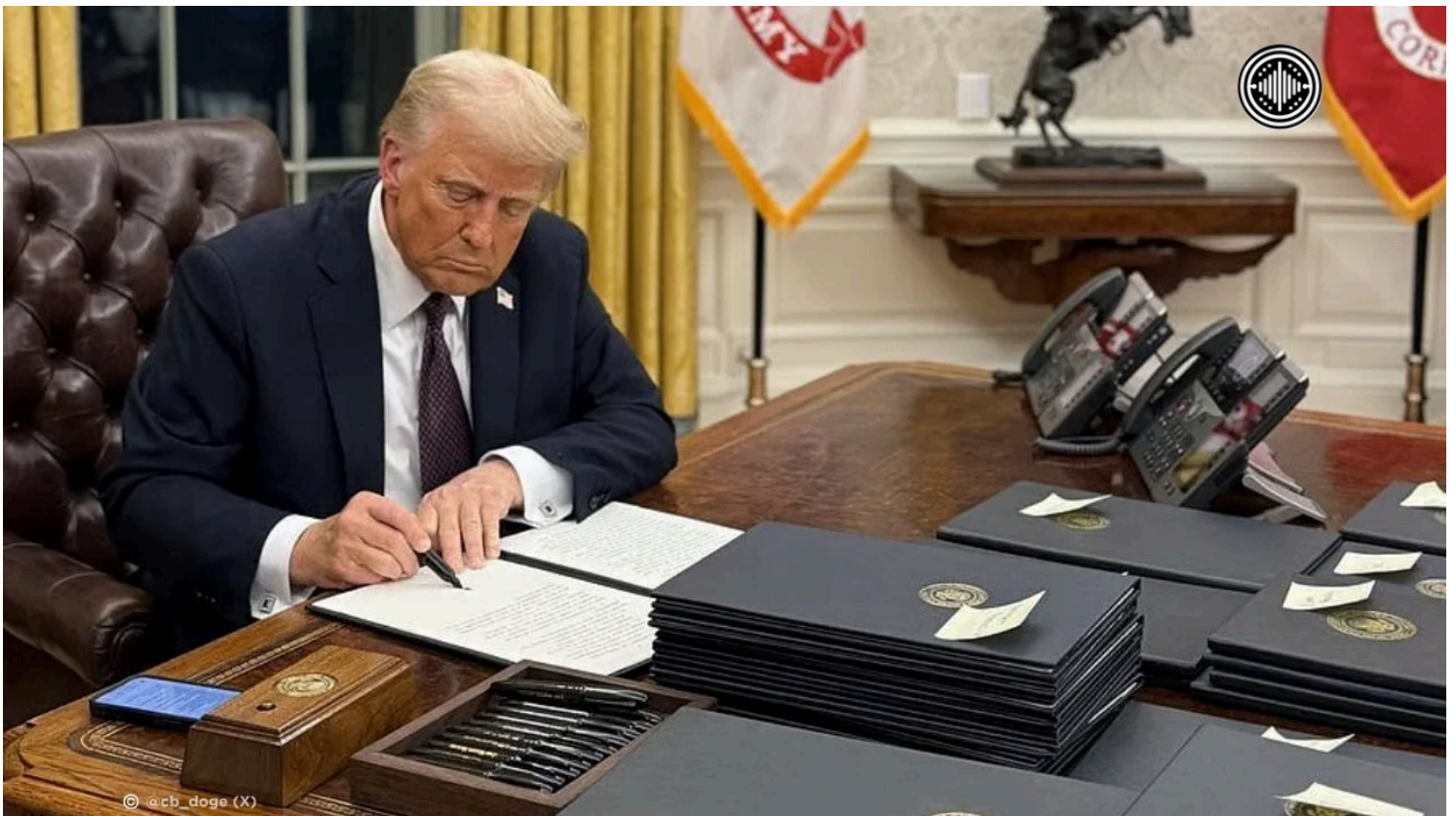


Trump Imposes 40% Tariff Hike on Brazilian Imports, Citing Threats to U.S. National Interests

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President Donald Trump has signed an executive order adding a 40% tariff on certain imports from Brazil, bringing the total duty to 50%. The move, announced on July 30, was justified by Trump because recent actions by the Brazilian government pose a direct threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economic stability of the United States. The new

tariffs, which take effect seven days after publication, exclude key Brazilian exports such as passenger vehicles and some iron and steel products.

According to the executive order, the administration has determined that specific policies and judicial actions in Brazil, particularly those targeting American technology firms, violate First Amendment protections and interfere with U.S. domestic affairs. Trump stated that certain Brazilian officials have attempted to pressure American online platforms into censoring U.S. citizens, altering moderation practices, and turning over sensitive user data. He argued these actions were often carried out under the guise of fighting “disinformation” and “hate speech,” but in practice, amounted to politically motivated suppression of free expression.

“These judicial actions... endanger the economy of the U.S. by tyrannically and arbitrarily coercing U.S. companies,” the order reads, describing the situation as an “unusual and extraordinary threat” that justifies declaring a national emergency. As a result, an additional *ad valorem* duty of 40% has been imposed on a range of Brazilian products, atop an existing 10% baseline.

The order includes exceptions for certain categories of Brazilian imports. Goods that are already covered by current tariffs, such as passenger vehicles, metal products derived from iron and steel, and parts used in civil aircraft manufacturing, are excluded from the new measure.

This decision follows prior warnings from Trump to Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Earlier in July, Trump had criticized Lula’s administration and accused it of suppressing democratic values, referencing the legal proceedings against former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro as politically motivated.

In response, President Lula maintained a firm stance. Speaking to The New York Times, Lula emphasized Brazil’s sovereignty and rejected the notion that the country should capitulate under external pressure. “At no point will Brazil negotiate as if it were a small country up against a big country,” he said. “We know the economic, military, and technological power of the U.S., but that doesn’t make us afraid. It makes us concerned.”

Lula affirmed Brazil’s intent to approach the issue with seriousness and dignity.

“Seriousness does not require subservience,” he added. “I treat everyone with great respect, but I want to be treated with respect.”

