# Statement from Isabel dos Santos: False Evidence used to freeze assets

**Tuesday 12 May, 2020**

**Press Statement from Isabel dos Santos**

- False evidence used to freeze the assets of Isabel dos Santos in Angola and Portugal
- A falsified passport in the name of Isabel dos Santos has been used as proof to seize her assets in Angola and Portugal
- Angolan and Portuguese authorities rely on passport with signature of 1970s martial artist and actor Bruce Lee

**London and Lisbon, 12 May 2020:** A copy of a fake passport was used to fabricate evidence in the Angolan Courts during the proceedings that granted the freezing of the assets and companies of Isabel dos Santos in December 2019.

The Angolan State used the fabricated evidence in an ex parte court claim – meaning Ms dos Santos and her lawyers were not present to contest the allegations. The forged evidence was relevant and material in supporting the case.

The Angolan Prosecutor went to the Luanda Civil Court and a magistrate of the Supreme Court in order to obtain the judgements, based on this fraudulent procedure. Those judgments were automatically enforced in Portugal without review by the Portuguese judiciary, a result of a convention between Portuguese speaking countries.

At the end of April 2020, Ms dos Santos' lawyers were given access to the court's files. They then found the copy of the falsified passport and a string of emails regarding a scam investment in Japan.

Under a fake name, an internet fraudster claimed to be a Middle Eastern businessman representing the interests of Ms dos Santos. The target of his scam was a start-up Japanese company, Synapse Corporation Inc, to whom he sent a copy of Ms. dos Santos' fake passport and offered a loan agreement "from 10 million to one billion dollars" (Appendix two). These emails and fake passport were used by the Angolan Prosecutor in court as supporting evidence that Ms dos Santos was trying to dissipate her assets quickly and then illegally invest the proceeds outside Angola.

An Angolan intelligence services document was also discovered in the court file (Appendix four). This was fabricated as evidence to the court, claiming Ms dos Santos was selling her stake in the Angolan telecom company Unitel to an unnamed investor from the United Arab Emirates – therefore, taking money out of the country.

In court applications, parties must present honest and true evidence to support their claims, but the Angolan Public Prosecutor's Office presented material evidence that was fabricated and based on a forgery. This court decision should be struck out as abuse of process and the judgement set aside.

**The passport signed by Bruce Lee**

The forgery of the passport is obvious at first glance (Appendix one). Yet, either by default or design, at least four Angolan authorities facilitated a fraudulent process. The Angolan Embassy in Japan, the Director General of Foreign Intelligence to whom the Ambassador transmitted this document, the Angolan court did not recognise – or was not willing to recognise - an obvious fake, and the Supreme Court, which issued the rogatory letter (Appendix three).

Two of these state institutions are judicial, another is diplomatic, and the fourth is security. This raises very serious questions about the independence of the judiciary in this case.

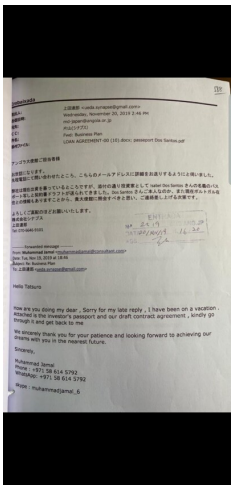
**There are at least six giveaway errors in the forgery:**

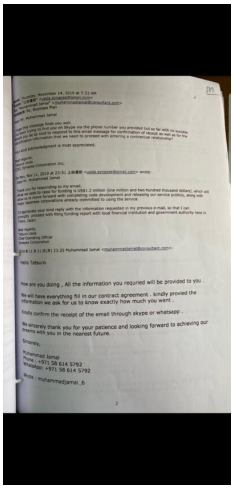
## Media:

