

Known as 'Operation Car Wash', Lava Jato is the largest corruption investigation ever conducted in Brazil. With 38 phases to date, it has uncovered bribery, money laundering and diversion of public funds throughout government and the private sector.

Operaco Lava Jato

At First, A Money Laundering Scheme

Mar. 2014 Federal Police (PF) open investigations in six states and the federal district

Mar. 2014 Alberto Youssef, a Brazilian businessman, is arrested for money laundering

Mar. 2014 Paulo Costa, former Petrobras director, is arrested in connection to Youssef

Plea Bargains Implicate Private Corporations

June 2015 The presidents of Odebrecht and Andrade Gutierrez, two of the country's largest construction firms, are arrested

Aug. 2016 Queiroz Galvo—a Brazilian industrial conglomerate—is accused of forming a cartel to fraudulently adjust bidding for Petrobras projects, with alleged bribes approaching R \$10 million

Mar. 2017 The Superior Electoral Court hears testimony from Odebrecht executives regarding financing of the 2014 presidential campaign

Nov. 2014 Over 20 arrest orders are issued for executives of seven large construction firms

Jan. 2016 PF investigates whether the OAS engineering firm used a condominium in Guaruj—where former President Lula allegedly owned property—to pass along Petrobras bribes

Mar. 2017 Over a dozen of Brazil's largest construction firms are now under investigation

Petrobras, Uncovered

Apr. 2014 PF conduct search and seizure operation at the headquarters of Petrobras, Brazil's largest company

Jan. 2015 Former Petrobras Director Nestor Cerver is arrested

Politicians Further Entangled

Apr. 2015 Joo Vaccari Neto, Treasurer of the Workers' Party (PT), is arrested for allegedly receiving bribes for Petrobras projects and removed from his post

Feb. 2016 Joo Santana, a publicist from former President Dilma's presidential campaigns, is arrested

Mar. 2016 Former President Lula is brought in to give testimony regarding claims he received bribes in the form of donations and home renovations

Scandal Spreads to New Sectors

Apr. 2015 Investigation expands to include crimes at state-owned bank Caixa Econmica Federal and the Ministry of Health

Sept. 2016 The investigation uncovers bribery in contracts surrounding the Angra 3 nuclear power plant and arrests the president of Eletronuclear

Sept. 2016 FPB Bank of Panama is accused of working with Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca to operate illegally in Brazil

Other projects suspected of bribery include the Belo Monte hydroelectric plant, railroads, metro lines and various World Cup and Olympic venues

May 2016 Eduardo Cunha is removed from his position as Speaker of the House due to his investigation under Lava Jato

May 2016 Antonio Palocci, former Finance Minister for Lula and Chief of Staff for Dilma, is investigated for criminal connections to Odebrecht

Mar. 2017 Countless politicians from a variety of parties are currently under investigation for involvement with the scheme