

## **The Signals Network gathers press conference for “Football Leaks” Whistleblower in Lisbon**

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**Lisbon, April 1, 2019** - Following the arrest and extradition of Portuguese national, Rui Pinto, the whistleblower linked to Football Leaks, The Signals Network has helped convene a press conference in Lisbon on April 1, 2019. with his French and Portuguese lawyers, Member of European Parliament, Ana Gomes, and Luxleaks whistleblower Antoine Deltour.

Pinto has been charged with hacking and attempted extortion, and is currently in prison in Portugal awaiting trial. His lawyers, William Bourdon and Francesco Teixeira da Mota contest the current charges, calling him a “key witness,” in a series of high public interest cases tied to corruption and criminality in various EU countries and the US.

The Signals Network has supported the legal defence of Mr. Pinto and has called for full protection of his rights.

*“The Football Leaks have been investigated by major international media organisations including Der Spiegel, Mediapart, El Mundo and other members of European Investigative Collaborations (EIC Network) for several years,”* said Delphine Halgand-Mishra, the Executive Director of **The Signals Network**. *“Many of the Football Leaks revelations initiated judicial investigations across Europe - France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, and even in the United States. For all these reasons, Rui Pinto deserves to be supported by all those who are committed to defending press freedom and investigative journalism,”* she added.

The press freedom organization **Reporters Without Borders** has called for **the Portuguese authorities to drop all proceedings against Rui Pinto.**

Ana Gomes, a member of the European Parliament, also from Portugal, has extended her support for Pinto and called for protection of all European citizens who come forward with key information of public interest.

Ms. Gomes has fought for more stringent EU legislation for whistleblowers, and called for further changes to the current EU Directive for Whistleblower Protection.

Antoine Deltour, the main whistleblower in the “LuxLeaks” case and a board member of the Signals Network, will also participate at the Lisbon Press Conference to show solidarity for Mr. Pinto and share his ongoing experiences since his revelations came to light.

“The whistleblower Rui Pinto is being prosecuted, as I was, after disclosing information of major public interest. This is unacceptable and I express my full solidarity with him. Powerful people would prefer to keep the truth about corruption in the football world in the shadows. All supporters who are more committed to the values of sport than to money should support Rui Pinto,” said Antoine Deltour.

Mr. Pinto is receiving significant support from Europeans citizens, from Football fans to members of the European Parliament. He is shortlisted to receive the European Parliament GUE/NGL Award for ‘Journalists, Whistleblowers and Defenders of the Right to Information.

**Venue:**

**Gabinete do Parlamento Europeu**

Edifício Jean Monnet, 6.º andar,  
Rue do Salitre, Lisboa

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