

## ***Third Man Arrested in Amazon Slayings of Journalist and Activist***

*The police in Brazil said on Saturday that they had arrested another person connected to the deaths of Dom Phillips and Bruno Araújo Pereira, and said the men been shot to death.*



*A protest by members of the Guarani indigenous community demanding justice for Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira in São Paulo on Saturday.*

**By Ana Ionova**

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RIO DE JANEIRO — A third person was arrested on Saturday in connection with the killings of a British journalist and a Brazilian expert on Indigenous peoples who went missing while deep in the Amazon nearly two weeks ago, the police said before sharing grisly details about how the pair was murdered.

The disappearance of Dom Phillips, 57, a freelance journalist, and Bruno Araújo Pereira, 41, a former government official who worked in the area to combat illegal fishing, hunting and mining, prompted a 10-day search and later a manhunt in Brazil's dense Atlantic rainforest.

An analysis of human remains discovered in the region earlier this week determined they were those of Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Phillips was shot in the chest, the federal police said in a statement on Saturday, adding that Mr. Pereira was shot in the head and abdomen. The men had been killed by a “firearm with typical hunting ammunition,” according to a police statement.

Jefferson da Silva Lima turned himself in at a police station in Atalaia do Norte in the Amazon on Saturday, after initially fleeing an arrest warrant. The authorities had previously arrested two brothers, Amarildo and Oseney da Costa de Oliveira, in connection with the men’s disappearance.

Image



*Jefferson da Silva Lima being escorted into a hearing in Atalaia do Norte, Brazil, on Saturday. He is the third suspect arrested in relation to the deaths of Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pereira.*

Earlier this week, Amarildo da Costa de Oliveira confessed to killing the men and led the police to where their remains had been buried in a remote part of the Amazon rainforest.

By Saturday evening, none of the three arrested men had been charged.

Witnesses saw the de Oliveira brothers in a boat following Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pereira shortly before they disappeared on a remote river, according to investigative documents viewed by The New York Times. A day earlier, the brothers had threatened a group that included Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pereira by showing them a gun, according to the local Indigenous group Univaja.

Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pereira were last seen on June 5, while traveling in a boat on the Itaquai River in the northern Brazilian state of Amazonas, near the borders with Peru and Colombia.

Mr. Phillips had gone to the Javari Valley Indigenous reservation to interview Indigenous patrol teams cracking down on illegal fishing and hunting there. Mr. Pereira helped create those patrols and his work had won him enemies among criminal fishermen, poachers and miners in the region. Mr. Phillips had been working on a book during the trip, and the two men were headed home when they vanished.