not have jurisdiction to enter the Hungarian embassy due to diplomatic conventions restricting access.

Bolsonaro’s lawyers said in a statement on Monday that there was nothing amiss about his embassy stay.

“In the days he was at the Hungarian embassy, by invitation, the former Brazilian president spoke to countless authorities from the friendly country for updates on the political scenarios of both nations,” his lawyers said in the statement. “Any other interpretations ... constitute an evidently fictional work, with no connection to the reality of the facts.”

Speaking at his party's headquarters in Sao Paulo, Bolsonaro told supporters he gets many calls from Orbán to discuss ***politics***.

“To this day I have a relationship with some heads of state around the world,” Bolsonaro said. “If I had my passport, I would have traveled to Israel.”

Brazil's foreign ministry said in a short statement that it had summoned Hungary's ambassador Miklos Halmai to explain why Bolsonaro was his guest at the embassy.

Bolsonaro flew to the U.S. in the final days of his term, in December 2022, just days before his supporters stormed the capital in a failed bid to oust President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from power. He [*remained in South Florida for three months.*](https://apnews.com/article/bolsonaro-brazil-return-florida-a91b1253ac856c64bdc85bdfb4418dd8#:~:text=BRASILIA%2C%20Brazil%20(AP)%20%E2%80%94,power%20in%20Brazil%20for%20long.)

Some of Bolsonaro's political rivals seized on the news Monday to call for his arrest, alleging that he once again is signaling plans to escape.

“These images just reinforce that Bolsonaro is a confessed fugitive,” Alexandre Padilha, Lula's minister of institutional relations, told reporters in Brasilia, citing Bolsonaro's stint in the U.S. last year. “But what the courts and the Federal Police will do with these images (published by The New York Times) isn't for me to say.”

Augusto de Arruda Botelho, a criminal lawyer who has been an outspoken critic of the former president, wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that “Bolsonaro’s act of hiding in the embassy is a classic motive for decreeing preventive detention."

"It is one of those situations used as an example in books and classrooms,” he added.

\_\_\_

This story has been corrected to show that Bolsonaro’s Brazilian passport was seized rather than his Brazilian and Italian passports.

\_\_\_

Follow AP’s coverage of Latin America and the Caribbean at [*https://apnews.com/hub/latin-america*](https://apnews.com/hub/latin-america)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2024

**End of Document**