Brazil Focus –
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Special Report
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Result of Impeachment Vote in Chamber

After the STF rejected (by an 8-to-2 vote) the government’s efforts to impede the impeachment debate and final roll call vote to proceed on 14-15 April, the sequence began in the Chamber at 8:55 a.m. on Friday, 15th April.

First, one of the authors of the impeachment request (that was accepted on 2nd December 2015 – Prof. Miguel Reale Jr., read a 25 minute summary. Second, the AGU, José Eduardo Cardozo, made a 25-minute defense of Pres. Dilma Rousseff. Then, the 25 parties represented in the Chamber were allotted 60 minutes each to expound their positions. This period could be divided among 5 deputies from each party. This lasted until the wee hours of Saturday, 16th April.

On Friday morning, individual deputies could signup to deliver 3-minute speeches on Saturday. This sequence also extended until the wee hours of Sunday, 17th April and was shortened when the several of the pro-impeachment parties relinquished their time.

On Friday, the only PSD cabinet Minister (Cities), Gilberto Kassab, delivered his resignation letter to Pres. Dilma – obeying the decision of his party.
The **PDT** “closed the question” against impeachment, and he party president, Carlos Lupi, threatened that and “dissidents” would be expelled from the party. Four of the 19 PDT deputies were declared votes in favor of impeachment.

On Saturday, each side lost one deputy. The Chamber Vice-President, Waldir Maranhão (PP-MA), a former “close ally” of Chamber President Eduardo Cunha (PMDB-RJ), decided to oppose impeachment. **However,** because the PP had “closed the question” obliging all PP deputies to vote in favor of impeachment, four **PP** deputies opted to change their positions and vote for impeachment. Waldir Maranhão affirmed that as a result, 14 PP deputies would eventually leave the party (after the impeachment vote).

The **second** “reversal” was one of the four deputies who left their cabinet positions to reassume their seats to vote against impeachment. **However,** former Civil Aviation Minister, Dep. Mauro Lopes (PMDB-MG), announced that he would vote in favor of impeachment – so as not to go against his party’s decision.

Pres. Dilma had requisitioned a 15-minute prime time TV slot (8:00 p.m. on Friday evening) in an obligatory national hookup to lash out against her impeachment. However, the PSDB requested an injunction with the first federal circuit judge in Brasília – Solange Salgado – who vetoed this initiative. Dilma and her group affirmed that she had canceled this event – because the AGU advised her that it would be “counter productive”. Instead, her speech was shortened to 5 minutes and “broadcast” via “social media” internet outlets.

On Friday and Saturday, the STF rejected several last-minute requests to cancel the roll call vote on Sunday.

On Saturday, pro- and contra-impeachment protest street demonstrations were organized in some eight cities. The MST mobilized to block highways in several states.

**43 hours of speeches in Chamber**

As mentioned above, the discussion with speeches pro- and anti-impeachment began at 8:55 a.m. on Friday, and finally ended at 4:00 a.m. on Sunday – with only a 15-minute break around 5:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

**SUNDAY – The Roll Call Vote**

The proceedings in the Chamber began at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, 17th April. At 2:00 p.m., the reporter from the Chamber Impeachment Committee reviewed his final report in 25 minutes. Then, each of the 18 leaders of parties and party blocks addressed the Chamber for between 10 and 3 minutes – proportionate to the size of each respective party/block delegation.

The order of voting established by Chamber President Eduardo Cunha (PMDB-RJ) on 14th April and upheld by the STF, determined that the order of the states be alternated (North-South) beginning with Amapá and ending with Alagoas.
The Alternating North-South Voting Order (by State)


Within each state, the roll call followed the alphabetical order of deputies (without regard to political party). Supposedly, each deputy would have 30 seconds to declare his/her vote at the microphones positioned at the front of the Chamber.

The roll call vote began at 5:40 p.m. and finished at 11:45 p.m. At 11:05 p.m., the vote reached the required two-thirds of the deputies (342).

The final result was:

- Pro-Impeachment: 367
- Anti-Impeachment: 137
- Abstentions: 7
- Absent: 2

Total: 513