

Ambassador Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos
Embassy of Brazil in Copenhagen
Jens Kofods Gade 1, ST. TH.
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Copenhagen 21 June 2022

Dear Ambassador Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos

We would like to raise our deep concern to the Brazilian Government regarding the murder of Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips. The murder comes in the context of the current Brazilian administration supporting anti-Indigenous policies and initiatives (loosening protections, promoting retaliation against employees of environmental agencies, paralysis of the processing of fines, budget strangulation), which has put an end to the legal framework that protects natural resources and the fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil.

The rise in violence in and around Indigenous Lands in Brazil in the last few years is intolerable, caused by the invasion and land grabbing on Indigenous Lands and territories, as well as the proliferation of mining and illegal logging in these areas. According to the most recent edition of the report “Violence against Indigenous Peoples in Brazil”, by the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), murders have increased by 61%, with 182 cases recorded in 2020 and territorial conflicts have also increased, with 96 such cases in 2020 – 174% more than the year before.

Several bills are currently being processed in the Brazilian Congress that, directly or indirectly, threaten Brazilian Indigenous Lands. Dubbed the “Destruction Package”, this set of laws includes, among others, PL 191/2020, which allows mining and other forms of economic exploitation within TIs; and PL 490/2007, which advocates the Temporal Framework and is therefore unconstitutional. These two bills pose serious risks to the integrity of Indigenous Peoples, and Greenpeace Nordic urges Brazil to stop their processing.

Together with this letter I handover a statement from Greenpeace Brazil and Greenpeace UK regarding the murder of Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips.

With best regards,

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Note of condolence on the murder of Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips

It is with great regret that we receive the terrible news of the cruel murder of Bruno Pereira and the English journalist Dom Phillips. The activists had been missing since Sunday (5) and were last seen in the region of Vale do Javari, in the Amazon. According to the Union of Indigenous Peoples of Vale do Javari (Univaja), they had received threats.

The deaths of Bruno and Dom are not an accident, but a direct result of the agenda of President Jair Bolsonaro for the Amazon, which opens the way for predatory activities and crimes to be reproduced in broad daylight.

The activists had been missing since Sunday 5th June and were last seen in the Vale do Javari region, when they were returning from a visit to the Indigenous Surveillance Team that is located near Lake Jaburu, according to a note released by the *União dos Povos Indígenas do Vale do Javari* (Univaja). According to reports, they had received threats.

This tragedy forces the question: what has Brazil become? In the last three years, our country has increasingly become a land where the only valid law is that of "anything goes". It has become a land of invasion and land grabbing; of mining and illegal logging; of territorial conflicts, and where it's worth killing to ensure that none of these criminal activities are prevented from happening. All this is fueled by the actions and omissions of the Brazilian government. When those who seek to advocate for a greener, fairer and more peaceful world have to put their lives on the line, there is no doubt that our young democracy is at risk and is balanced on a tightrope.

"Abandonment and revolt. These are the feelings that devastate all of us that, from inside or outside the Amazon, have given our lives to the defense of this forest and its communities. Thanks to the actions and omissions of a government committed to the economy of destruction, we have become orphans of two great defenders of the Amazon and, at the same time, hostages of organized crime that is now sovereign in the region", says Danicley de Aguiar, Greenpeace Brazil Amazon spokesperson.

Over the past three years, forest peoples have experienced an appalling increase in violence in their territories, and within Congress, the situation is no different. While the world mourns the loss of Bruno Araújo, Dom Phillips and so many other people whose lives are destroyed daily in this crusade against the Amazon, bills that threaten Brazilian Indigenous Territories (ITs –, such as PL 191/ 2020, which opens up mining and other forms of economic exploitation within ITs – advance.

With each passing day, Bolsonaro's agenda against the Amazon and the environment advances by leaps and bounds, and the rights of Indigenous peoples are permanently violated. How long will we accept a government that stands by in the face of such atrocity?

Brazil is immersed in a context that borders on barbarism and this cannot continue. We repudiate such an act of violence and urgently demand the thorough and transparent investigation of this crime.

“Enough is enough. The world must wake up and take every step to bring the intolerable violence and repression happening in the Amazon to an end. The greatest tribute we can pay Dom and Bruno now is to continue their vital work until all of Brazil’s peoples and their forests are fully protected”, says Pat Venditti, executive director of Greenpeace UK, journalist Dom Phillips’ home country and that has been supporting the Greenpeace Brazil team in following up on the case.

To the family, friends, activists, Indigenous peoples and all people who advocate for the enforcement of human rights, we send our deepest condolences and solidarity.

Greenpeace Brazil & Greenpeace UK