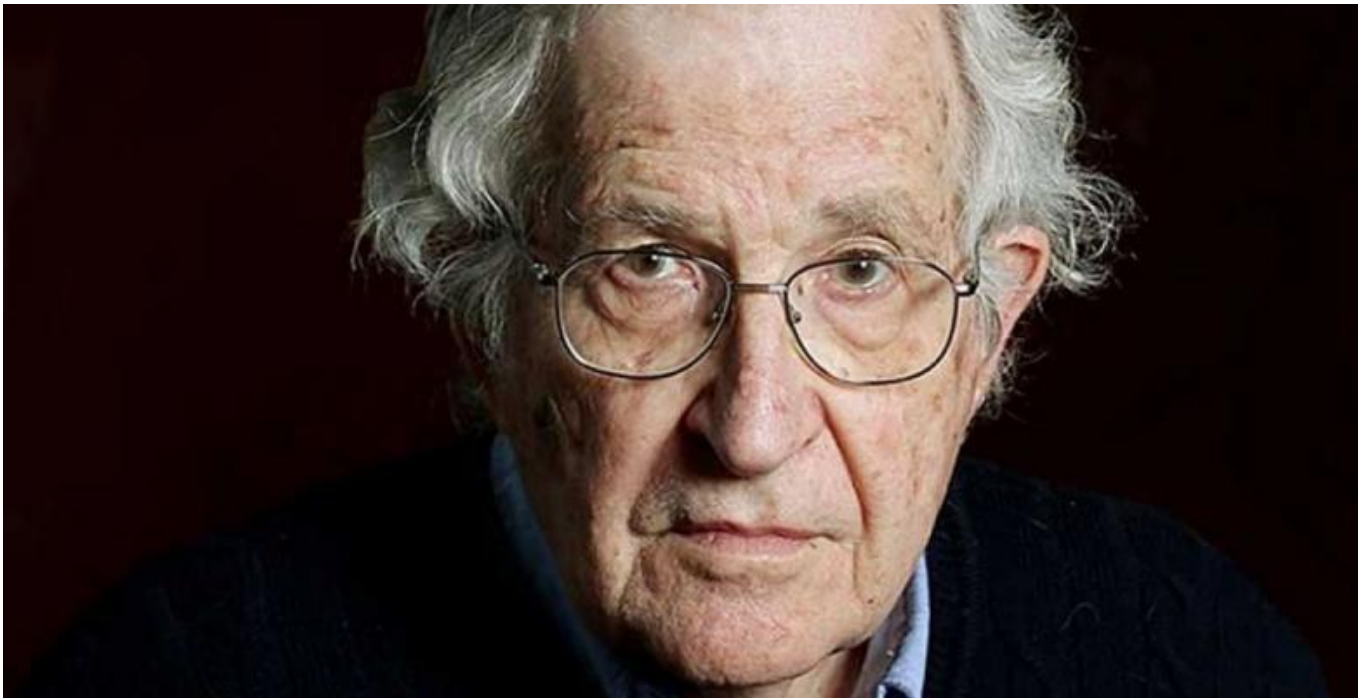

Noam Chomsky to Visit Lula in Prison Today

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Today, the world-renowned US intellectual and activist Noam Chomsky will visit former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has been a political prisoner for 167 day in Curitiba, the capital of the state of Parana. Chomsky arrived in Brazil last week to participate in the international seminar on Threats to Democracy and the Multipolar World, organized in Sao Paulo by the Perseu Abramo Foundation of the Workers' Party (PT).

At the meeting, the professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said that he had the privilege of meeting Lula 20 years ago and since then, he has been, and still is, very impressed by him.

There are problems with democracy in Brazil, serious problems, said Chomsky, who noted that the fact that Lula 'should be, by law', a candidate in the presidential elections called for next October should not be ignored.

On Monday, at a meeting with journalists at the Baron of Itarare Center of Alternative Media Studies, Chomsky pointed out that under Lula's government, Brazil became one of the world's most respected countries.

Lula organized the south of the world with protagonism, in an unprecedented way,' said the US intellectual, adding that the PT might wing the elections this year.