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## FEATURED Q&A

### *What Is Behind Latin American Countries' Stances on Israel?*

**Q Several Latin American leaders have condemned Israel for the recent violence in the Gaza Strip, including Bolivian President Evo Morales, who called Israel a "terrorist state." Morales' statements followed moves by Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ecuador and El Salvador to recall their ambassadors to Israel. What do Latin American countries have to gain or lose by taking a stand against Israel? How much influence does Latin America have on the world stage? Will Latin American countries' stances on violence in the Middle East have political ramifications at home or in their relations with the United States, generally a staunch ally of Israel?**

**A Riordan Roett, director of the Latin American Studies program at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies:** "The gesture by the Latin American states that have recalled their ambassadors from Israel is totally symbolic and aimed at a domestic audience. Latin America is not a player in global affairs. I am sure the White House does not even consider asking Latin American countries for their support or participation in attempting to find a negotiated solution in the Middle East. The United States understands that any effort to involve the region in the crisis will be resisted. In the case of Evo Morales it is a 'feel good' comment and nothing more. The Latin American states need to understand that there is high-level diplomacy and low-level diplomacy. On the Israeli-Hamas crisis, Latin America's stance is definitely low-level diplomacy. Marginally, in Argentina and Brazil, there are reasonably significant Jewish communities, but it does not appear that they have made this issue a major concern. Trade relations, in most cases, are minimal as is Middle Eastern investment in the region. The tragedy in Gaza is an issue to be resolved, hopefully, through U.S.-led mediation. Whatever the outcome, it will have little impact on Latin America's limited role in world affairs.

*Continued on page 2*

### Silva to Replace Campos as Candidate of Brazil's PSB

Marina Silva, the running mate of Brazilian presidential candidate Eduardo Campos who was killed last week in a plane crash, will replace Campos at the top of the ticket, party leaders said Friday. An official decision is expected later this week. See story on page 2.

*File Photo: Brazilian Government.*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Victims of Colombian Armed Conflict Join Peace Talks

For the first time, a group of victims has joined the peace talks between Colombia's government and the FARC rebels, which have been occurring since late 2012, BBC News reported Saturday. During a press conference in Havana, the group of 12 victims said negotiators listened to their stories with a great deal of respect. The victims include people who were harmed by left-wing rebels, as well as by right-wing paramilitaries and government forces.

### Former Chilean Army Commander Izurieta Dies at 71

Gen. Ricardo Izurieta, a former commander of the Chilean army, died at his home at age 71, BBC News reported Sunday. Izurieta, who succeeded Augusto Pinochet in the position, became army commander in 1998 during Chile's transition to democracy and established a human rights commission to investigation abuses committed under military rule. "He united the army and the whole Chilean society," the army said in a statement.

### Brazil's Financial System not Facing Major Risks: Bank Director

Brazil's financial system does not face any major risks to its stability, central bank director Carlos Hamilton Araujo said Friday, Reuters reported. Foreign debt at Brazilian companies is at a relatively low level, and consumer credit growth has slowed recently, which reduce risks, Araujo said. He added that the central bank's decision to maintain the interest rate at 11 percent does not conflict with measures recently taken to inject $20 billion into the credit markets, which analysts have suggested could stoke inflation in the country.

# Political News

## Brazil's Silva to Replace Campos as Presidential Candidate

The Brazilian Socialist Part, or PSB, will name Marina Silva as its presidential candidate to replace Eduardo Campos, who was killed last week in a plane crash, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Saturday. Silva is a former environment minister who had been Campos' running mate and made a strong showing in the country's last presidential election. On Friday, PSB leaders told Silva that they wanted her to run, and she accepted, Ricardo Young, a São Paulo city council member, told the newspaper. "The party has some internal procedure it wants to follow to announce it, but the main leadership has confirmed it," said Young. The PSB leader in the Senate told Brazilian daily newspaper *O Globo* that the party had chosen Silva and was working on selecting her running mate. Silva joined Campos' ticket after she failed to gather enough signatures on a petition to register her own party for the Oct. 5 presidential election. In the 2010 presidential contest, Silva finished third, but garnered nearly 20 percent of the vote. The PSB's executive board will meet Wednesday in Brasília to make Silva's selection official, said Senator Rodrigo Rollemberg, Bloomberg News reported. The meeting will happen one week after Campos and six others were killed when their Cessna crashed in the city of Santos. In the first voter poll published since the crash, Silva and President Dilma Rousseff appear technically tied in the event of a runoff. The **Datafolha** poll, published today by *Folha de S. Paulo*, shows that Silva would have 47 percent support as compared to 43 percent for Rousseff, a difference within the poll's margin of error. In a matchup between Rousseff and Senator Aécio Neves, Rousseff would garner 47 percent of the votes to Neves' 39 percent, the poll found. In the first round, Rousseff has 36 percent support as compared to 21 percent for Silva and 20 percent for Neves, according to the poll of 2,843 people, which was conducted between Thursday and Friday of last week. Before his death, Campos was trailing both Rousseff and Neves. If no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote in the first

Campos

*File Photo: PSB.*

**Featured Q&A**

*Continued from page 1*

When this issue is resolved, as it will be at least temporarily, U.S.-Latin relations will return to normal, unless a few of the leaders in the region decide to attack the United States for being biased in favor of Israel. That would indeed escalate tension in the hemisphere, but hopefully the symbolic gesture of recalling ambassadors will be sufficient."

