

Wholesale Changes in Brazil: Ministers Fired, Ministries Closed

Contributed by Cecilia Jorge
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More changes have been made in the government of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The heads of the secretariats of Human Rights and Government Communication (Secom) will no longer be cabinet posts.

Human Rights will be housed in the Ministry of Justice and Secom will now be subordinated to the office of presidential Chief of Staff (Casa Civil).

That means that Nilmário Miranda and Luiz Gushiken are no longer ministers. Miranda is expected to leave the government soon so he can run for election next year.

Three other ministers will be leaving the cabinet. Aldo Rebelo leaves the office of Political Coordination to return to the Chamber of Deputies. Eduardo Campos leaves the Ministry of Science and Technology also to return to the Chamber of Deputies.

He will be substituted by Sergio Rezende, the head of the Studies and Projects Financing Office. Romero Jucá will leave the Ministry of Social Security and return to the Senate.

It was also announced that two secretariats will be closed down: Political Coordination (which was headed by Rebelo) and the Economic and Social Development Council (headed by Jacques Wagner).

In their place a secretariat of Economic and Social Development and Institutional Relations will be created to be headed by Wagner.

Presidential spokesman, Andre Singer, reports that more changes will be announced on Monday.

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