

**Evangelical, Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative
in Brazil demand urgent action to stop violence in the Amazon**

Your Excellencies,

Luiz Fux, President of the Federal Supreme Court
Rodrigo Pacheco, President of the Federal Senate
Arthur Lira, President of the Chamber of Deputies
Humberto Eustáquio Martins, President of the Superior Court of Justice
Anderson Torres, Minister of Justice
Joaquim Leite, Minister of the Environment
Márcio Nunes de Oliveira, General Director of the Federal Police

In the condition of Brazilian religious leaders, from the most varied spiritual traditions, members of the Advisory Council of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative of Brazil (IRI-Brazil), we express our deep indignation and sadness at the cruel murder of the indigenous activist Bruno Araújo Pereira and the English journalist Dom Phillips, caught by criminals on June 5, in the region of Vale do Javari, state of Amazonas.

On this occasion we respectfully request that all of you, as authorities of the highest public levels of the Brazilian state, subject to the uncompromising duty to defend our Constitution, the rule of law and life, make every effort to ensure that the criminal network that planned, financed and executed these assassinations is promptly identified and punished, in accordance with the law, in an exemplary manner, so that this escalation of violence in the Amazon can be halted.

We also ask that you act jointly to adopt structural measures to protect indigenous peoples, local communities, and defenders of the Amazon forest, such as journalists, scientists, public servants, and social leaders who work in the region.

In this sense, we consider it fundamental to strengthen policing in the region to dismantle the criminal networks that operate there, both those involved in drug trafficking, illegal mining, and the predatory exploitation of biodiversity. We understand that, for this, it is necessary to restructure public agencies such as FUNAI, IBAMA, and ICMBio, and to strengthen the public security agencies.

We know that these measures are feasible to be implemented. For this, all that is needed is political and institutional commitment to ensure the full guarantee of protection of the forest and of the native peoples, because you are supported by the Federal Constitution and by Brazilian society to undertake this very urgent task. You have not only the public investiture, but above all, the historic opportunity to change the course and perspectives of the Amazon and its peoples.

Finally, we want to express our solidarity to the family and friends of Bruno and Dom, and we hope that the quality of your response to the clamor for justice that Brazilian society has been making may represent a consolation to the bereaved families and a concrete hope of protection for the thousands of people who are today, in the Amazon, in the sights of these powerful criminals.

Faithful regards,

Reverend Agnaldo Gomes, Director of Religions for Peace Brazil

Father Marcus Barbosa, Deputy Undersecretary for Pastoral Ministry of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB)

Pastor Romi Márcia Bencke, General Secretary of the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil (CONIC)

Pastor Maruilson Souza, Member of the Coordinating Council of the Brazilian Evangelical Christian Alliance (ACEB)

Sergio Napchan, General Director of the Israeli Confederation of Brazil (CONIB)

Sheikh Mohamad Al Bukai, Director of Islamic affairs at the National Union of Islamic Entities in Brazil (UNI)