

Brazil Lula's Former Chief of Staff Goes to Court Against Accuser

Contributed by Ana Paula Marra
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Brazilian Congressman José Dirceu, who just resigned his post of chief of staff of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, plans to file a formal complaint in the Federal Supreme Court (STF) against his House colleague, Deputy Roberto Jefferson, "on account of the declarations made on Friday by the Deputy from the PTB of Rio de Janeiro."

The announcement came in a note issued on Friday, June 17, by the Special Presidential Civilian Advisory Office. Jefferson claimed that the outgoing Minister "is the leader of the biggest corruption scheme in recent history."

On Thursday, June 16, Dirceu asked President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to relieve him of his executive post so that he could reassume his mandate as Federal Deputy elected by the PT (Workers' Party) of São Paulo.

Dirceu continues to hold the title of Minister until tomorrow, June 21, when his exit from the Administration's top echelon should be promulgated officially in the Diário Oficial da União (Federal Daily Register).

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