**A William McIlhenny, senior fellow at The German Marshall Fund of the United States:** "The impact of recalling a diplomatic representative is usually a function of the two states' relevance to each other's national security or economic interests. Where relevance is high, the action can pack a punch and advance a coordinated strategy toward a specific objective. Where mutual relevance is minimal, the gesture can be largely hollow, but still damage trust and relations for a long time. Brazil would seem like a natural player in constructive international efforts to reduce Mideast conflict. Its historic friendship with Israel (including still-significant economic and security ties); large and influential Jewish and Arab populations living in comity; and diplomatic reach in the developing world, might have been building blocks for positive influence. Instead, Brazilian Mideast diplomacy in recent years, particularly what some Brazilian observers see as a policy of 'selective moral indignation,' undercut perceptions of Brazil's objectivity and its potential influence as

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round on Oct. 5, a runoff will be held on Oct. 26. Silva has refused to confirm to reporters whether she will run. On Sunday, tens of thousands of Brazilians gathered in the city of Recife to bid farewell to Campos, Reuters reported. Mourners waited in line for hours to pay their respects at his coffin. Several prominent Brazilians, including Rousseff and former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva attended Campos' open-air funeral Mass. [Editor's note: See related Q&A in Friday's *Advisor*.]

### WikiLeaks' Assange Says He'll Leave Ecuadorean Embassy 'Soon'

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who has been in a self-imposed exile for two years in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, said today that he will leave the embassy "soon," Bloomberg News reported. In a press conference that was broadcast on the Internet from the embassy, Assange said the building "has no outside areas, no sunlight." Assange, an Australian national, has lived inside the embassy since June 2012 and risks arrest the moment he steps outside it. However, he said recent changes to Britain's extradition law might help him remain in the country. He sought asylum from the South American country in an effort to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he faces questioning on rape and sexual molestation charges that he denies. Assange has said that he fears Sweden would allow his extradition to the United States over WikiLeaks' release of secret government documents.

## Company News

### Morgan Stanley Unit Ordered to Pay $4.5 Million to Banamex

A **Morgan Stanley** unit must pay $4.5 million to Mexico's **Banamex**, which alleged the New York-based financial services firm allowed money in a family's trust account to be used to pay off third-party loans without proper authorization, an arbitration panel ruled Friday, Reuters reported. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority panel found that Morgan Stanley was liable for negligence in the case.


## *Subscriber Notice*

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## Featured Q&A

*Continued from page 2*

an honest broker. Taking sides stridently in the Gaza conflict—even actions that stepped out beyond most of the international community—may be good base politics for a Workers' Party president facing a tight election. Brazil's reportedly strong pressure on several of its neighbors to follow suit may have been a successful retort to Israel's very undiplomatic characterization of Brazil as a 'diplomatic dwarf.' But it is hard to see any upside in terms of Brazil's long-term interests and influence in the Mideast, or prospects for de-escalation and peace in Gaza. Concern about U.S. reaction wasn't really a factor here. Fear and admiration of the United States are at low points in Latin America, where our relations are generally strong but increasingly mature and driven by a diversified range of mutual interests."

**Gilberto M.A. Rodrigues, professor at the Universidade Federal do ABC in São Paulo and board member of the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Economicas y Sociales in Buenos Aires:** "Israel's military operation against Hamas in Gaza violated international humanitarian law in attacks that killed and injured civilians, including hundreds of children. United Nations schools were bombed in Gaza and the U.N. secretary general said 'This madness must stop.' The operation in air and on land has happened with huge disproportionality in the use of force by Israel, whose right to self-defense is not a legal waiver to commit atrocities. How can the United States and European countries—'champions in human rights'—explain their lack of support for an independent investigation in Gaza approved by the U.N. Human Rights Council? As a country with large communities belonging to both parts of that conflict, Brazil did not take a side in the confrontation, but stood for international law and supported diplomatic solutions. Its pioneer position opened the door for similar ones by other Latin American countries. In fact, the general perception in the region is much more supporting the right of Palestinian self-determination and the full exercise of its political attributes and less agreeing with Hamas itself and its violent methods. The independent position of Latin American countries generates an important echo of solidarity among developing countries and even among part of civil society in the developed world who openly criticize the brutality affecting civilians in Gaza."

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*The* Advisor *welcomes reactions to the Q&A above. Readers can write editor Gene Kuleta at gkuleta@thedialogue.org with comments.*

**Latin America Advisor**
*is published every business day by the Inter-American Dialogue, Copyright © 2014*

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**Latin America Advisor** is published every business day, except for major U.S. holidays, by the Inter-American Dialogue at:
1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-822-9002 Fax: 202-822-9553
www.thedialogue.org ISSN 2163-7962

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