

FORMER PORTUGAL PM CHARGED WITH MONEY LAUNDERING

17 Oct 2017

A former Portuguese prime minister has been indicted on graft and money laundering charges as part of a vast corruption investigation.

Jose Socrates has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and has dismissed charges against him as politically motivated. A four-year inquiry has concluded that Mr Socrates received millions of euros in a scheme involving the disgraced former heads of a bank and a telecommunications company.

Mr Socrates, who was prime minister from 2005 to 2011, is charged with three counts of corruption while holding political office, 16 counts of money laundering, nine counts of forging documents and three counts of tax fraud. Those alleged offences were committed between 2006 and 2015.

While the former PM may genuinely believe the allegations are politically motivated, this is not a valid defence. He, like anyone accused of business crime, must seek the help of legal experts in order to compile all the available evidence and devise strong legal and factual arguments to challenge the allegations.

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