

NY Times's Joe Sharkey Sued in Brazil for Role in Boeing Crash

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Rosane Gutjhar, the widow of one of the victims of flight 1907's accident, a collision over the Amazon between a Boeing 737 and a Legacy executive jet piloted by two Americans, which took place on September 29, 2006, filed suit against American journalist, Joseph M. Sharkey.

Gutjhar, who filed her suit, in October, is seeking damages for pain and suffering, according to the Association of Relatives and Friends of Gol's Flight 1907 Victims.

This week, Judge Dr. Humberto G. Brito, of Curitiba's 18th Civil Office, released the letter rogatory against the journalist. The letter is with a sworn translator and later it will go to the Justice Department and Itamaraty (Foreign Relations) for its issuance to the United States.

According to the lawsuit, Sharkey, a passenger in the Legacy jet that crashed with Gol Linhas Aéreas' Boeing 737-800, with great influence in the media, began a campaign in his blog in favor of the jet's pilots with the objective to move his countrymen in order to prevent the pilots' return to Brazil.

According to Rosane Gutjhar, he began offending Brazilians indiscriminately, which prompted the widow to file suit seeking relief for pain and suffering.

In the petition filed by the widow's lawyers, Oscar Fleischfresser and Carla Fleischfresser, in the 18th lower civil court in Curitiba, there is a suggestion to take as a parameter for non-financial damages awarded, similar values to those that would apply to the journalist in his own country.

"This would be a way to halt, effectively, his illegal and damaging behavior, in detriment of the widow and all other Brazilian citizens. The other request is to have a judicial instruction for him to apologize to all the Brazilian citizens, through the same media used by him," concludes Oscar.