

PRESS RELEASE

Lisbon and Paris, October 2, 2026

End of Rui Pinto's protection: his lawyers call on Portuguese authorities to reconsider a decision with dire consequences

Rui Pinto, the whistleblower behind "Football Leaks," has been notified on wednesday that the special security program he has benefited from since August 2020 will end on October 10. In a few days, without being heard beforehand, as required by law, he would lose the protected, confidential residence assigned to him and l be forced to find new housing urgently, with no guarantee that police protection will continue.

His situation is now critical. The threats against him are not merely theoretical; he was assaulted in Lisbon last April. His revelations implicated powerful figures with vast resources, and many resulting legal proceedings are still ongoing, as evidenced by the decision handed down just days ago by the Premier League's independent commission regarding Manchester City. Abruptly deprived of his protected housing and plunged into a state of extreme precariousness, Rui Pinto would be more vulnerable now than at any time since 2020.

Rui Pinto has cooperated with the Portuguese justice system, and it was this cooperation that justified placing him under protection. His revelations, utilized by numerous judicial, tax, and sports authorities across Europe, starting with France, have advanced transparency and integrity in football. The states that have benefited from his actions cannot simply turn their backs on the person who took the risk to bring them to light.

In accordance with the law, an administrative appeal with suspensive effect will be filed against this decision. Rui Pinto's lawyers, confident that the Portuguese authorities would give due consideration to his situation, asked, last Wednesday, the ministry of Jutice to reconsider this decision, to disclose the details of the risk reassessment upon which it is based, to ensure taht thier client is heard, and to guarantee, in any event, the continuity of his protection. No answer was received till now.

This decision and the way it was made, regrettably, doesn't respect the rule of law and constitutes an act of state terrorism. We can't accept that.

Francisco Teixeira da Mota,

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