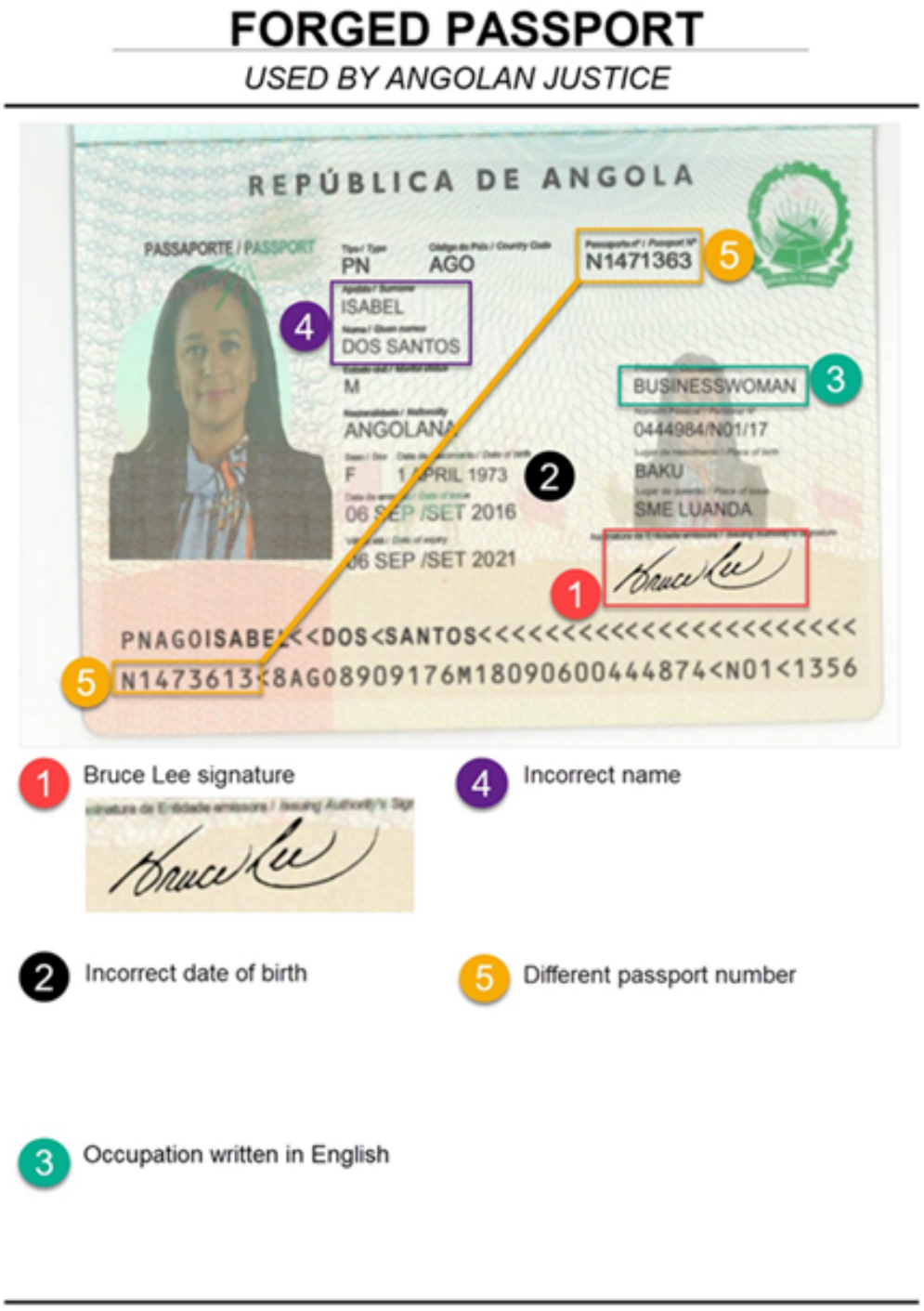


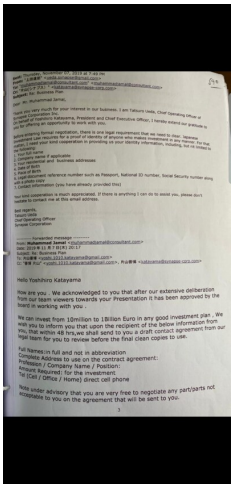


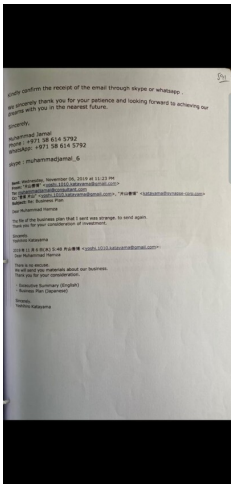


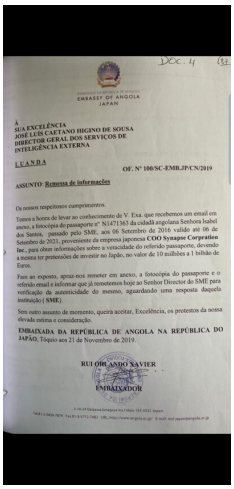


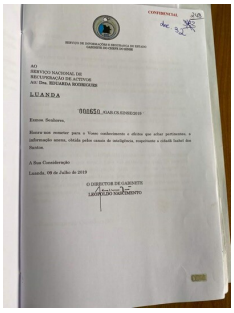










The name is incomplete – plus ‘Isabel’ is listed as a surname and ‘dos Santos’ as a first name (4). The date of birth is wrong (2). The passport number is not the same at the top and bottom of the page (5). English - not an official language in Angola - is used (3).

But the most ridiculous aspect is the signature of the issuing authority: this is a reproduction of the signature of Bruce Lee, the legendary kung fu actor who died in the 1970s (1).

This forgery was accepted as evidence to justify the seizure of the assets.

The Angolan magistrate in charge of the case therefore relied on an incorrect name, date of birth and marital status (due to use of English – see Appendix One) – a different identity. Yet, in her judgement, the magistrate has the correct details, directly contradicting the incorrect information in the appendix that she says qualifies as proof.

**Irregular emergency procedure for freezing the assets of Isabel dos Santos**

Without the false passport and the resulting false allegations made by the Angolan prosecution, it would have been impossible for the assets and companies of Ms dos Santos to have been frozen. As a consequence of these measures, many thousands of jobs are under threat.

Proof of an imminent risk of dissipation of assets is a sine qua non condition of protective custody in Angolan civil law. The false passport therefore enabled the Angolan prosecution to successfully use emergency and ex parte proceedings (meaning the defence was not present to contest the accusations).

Due to the absence of any defence on the basis of forgery, the court heeded the arguments of the prosecution. This included the unilateral and baseless decision to allow the exorbitant amount of damages claimed by the State, amounting to 1.1 billion euros.

This not only served as the basis for the confiscation of all the property of Ms dos Santos in Angola, but also for a rogatory letter asking the Portuguese judiciary to freeze her assets in Portugal. There is a co-operation agreement between these two countries.

After the Angolan Attorney General visited Lisbon to see his Portuguese counterpart, the Portuguese judiciary ratified everything without verification.

**Political influence**

The revelation of this false passport and the central role it played in the setbacks experienced by companies owned by Ms dos Santos, particularly in Europe, poses a problem of principle in both Angola and Portugal.

Ms dos Santos denies all the allegations made against her. She does not know the people involved in the scam, she never intended to sell her stake in Unitel, nor did she consider investing in Japan.

**Responding, Ms dos Santos said:**

“Looking at the forged evidence it is now clear that the Angolan State through the intelligence services, prosecution, Civil Court, and Supreme Court has colluded and contrived a case to obtain an unfair and illegal decision against me. False documents and false statements have been deliberately brought before the court. The resulting freezing orders are now threatening the livelihoods of many thousands of hard-working employees in Angola and Portugal. A principle of universal law requires that those who seek justice act with integrity and honesty, and that the rights of the defence be guaranteed.

“In Portugal, will the justice system take note of these revelations and proceed with the release of those assets seized illegally? Otherwise, I wish to ask a number of questions:

**Does Portugal accept false documents as judicial evidence?**

As a member of the European Union, does Portugal ignore fundamental rights, including the right to be tried fairly? The late handover of documents from the Angolan case meant it was never possible for me to raise any questions. In addition, the freezing of assets prevents me from recapitalising companies whose survival are threatened by the current economic crisis.

Isn’t it now clear that the objective of the Angolan authorities was to obtain an emergency freezing order - at all costs - in order to prevent me from ensuring my own defence and causing the bankruptcy of the companies in which I had invested and managed?

How do the Portuguese and Angolan authorities intend to repair the damage caused to the hundreds of employees of my companies that are now at risk of bankruptcy following the freezing of my assets?

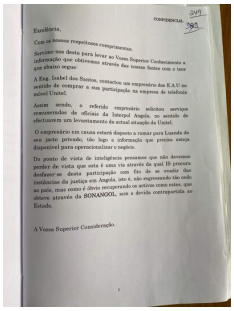
Can the Portuguese judicial system continue to ignore the political influence in the handling of my court case in Angola?”

