

# Brazil senate leader vows to stay on

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BRASILIA, Brazil --

Brazilian Senate President Renan Calheiros said Tuesday that he won't resign over accusations he accepted payoffs from one of the country's top construction companies.

Calheiros vowed to stay on the job a day after he denied the allegations in an address to the Senate, and he said he has provided enough evidence to clear his name.

"I've turned in all my documents, my income tax returns, absolutely everything," he said. "Nothing is missing."

Calheiros, an ally of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and third in line of succession for the presidency, again denied a report by the respected Veja magazine that he accepted more than \$8,000 monthly from the Mendes Junior construction company to help it get public works contracts.

The company also denied the report, but some senators have suggested his image had been so damaged that he should step down.

Silva's mines and energy minister resigned last week amid accusations he accepted \$50,000 from a construction company that obtained government contracts. He denied wrongdoing.

Three other members of Silva's Cabinet resigned during earlier corruption allegations, but Silva has remained untouched by the scandals.