

Bus fares & World Cup costs fuel Brazil protests

21st June, 2013



The biggest protests Brazil has seen for decades are taking place in its streets. Many of them are happening outside soccer stadiums. Brazil is currently hosting the Confederations Cup – a FIFA World Cup test event. While Brazil's team beat Mexico 2-0 on Tuesday night, thousands of protesters were in the streets outside the stadium. There were around 100,000 more people protesting around Brazil at the same time. They are unhappy with many things about life in their country. The protests started last week in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo because of an increase in bus fares. They soon spread across the country. People are also angry about the cost of the 2014 World Cup, poor public services, and corruption.

Protests across the country are getting bigger and bigger. The police are taking tougher actions to control the crowds. Police used rubber bullets, tear gas and beatings, which have made the people angrier. Many of the protestors want the government to spend more money on health and education and less on the World Cup. The BBC reported seeing a banner that read: "A teacher is worth more than Neymar" (Brazil's star player). One of the banners in the crowd at the Brazil-Mexico game asked FIFA (the World Cup organisers) to bring hospitals to Brazil instead of stadiums. Another Brazilian star, striker Hulk, said: "After seeing the people on the streets...it makes me feel like joining them. They are doing the right thing."

Sources: *The Guardian* / *BBC* / *CNN*

Writing

The police should stay at home when people protest. They always make things worse. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

protests / decades / in the streets / stadiums / unhappy / bus fares / public services / rubber bullets / tear gas / health / education / teacher / banners / doing the right thing

True / False

- Brazil's biggest ever protests are taking place outside soccer stadiums. T / F
- Around 100,000 people protested outside the Brazil-Mexico game. T / F
- The protests started because of an increase in bus fares. T / F
- People are protesting about the price of World Cup tickets. T / F
- The police are using more dangerous methods to control the protests. T / F
- People want schools and hospitals instead of better football stadiums. T / F
- A banner said a teacher was more important than Brazil's star player. T / F
- The Brazil player Hulk said the protestors were wrong to protest. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. protests | a. bad |
| 2. taking place | b. larger |
| 3. unhappy | c. demonstrations |
| 4. increase | d. rather than |
| 5. poor | e. sign |
| 6. bigger | f. dissatisfied |
| 7. control | g. happening |
| 8. banner | h. being part of |
| 9. instead of | i. rise |
| 10. joining | j. hold back |

Discussion – Student A

- Do the police need rubber bullets and tear gas?
- What does tear gas do?
- Should Brazil have built more hospitals and schools instead of hosting the World Cup?
- Which is better – a teacher or a world-class soccer player?
- Is it fair that a soccer player's salary is one hundred times larger than a teacher's salary?
- What will happen to the World Cup if the protests continue?
- Is it OK for Hulk to say the people are right to protest?
- What questions would you like to ask Brazil's president?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The biggest protests Brazil | a. were in the streets |
| 2. thousands of protesters | b. instead of stadiums |
| 3. at | c. services |
| 4. an increase | d. on health |
| 5. poor public | e. the same time |
| 6. tougher actions | f. in bus fares |
| 7. spend more money | g. more |
| 8. A teacher is worth | h. has seen for decades |
| 9. bring hospitals to Brazil | i. joining them |
| 10. it makes me feel like | j. to control the crowds |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about the protests in Brazil?
- Is it more important to protest or watch football?
- Why are the protests happening outside football stadiums?
- Should people not mix sport and protests?
- Should Brazilians be proud of hosting the World Cup instead of protesting about it?
- What things are people unhappy about in your country?
- What would you take to the streets to protest about?
- Would you be afraid to protest in your country?

Spelling

- biggest protests Brazil has seen for dseedac
- happening outside soccer aumssitd
- Brazil is yelrcutrñ hosting the tournament
- an cisnaere in bus fares
- daeprs across the country
- poor public eisrvesc
- police are taking gutheor actions
- rubber utblsel
- tear gas and aigesbtn
- more money on health and oditaecnu
- World Cup aesionsgrr
- it makes me feel like niiongj them

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. c | 2. g | 3. f | 4. i | 5. a |
| 6. b | 7. j | 8. e | 9. d | 10. h |

Role Play

Role A – Brazil president

You want the protestors to stop protesting and go home. Tell the others three reasons why. The 2014 World Cup is important for Brazil. It will make Brazil richer, so the country can build more schools and hospitals. The transport system is also better because of the World Cup.

Role B – Protestor

You want all of Brazil's government to go. Tell the others three reasons why. You are angry the government spends lots of money on football. Many Brazilians are so poor. Brazil needs schools and hospitals. The World Cup will not bring better public services.

Role C – Neymar

You think the protests should continue but not outside football stadiums. Tell the others three reasons why. You think the government should spend more money on sport for poor people. You think FIFA should pay for the World Cup, not the Brazilian people.

Role D – FIFA boss

You are worried about the 2014 World Cup being in Brazil. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them that the World Cup may move to another country. There cannot be protests outside football stadiums. You want the president to help the people so that the protests stop.

Speaking – Worth more

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the ones worth most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a teacher
- a world-class athlete
- a police officer
- a president / prime minister
- a soldier
- a banker
- a charity worker
- a nurse

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | F | e | T | f | T | g | T | h | F |
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.