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

ids@powerscourt-group.com

**Notes to editors:**

There are four appendices in the following pages



## Related Sectors:

Business & Finance :: Entertainment & Arts :: Opinion Article :: Public Sector & Legal ::

## Related Keywords:

Isabel Dos Santos :: Angola :: Bruce Lee :: Assets :: Portugal :: False Evidence ::

## Scan Me:

Appendix one: The fake passport (pages 5-6)

Appendix two: The email exchange (pages 7-11)

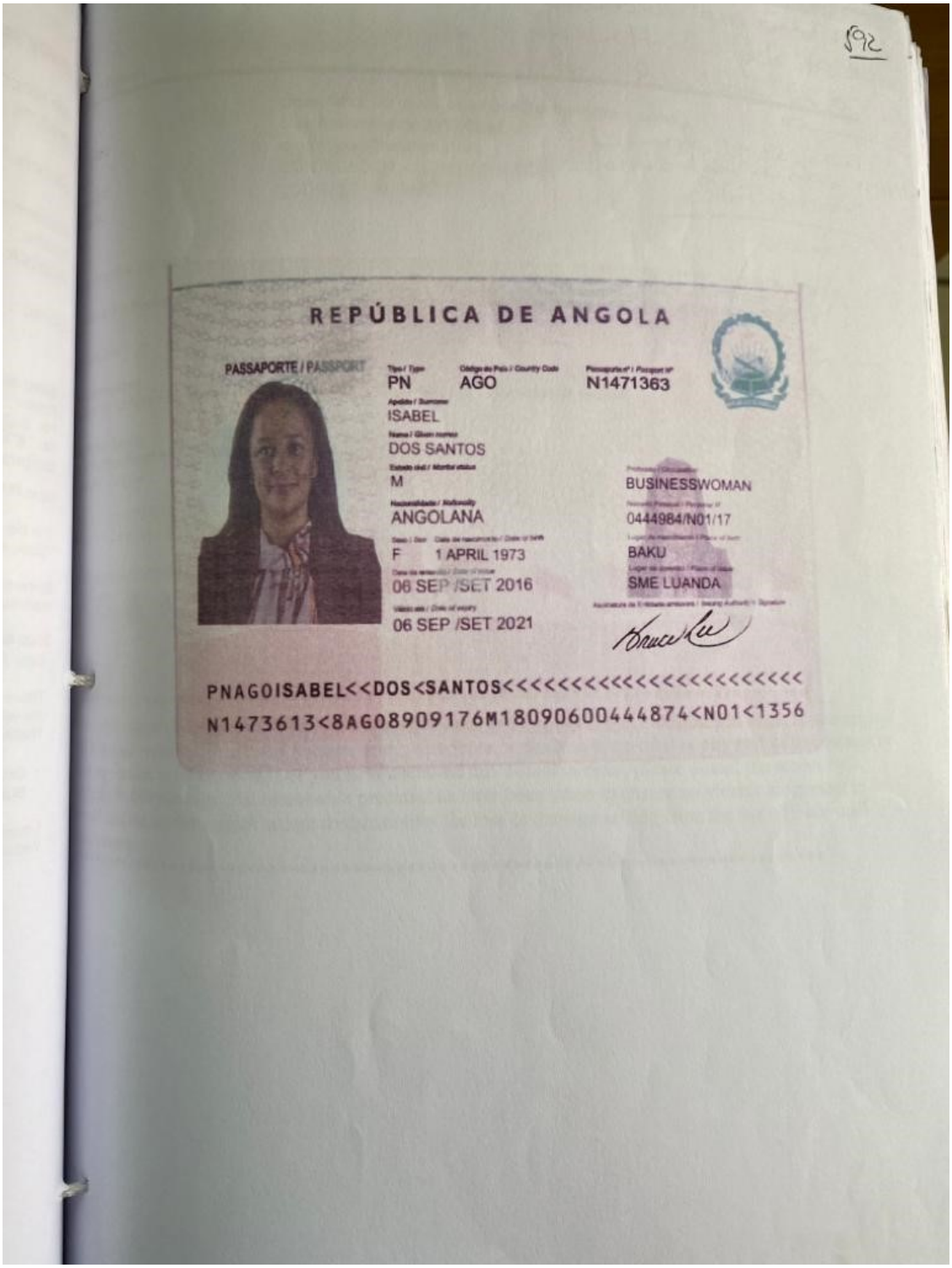
Appendix three: Letter from the Ambassador of Angola in Japan to the Director General of the Angolan External Intelligence Services, 21 November 2019 (pages 12-13)

Appendix four: Letter from the Director of Cabinet of the State Intelligence and Security Service to the Special Prosecutor responsible (pages 14-17)

Appendices

All the following appendices are taken from the file of the Provincial Court of Luanda at the end of April, when it formally notified Ms dos Santos of its decision to freeze all her companies and bank accounts. The page and reference number on the top right of the picture show these are actual pictures of the court file.

**Appendix one: The Fake Passport**




**The mistakes are numerous:**

Incorrect name: the copy of the fake passport says "Isabel dos Santos" instead of her full name.

The passport says in Portuguese, "Apelido: Isabel", "Nome: dos Santos" - literally "Last name: Isabel" and "First name: dos Santos". These are the wrong way around.

Incorrect date of birth: the copy of the false passport indicates April 1 1973, which is incorrect.

Incorrect passport number: there are two different passport numbers on the same document, N1471363 and N1473613.

Incorrect use of English in a Portuguese-speaking document: it says “businesswoman” in English and for the civil status “M” for bride, which does not exist in Angolan passports (it should be “C” for “Casada”, which is Portuguese).

