

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

The Brazilian Anthropology Association (ABA) is concerned about the disappearance of the FUNAI indigenist researcher Bruno Araújo Pereira and British journalist and The Guardian contributor Dom Phillips on Sunday June 5, 2022.

According to a joint message issued on Monday June 6 by the Union of Indigenous Organizations of the Vale do Javari (UNIVAJA) and the Observatory of Human Rights of Isolated Indigenous Peoples, 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 a.m. Sunday morning June 5, they stopped their boat for a few minutes at 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, lumberjacks, and drug traffickers for some years. Recently, we have heard of militia groups present 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 in broad daylight on the busiest street of the city of Tabatinga. This city is on the Brazilian border with Colombia and Peru. Maxciel worked mainly in surveillance and protection of the Indigenous Land and, since then, the territory has become more vulnerable as have the Indigenous population itself and FUNAI employees. Impunity has been “naturalized.” So far, neither Maxciel’s killers, nor those who ordered his murder have been punished.

ABA calls attention to the tremendous disregard shown by certain political and government forces for the continued destruction of Indigenous communities. In fact, we call attention to the frequently blatant disregard of these communities. The country has witnessed armed attacks by gold prospectors and land grabbers, as well as acts of cruelty and violence in the daily treatment of these peoples. Under the current national government, these acts have intensified. They have led to deaths and serious challenges to the lives and survival of Brazil’s Indigenous people.

Hence, we worry about Bruno and Dom. Both Bruno and Dom are professionals who have proven their dedication to the people of the Amazon. So, as researchers and citizens, we express our indignation and repudiation of their disappearance.

The Brazilian Anthropology Association understands that all efforts must be taken to find them and not avoid looking into their disappearance. The National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), the Federal Police, and the state police of the Amazon must act rapidly in collaboration with the Federal Public Ministry (the MPF) and the Union of Indigenous Organizations of the Vale do Javari (UNIVAJA). They also

need to increase their efforts to investigate the death of FUNAI employee Maxciel Pereira dos Santos, a murder apparently linked to the difficult yet well-known circumstances that confront the region.

We want justice for all.

We request maximum urgency in searching for Bruno and Dom.

Where are Bruno and Dom?

Brasília, 7 June 2022.

**Brazilian Anthropology Association – ABA**