

BRAZIL FACES VIRUS AND POLITICAL CRISIS

Latin America's largest country is 1) _____.

Deaths from COVID-19 each day in Brazil [are currently the 2\)](#) _____ in the [world](#).

And the country's democracy is under serious 3) _____.

"There is this epidemic. There is a terrible social and economic crisis. And the government is going against everything that could help us," said Heloisa Pait, a professor of 4) _____ at São Paulo State University.

Far-right President Jair Bolsonaro is under fire for 5) _____ governors' responses to the virus and for trying to 6) _____ his authority.

"He goes to these 7) _____ without masks and everything. But also, he's doing things that he cannot do as president of the country," Pait explained.

The Brazilian 8) _____ Court is investigating 9) _____ that Bolsonaro fired a federal police chief to protect his son from corruption 10) _____. Another inquiry is looking into a 11) _____ campaign that appears to have helped Bolsonaro get elected in 2018.

"It's not a question of finding if there was something wrong or not. I think there was. The question is how we'll do this 12) _____," Pait said.

Bolsonaro could be 13) _____ from office by Congress via 14) _____ or by the courts via an 15) _____ of his election.

"So is it likely? I don't know. I think there's a lot of 16) _____ thinking. If I say 'Yes, it is likely,' it might be because I really want that to happen. I want this nightmare to end," Pait said.

In the meantime, the increasingly 17) _____ president is escalating [threats of a military takeover](#) to protect his presidency. Few in Brazil actually believe the military would agree to back Bolsonaro and participate in a coup. Still, the threats have 18) _____ significance in a country that only ended its military dictatorship 35 years ago.

"My personal guess is that the military is just still waiting to see what the Supreme Court and what the Congress decides about the situation," Pait said.

For now, the Supreme Court and other leaders in Brazil are doing their part [to keep Bolsonaro in check](#) and fight the virus, which is 19) _____ hitting [minorities](#).

"The groups that are more 20) _____ are really hurting: indigenous people, people in the favelas, informal workers," Pait said.

For Newsy, I'm Ben Schamisso.