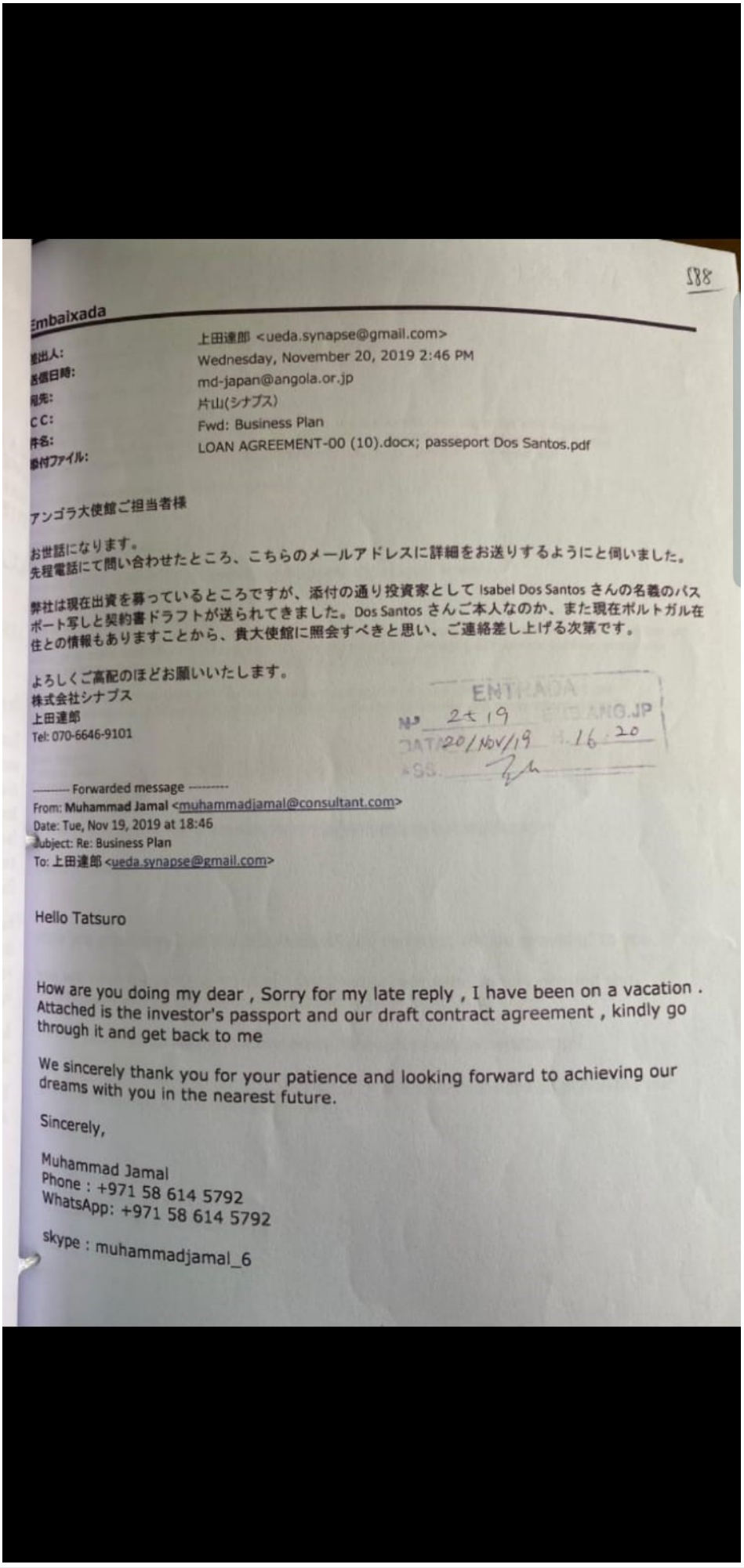
Incorrect signature: the passport reproduces the actual signature of the late actor Bruce Lee in the place where the issuing institution should sign. It should be noted that Angolan passports are signed by their holders on a different page, with a fingerprint. Unusually, that page was not included in the court file's appendices.

**Appendix two: The email exchange**

After verification, it appears that Muhammad Hamza or Muhammad Jamal do not actually exist.

The Japanese company, Synapse Corporation Inc, confirms in the e-mail exchange that it had serious doubts about the veracity of the investment opportunity and, believing that it is dealing with an internet scam, contacted the Angolan embassy in Tokyo. After several contacts described as "cooperative", plus the transmission of e-mail exchanges and the copy of the false passport, the Japanese company never received the embassy's response to its request for verification.

An email dated 7 November 2019 from the Middle Eastern businessman includes the following sentence: "Our board approved a collaboration with your company ... we can invest from 10 million to a billion euros depending on the quality of the business plan presented." This is typical of an internet scam. It is not credible that the embassy, ??the intelligence services, nor the prosecution were not concerned at this stage.



538

Embaixada

| | |
|---|---|
| 差出人: | 上田達郎 <ueda.synapse@gmail.com> |
| 送信日時: | Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:46 PM |
| 宛先: | md-japan@angola.or.jp |
| CC: | 片山(シナプス) |
| 件名: | Fwd: Business Plan |
| 添付ファイル: | LOAN AGREEMENT-00 (10).docx; passeport Dos Santos.pdf |

アンゴラ大使館ご担当者様

お世話になります。
先程電話にて問い合わせたところ、こちらのメールアドレスに詳細をお送りするようにと伺いました。

弊社は現在出資を募っているところですが、添付の通り投資家として Isabel Dos Santos さんの名義のパスポート写しと契約書ドラフトが送られてきました。Dos Santos さんご本人なのか、また現在ポルトガル在住との情報もありますことから、貴大使館に照会すべきと思い、ご連絡差し上げる次第です。

よろしくご高配のほどお願いいたします。
株式会社シナプス
上田達郎
Tel: 070-6646-9101

ENTRADA
Nº 2419
DATA 20/NOV/19 16:20
ASS.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Muhammad Jamal** <muhammadjamal@consultant.com>
Date: Tue, Nov 19, 2019 at 18:46
Subject: Re: Business Plan
To: 上田達郎 <ueda.synapse@gmail.com>

Hello Tatsuro

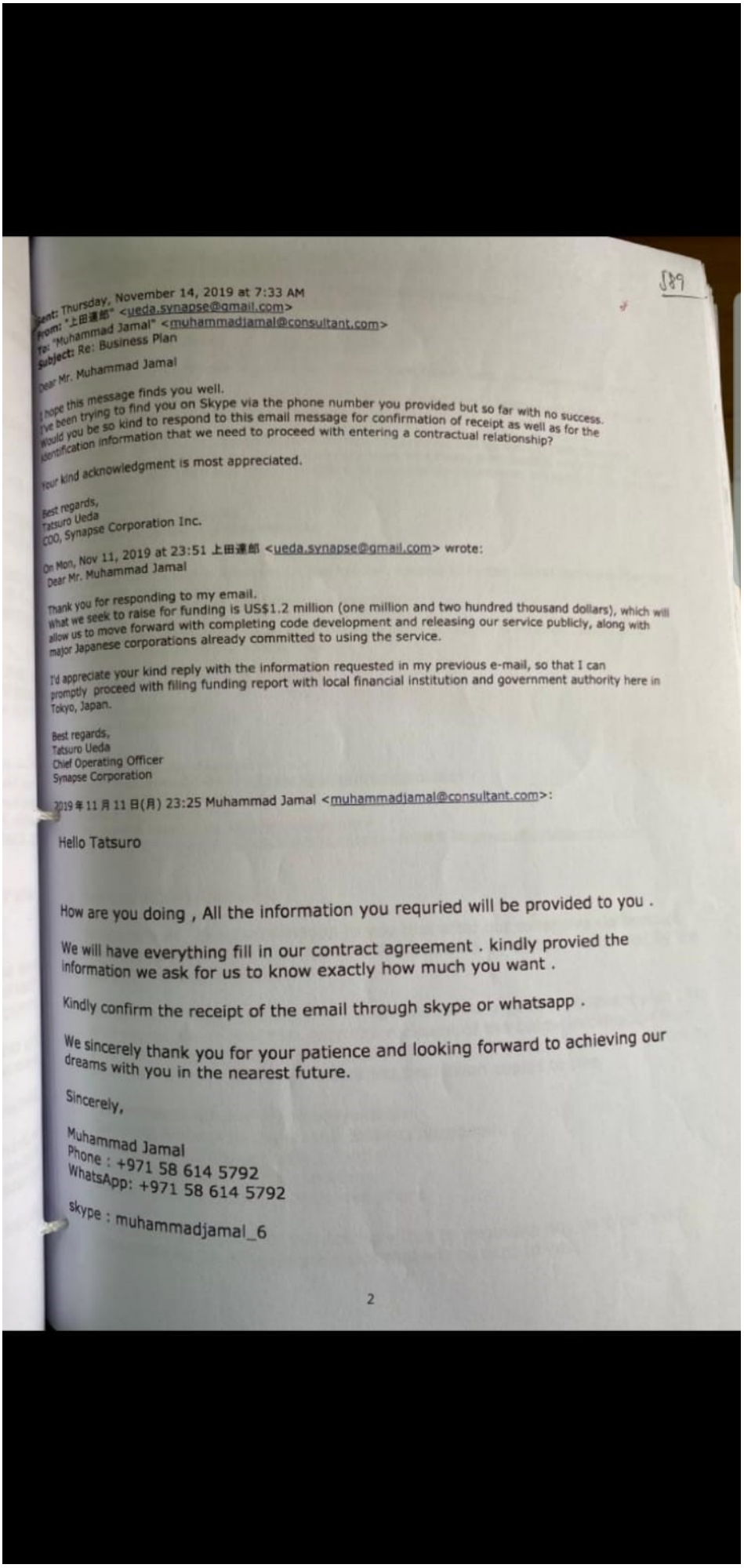
How are you doing my dear , Sorry for my late reply , I have been on a vacation . Attached is the investor's passport and our draft contract agreement , kindly go through it and get back to me

