

Brazilian prosecutor's office charges suspects in Amazon crimes



?The double murder exposed the threats lurking in the Amazon, especially in the Javari Valley, one of the regions with the most isolated indigenous people in the world and where fishing and poaching coexist with drug trafficking networks

Brasilia, July 23 (RHC)-- The Brazilian Prosecutor's Office denounced before the courts three of the suspects already arrested for murdering last June the indigenist expert Bruno Pereira and British journalist Dom Phillips in the Amazon.

The indictment includes Oseney da Costa de Oliveira, his brother Amarildo da Costa Oliveira and Jefferson da Silva Lima for the crimes of double qualified homicide and concealment of corpse, according to a statement from the Public Prosecutor's Office.

According to the Public Prosecutor's Office, the last two confessed to the crime before the authorities, while the participation of Oseney da Costa de Oliveira was proven from the testimony of witnesses.

It also transpired that the Police arrested a fourth suspect, accused of being the mastermind and popularly known as "Colombia", although he is not mentioned in the complaint filed by the Public Prosecutor's Office before the Federal Court of the state of Amazonas.

This double murder, which occurred on June 5 in a remote area of the Brazilian Amazon, bordering Colombia and Peru, shocked the country and was condemned by international organizations and environmental and human rights associations.

The investigation points out that "what motivated the murders was the fact that Pereira had asked Phillips," a collaborator of a British newspaper who was in the area to gather information for a book he was writing on threats against the indigenous people, "to photograph the boat of the accused."

Previously, local media have pointed out that those accused in the crime benefit from fishing and other illegal activities in the reserve areas of native communities.

The Prosecutor's Office indicated that Pereira was shot three times, without any possibility of defense, while Phillips was killed just for being with the indigenous expert and with the intention of covering up the previous murder.

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