
Brazil's Rousseff Says Not Resigning in Political Crisis

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Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff rejected calls for her resignation on Friday amidst a political storm deepened by a massive corruption scandal and blamed her opponents for causing a crisis that has damaged the Brazilian economy.

"No one has the right to ask for the resignation of a legitimately elected president," Rousseff told reporters, indicating she has no intention of quitting.

The leftist leader blamed her opponents for causing a political crisis that she said has damaged the Brazilian economy, which shrank 3.8 percent last year contributing to Brazil's worst economic recession in 25 years. Despite the economic hardships, Rousseff said Finance Minister Nelson Barbosa's position in her cabinet was secure.

Opposition parties are seeking to unseat Rousseff by impeachment in Congress or annulment of her re-election for allegedly using illegal money from the Petrobras bribery and kickback scandal to fund her campaign.

Charges of money laundering brought against her mentor and predecessor former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva have deepened the crisis this week.

Rousseff said an arrest warrant requested by Sao Paulo state prosecutors for Lula on Thursday had absolutely no legal basis.