We sincerely thank you for your patience and looking forward to achieving our dreams with you in the nearest future.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Jamal
Phone : +971 58 614 5792
WhatsApp: +971 58 614 5792

skype : muhammadjamal_6



Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:33 AM
From: "上田達郎" <ueda.synapse@gmail.com>
To: "Muhammad Jamal" <muhammadjamal@consultant.com>
Subject: Re: Business Plan

Dear Mr. Muhammad Jamal

I hope this message finds you well.
I've been trying to find you on Skype via the phone number you provided but so far with no success.
Would you be so kind to respond to this email message for confirmation of receipt as well as for the identification information that we need to proceed with entering a contractual relationship?

Your kind acknowledgment is most appreciated.

Best regards,
Tatsuro Ueda
COO, Synapse Corporation Inc.

On Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 23:51 上田達郎 <ueda.synapse@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Mr. Muhammad Jamal

Thank you for responding to my email.
What we seek to raise for funding is US$1.2 million (one million and two hundred thousand dollars), which will allow us to move forward with completing code development and releasing our service publicly, along with major Japanese corporations already committed to using the service.

I'd appreciate your kind reply with the information requested in my previous e-mail, so that I can promptly proceed with filing funding report with local financial institution and government authority here in Tokyo, Japan.

Best regards,
Tatsuro Ueda
Chief Operating Officer
Synapse Corporation

2019年11月11日(月) 23:25 Muhammad Jamal <muhammadjamal@consultant.com>:

Hello Tatsuro

How are you doing , All the information you requried will be provided to you .

We will have everything fill in our contract agreement . kindly provied the information we ask for us to know exactly how much you want .

Kindly confirm the receipt of the email through skype or whatsapp .

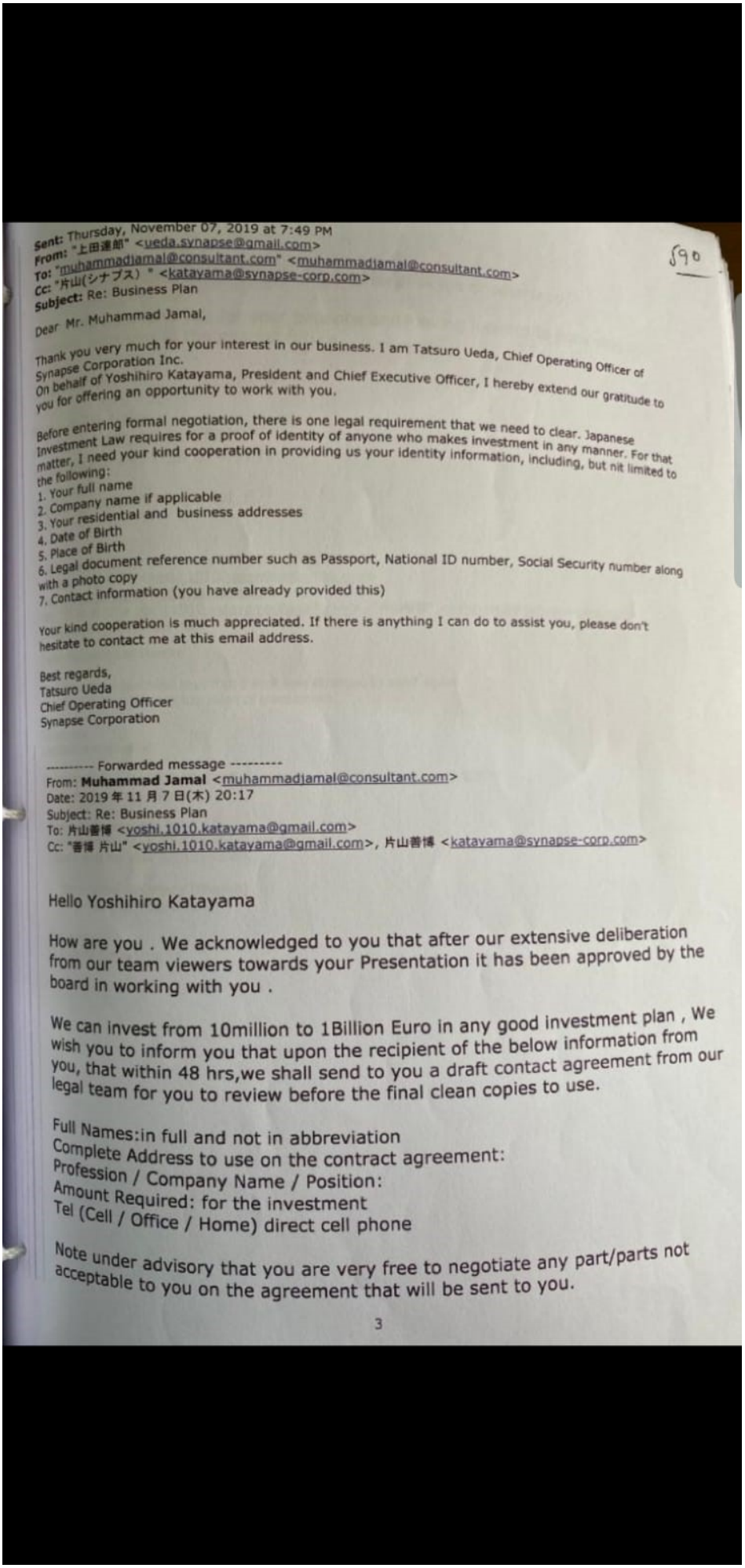
We sincerely thank you for your patience and looking forward to achieving our dreams with you in the nearest future.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Jamal
Phone : +971 58 614 5792
WhatsApp: +971 58 614 5792

skype : muhammadjamal_6

2



**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 at 7:49 PM
**From:** "上田達郎" <ueda.synapse@gmail.com>
**To:** "muhammadjamal@consultant.com" <muhammadjamal@consultant.com>
**Cc:** "片山(シナプス)" <katayama@synapse-corp.com>
**Subject:** Re: Business Plan

