



União dos Povos Indígenas do Vale do Javari

"Unidos pela defesa e autonomia dos povos Indígenas do Vale do Javari"

UNIVAJA'S RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT FROM BRAZIL'S FEDERAL POLICE of June 17, 2022

In a press release dated June 17, 2022, the Brazilian Federal Police (PF) explained that the search continues for the vessel used by indigenist Bruno Pereira and journalist Dominic Phillips on the day of the disappearance (06/05/22). This search proceeds still with assistance from Indigenous people from the UNIVAJA Surveillance Team (EVU). However, the PF, in their statement on "Operation Javari," say the following:

"[We also inform the press that] our investigations have looked into suggestions that more people participated in these crimes. Our investigations affirm that the executioners acted alone, with no mastermind or criminal organization behind the crime."

By taking this position, the Federal Police is disregarding the considerable information offered by UNIVAJA on numerous occasions since our Surveillance Team began operations in July of 2021. Our documents point to the existence of an organized criminal group responsible for the repeated invasions of the Vale do Javari Indigenous Territories, and that the confessed assassins Pelado and Do Santo are part of this group. These professional hunters and fishermen, involved in the murder of Pereira and Phillips, were described by the EVU in letters sent to the Federal Public Ministry (MPF), the Federal Police, and the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI). We have told them the names of the invaders and members of this criminal organization, and we have described their methods, how they come and go from Indigenous lands, the illicit items they carry, and the types of vessels they use in their illegal activities.

It was because of these complaints that we alerted the authorities to the fact that Bruno Pereira became one of the central targets of this criminal network, along with several members of UNIVAJA who received death threats through anonymous notes. Today's press release from the Federal Police corroborates what we have already highlighted: that the authorities, responsible for the protection of our lands and our lives, have ignored our complaints. The authorities have minimized the threats we face, even after the murders of our partners Pereira and Phillips.

The level of cruelty used in the execution of this crime shows that Pereira and Phillips were in the path of a powerful criminal organization that has tried at all costs to hide its tracks during the investigation. The contextual evidence suggests that there were not just two executioners, but at the very least involved an organized group that planned the details of this crime. As such, we demand that the investigations continue and dig deeper. We demand that the PF consider the documented evidence that we have already submitted to them in our official letters. Only then will we have the opportunity to live in peace again in our territory, the Vale do Javari.

Univaja Coordination

Atalaia do Norte June 17, 2022