

Brazil's Interim President Michel Temer Received \$300,000 Bribe: Whistleblower

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Global Research, June 26, 2016

teleSUR 25 June 2016

Region: <u>Latin America & Caribbean</u>

The latest allegations follow the possible implication of 175 deputies and senators, a staggering 30 percent, of Brazil's entire National Congress.

Brazil's acting President Michel Temer allegedly received a bribe of US\$296,000 that Engevix company owner Jose Antunes Sobrinho paid through intermediaries, Brazilian magazine Epoca reported Saturday.

The report cited allegations by the executive in efforts to secure a plea bargain with federal authorities.

In his proposed plea bargain, Antunes alleges that Joao Batista Lima, owner of the Sao Paulo-based architecture firm Argeplan and a close friend of Temer, had received work contracts in exchange for granting bribes to the current Brazilian head-of-state.

Lima, a former military police colonel, has <u>repeatedly been accused of being</u> the "key person involved in the dirty work" between companies and PMDB politicians.

If his plea bargain request is granted, Antunes says that he can prove Temer received a bribe of US\$296,000 in exchange for a construction contract that was awarded to Argeplan to build the Angra III nuclear-generation unit, which forms part of Brazil's sole nuclear power plant.

Police detained José Antunes Sobrinho, a partner of construction company Engevix, for allegedly bribing officials of Eletronuclear, the nuclear-generation unit of Eletrobras, to win contracts.

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