Dear Mr. Muhammad Jamal,

Thank you very much for your interest in our business. I am Tatsuro Ueda, Chief Operating Officer of Synapse Corporation Inc.
On behalf of Yoshihiro Katayama, President and Chief Executive Officer, I hereby extend our gratitude to you for offering an opportunity to work with you.

Before entering formal negotiation, there is one legal requirement that we need to clear. Japanese Investment Law requires for a proof of identity of anyone who makes investment in any manner. For that matter, I need your kind cooperation in providing us your identity information, including, but nit limited to the following:
1. Your full name
2. Company name if applicable
3. Your residential and business addresses
4. Date of Birth
5. Place of Birth
6. Legal document reference number such as Passport, National ID number, Social Security number along with a photo copy
7. Contact information (you have already provided this)

Your kind cooperation is much appreciated. If there is anything I can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me at this email address.

Best regards,
Tatsuro Ueda
Chief Operating Officer
Synapse Corporation

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Muhammad Jamal** <muhammadjamal@consultant.com>
Date: 2019年11月7日(木) 20:17
Subject: Re: Business Plan
To: 片山善博 <yoshi.1010.katayama@gmail.com>
Cc: "善博 片山" <yoshi.1010.katayama@gmail.com>, 片山善博 <katayama@synapse-corp.com>

Hello Yoshihiro Katayama

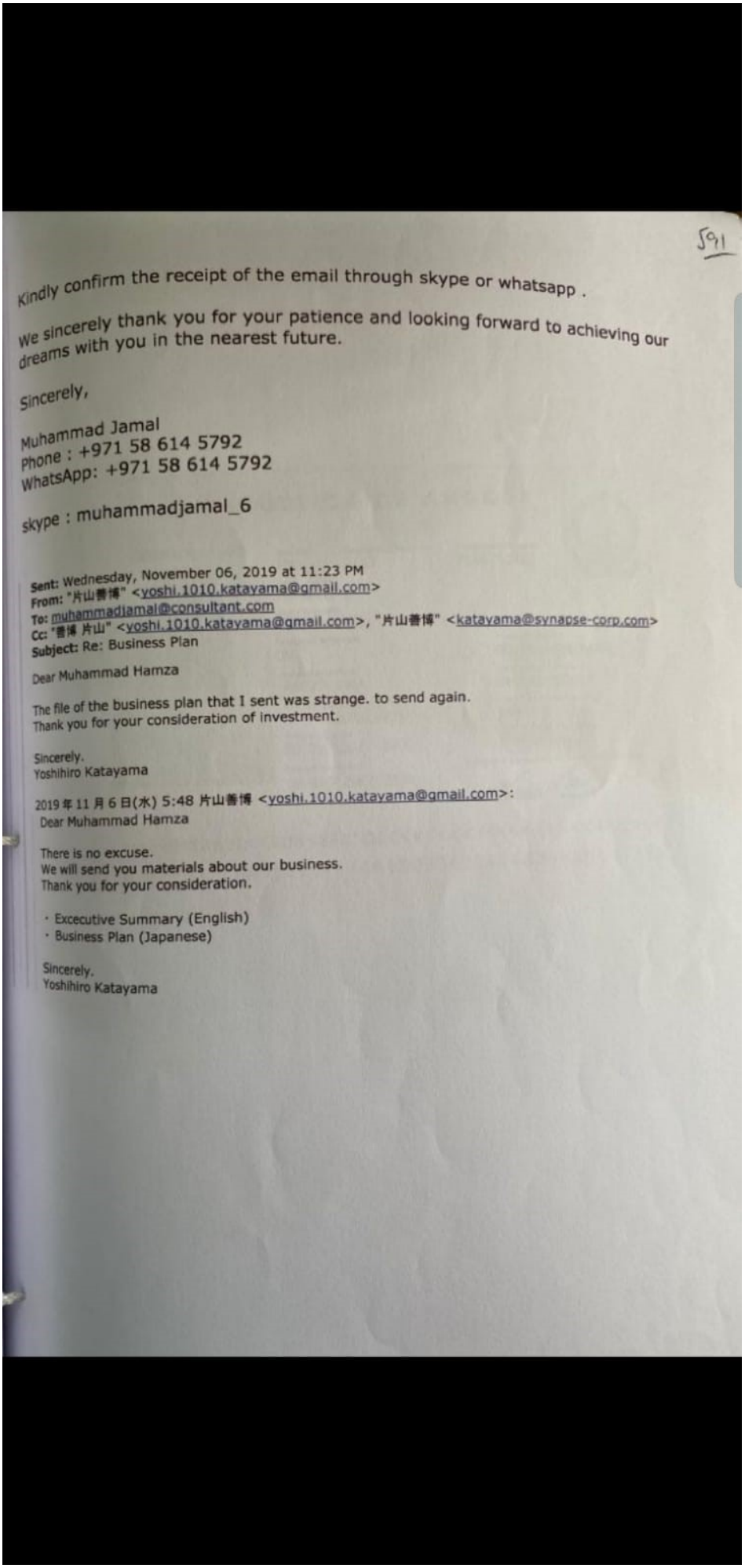
How are you . We acknowledged to you that after our extensive deliberation from our team viewers towards your Presentation it has been approved by the board in working with you .

We can invest from 10million to 1Billion Euro in any good investment plan , We wish you to inform you that upon the recipient of the below information from you, that within 48 hrs,we shall send to you a draft contact agreement from our legal team for you to review before the final clean copies to use.

Full Names:in full and not in abbreviation
Complete Address to use on the contract agreement:
Profession / Company Name / Position:
Amount Required: for the investment
Tel (Cell / Office / Home) direct cell phone

Note under advisory that you are very free to negotiate any part/parts not acceptable to you on the agreement that will be sent to you.

3



591

Kindly confirm the receipt of the email through skype or whatsapp .

