

41 Brazilians Still Missing in Tsunami Area

Contributed by Keite Camacho
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The most recent information released by Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Relations (MRE) indicates that the search is still on for 41 Brazilians in the countries affected by the tsunamis in Southeast Asia.

Parts of the coasts of Thailand, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives Islands, among other countries, were destroyed on December 26.

362 Brazilians have already been located. So far the only reported deaths are the diplomat Lys Amayo de Benedek D'Avola and her ten-year old son, Gianluca.

Amayo's Italian husband, Antonio D'Avola, continues missing. Besides him, the Brazilian consular division is looking for another 13 Brazilians in Thailand, 17 in India, 3 in Indonesia, 2 in Sri Lanka, and 1 in the Maldives, as well as four others whose destination remains unknown.

To expedite the searches, the MRE set up centers to care for the families of missing Brazilians in the countries hit by the tidal waves and is requesting people who have had contact with them to withdraw their names from the Ministry's list of missing people.

The 24-hour telephone numbers are: 55-61-411-6999 or 55-61-411-6456. People also can make contact through the email dac@mre.gov.br.

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