

**Disappearance on the Rio Javari. Where are Bruno and Dom?
We oppose impunity, negligence, and violence against Amazon populations**

The Brazilian Anthropology Association (ABA) expresses its concern for the disappearance, on Sunday 5 June, of the indigenist from the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), Bruno Araújo Pereira, and of British journalist and contributor to The Guardian newspaper Dom Phillips, in the region of the Vale do Rio Javari in Amazonas state,

According to a joint message from the Union of Indigenous Organizations of the Vale do Javari (UNIVAJA) and the Observatory of Human Rights of Isolated Indigenous Peoples and those of Recent Contact) issued Monday morning 6 June, Bruno and Dom went to visit an Indigenous territorial watch group near the Jaburu Lake, close to the FUNAI base on the Rio Ituí. Upon returning to the city of Atalaia do Norte close to 6 am Sunday morning 5 June, they stopped their boat for a few minutes in the riverside community of São Rafael. They should have reached their destination two hours later. But never did.

The Javari Indigenous Land has been the target of gold prospectors, lumberers, and drug traffickers. More recently, there has been news of the presence of militia groups acting in the region. In September 2019, Funai employee Maxciel Pereira dos Santos, who had worked for more than twelve years on the Front for Ethno-environmental Protection of the Vale do Javari, was murdered with two shots to the back in broad daylight on the busiest street of the city of Tabatinga (AM), on the Brazilian border with Colombia and Peru. Maxciel worked mainly in actions of surveillance and protection of the Indigenous Land. Since then, the vulnerability of the territory and the Indigenous population has increased as well as that of Funai employees. Impunity has been “naturalized”. Until now, neither Maxciel’s killers, or those who ordered his murder have been punished.

We call attention to the fact that certain political and government forces have displayed tremendous disregard for, and even blatant incentives to, the destruction of Indigenous communities. The country has witnessed armed attacks by gold prospectors and landgrabbers, and acts of cruelty and violence in the daily treatment of these peoples. Deaths and extremely harmful effects on the life and survival of the Indigenous people have intensified under the current government.

Our legitimate concern for the situation of Bruno and Dom is based on the context of destruction and violence in which they disappeared. Both Bruno, an indigenist from the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), and the English journalist and collaborator with The Guardian newspaper Dom Phillips, are professionals who have proven their dedication to the Amazon peoples.

As researchers and citizens, we express our indignation and repudiation towards this situation. The Brazilian Anthropology Association understands that all efforts must be taken to clarify their disappearance. The National Indian Foundation, the Federal Police, and the state police of Amazonas

must act rapidly in collaboration with the Federal Public Ministry (MPF) and the Union of Indigenous Organizations of the Vale do Javari (UNIVAJA). They should also increase their efforts to clarify the death of the Funai employee Maxciel Pereira dos Santos, which is apparently linked to the difficult yet well-known circumstances that confront the region.

We want justice for Maxciel

Where are Bruno and Dom?

We request maximum urgency in the search.

Brasília, 7 June 2022.

Brazilian Anthropology Association – ABA