We sincerely thank you for your patience and looking forward to achieving our dreams with you in the nearest future.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Jamal
Phone : +971 58 614 5792
WhatsApp: +971 58 614 5792

skype : muhammadjamal_6

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 06, 2019 at 11:23 PM
**From:** "片山善博" <yoshi.1010.katayama@gmail.com>
**To:** muhammadjamal@consultant.com
**Cc:** "善博 片山" <yoshi.1010.katayama@gmail.com>, "片山善博" <katayama@synapse-corp.com>
**Subject:** Re: Business Plan

Dear Muhammad Hamza

The file of the business plan that I sent was strange. to send again.
Thank you for your consideration of investment.

Sincerely.
Yoshihiro Katayama

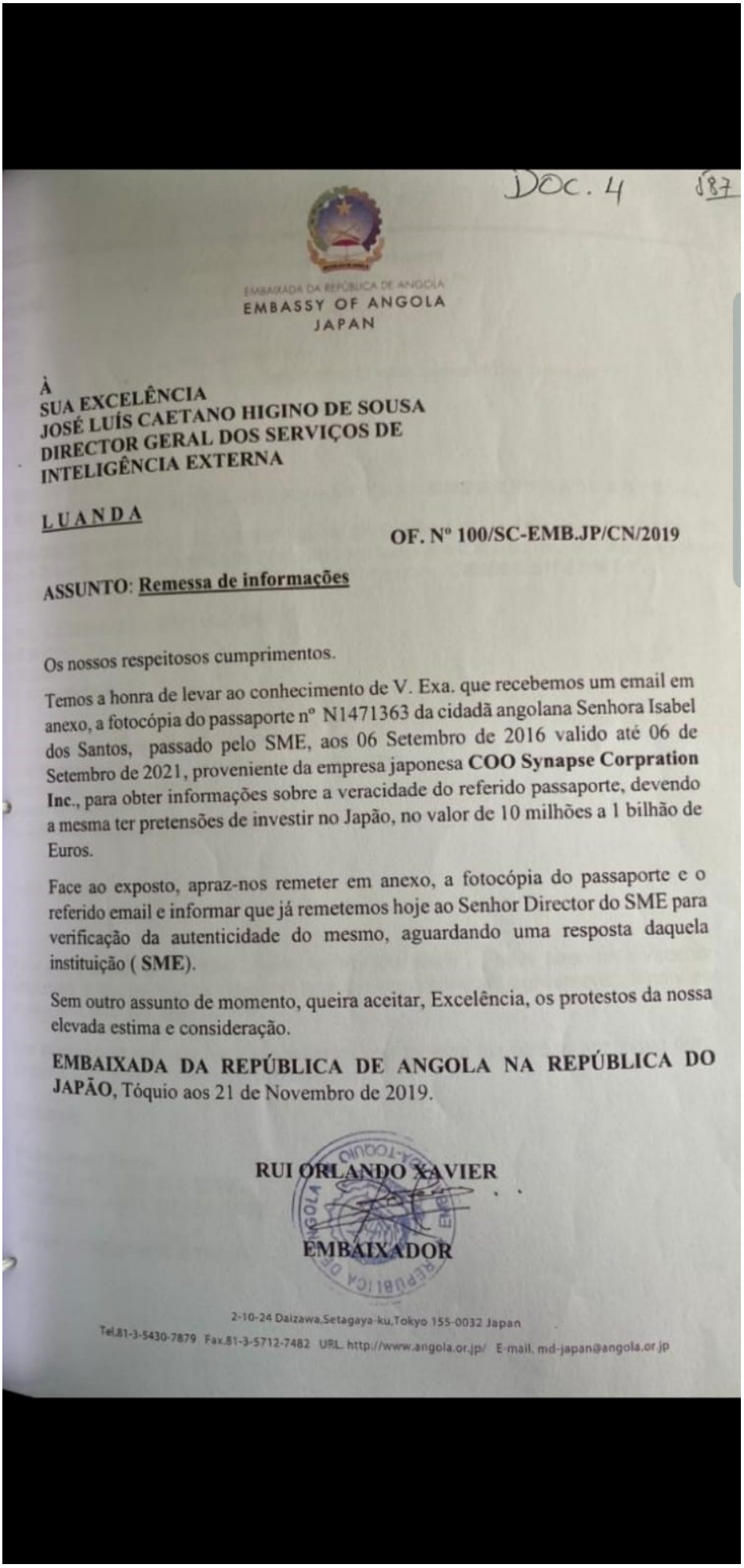
2019年11月6日(水) 5:48 片山善博 <yoshi.1010.katayama@gmail.com>:
Dear Muhammad Hamza

There is no excuse.
We will send you materials about our business.
Thank you for your consideration.

- Excecutive Summary (English)
- Business Plan (Japanese)

Sincerely.
Yoshihiro Katayama

Appendix three: Letter from the Ambassador of Angola in Japan to the Director General of the Angolan External Intelligence Services, 21 November 2019



DOC. 4 187

EMBAIXADA DA REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA
EMBASSY OF ANGOLA
JAPAN

À
SUA EXCELÊNCIA
JOSÉ LUÍS CAETANO HIGINO DE SOUSA
DIRECTOR GERAL DOS SERVIÇOS DE
INTELIGÊNCIA EXTERNA

LUANDA

OF. Nº 100/SC-EMB.JP/CN/2019

ASSUNTO: Remessa de informações

Os nossos respeitosos cumprimentos.

Temos a honra de levar ao conhecimento de V. Exa. que recebemos um email em anexo, a fotocópia do passaporte nº N1471363 da cidadã angolana Senhora Isabel dos Santos, passado pelo SME, aos 06 Setembro de 2016 valido até 06 de Setembro de 2021, proveniente da empresa japonesa **COO Synapse Corpration Inc.**, para obter informações sobre a veracidade do referido passaporte, devendo a mesma ter pretensões de investir no Japão, no valor de 10 milhões a 1 bilhão de Euros.

Face ao exposto, apraz-nos remeter em anexo, a fotocópia do passaporte e o referido email e informar que já remetemos hoje ao Senhor Director do SME para verificação da autenticidade do mesmo, aguardando uma resposta daquela instituição ( **SME**).

Sem outro assunto de momento, queira aceitar, Excelência, os protestos da nossa elevada estima e consideração.

**EMBAIXADA DA REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA NA REPÚBLICA DO JAPÃO**, Tóquio aos 21 de Novembro de 2019.

**RUI ORLANDO XAVIER**

**EMBAIXADOR**

2-10-24 Daizawa,Setagaya-ku,Tokyo 155-0032 Japan
Tel.81-3-5430-7879 Fax.81-3-5712-7482 URL. http://www.angola.or.jp/ E-mail. md-japan@angola.or.jp

Translation:

From: The Embassy of Angola in Japan

To: His Excellency General Manager for the Foreign Intelligence Service in Luanda

Topic: Giving Information

Hello,

We have the honour to inform you that we received an email containing the photocopy of passport number N1471363 of Angolan citizen Isabel dos Santos issued by the SME service on 6th September 2016 valid until the 6th September 2021.

We received it from the Japanese company, Synapse Corporation Inc. (sic)- they were asking for information on the veracity of the referred passport.

Given the fact that the person in the passport is planning to invest in Japan a value of 10 million to a billion euros.

We are also attaching in the annex a photocopy of the passport and the emails and inform you that we already have sent this today to the director of the foreign migration services to check the authenticity of the passport and are waiting for an answer from that institution.

Please accept our high esteem and consideration.

Embassy of the Republic of Angola in the Republic of Japan (sic), Tokyo – 21st November 2019

Signed: *name*

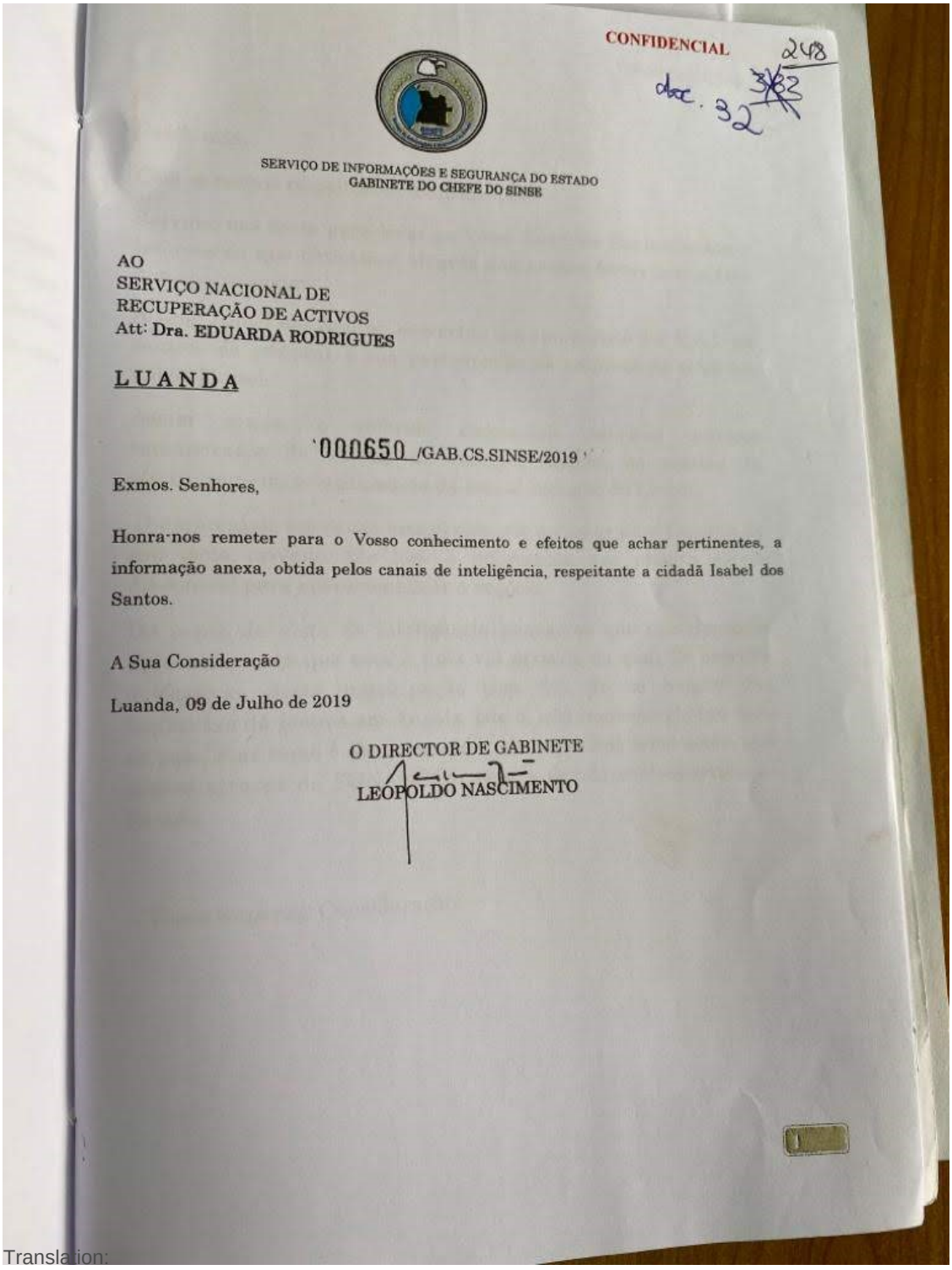
There are three parts that demonstrate both a scam, involving a false document, and an inexplicable level of incompetence:

One month before the false passport was accepted as evidence by the judge in Angola, the ambassador said in his letter that he had asked the SME (“Serviço de Migração e Estrangeiros”: the Angolan institution that issues passports) to confirm its authenticity. Is it possible that the embassy sent the passport without ever having inspected it? Embassy services handle problems relating to Angolan passports on a daily basis. How could they not have noted the two different passport numbers on the same page, the confusion between first and last name, and the use of English, which is not allowed, in an Angolan passport? It is clear that by attaching this passport to the file as overwhelming evidence, the Angolan state services knew they were transmitting a forgery - and did so deliberately for political purposes.

Why has the SME still not responded to the embassy's request? How is it possible that the security services, the prosecutor and the court still pretend to be unaware that it was a false passport?

The end of the letter states the "Embassy of Angola in the Republic of Japan". Japan is not a republic, but a parliamentary monarchy. This raises serious questions about whether this letter really comes from the Angolan embassy in Japan.

Appendix four: Letter from the Director of Cabinet of the State Intelligence and Security Service to the Special Prosecutor responsible



CONFIDENCIAL

248

doc. 32

SERVIÇO DE INFORMAÇÕES E SEGURANÇA DO ESTADO
GABINETE DO CHEFE DO SINSE

AO
SERVIÇO NACIONAL DE
RECUPERAÇÃO DE ACTIVOS
Att: Dra. EDUARDA RODRIGUES

LUANDA

'000650 /GAB.CS.SINSE/2019'

Exmos. Senhores,

Honra-nos remeter para o Vosso conhecimento e efeitos que achar pertinentes, a informação anexa, obtida pelos canais de inteligência, respeitante a cidadã Isabel dos Santos.

A Sua Consideração

Luanda, 09 de Julho de 2019

O DIRECTOR DE GABINETE

LEOPOLDO NASCIMENTO

Translation:

Service of Information and Security of the State Cabinet of the Head of SINSE

Directed to National Service of Recuperation of Assets

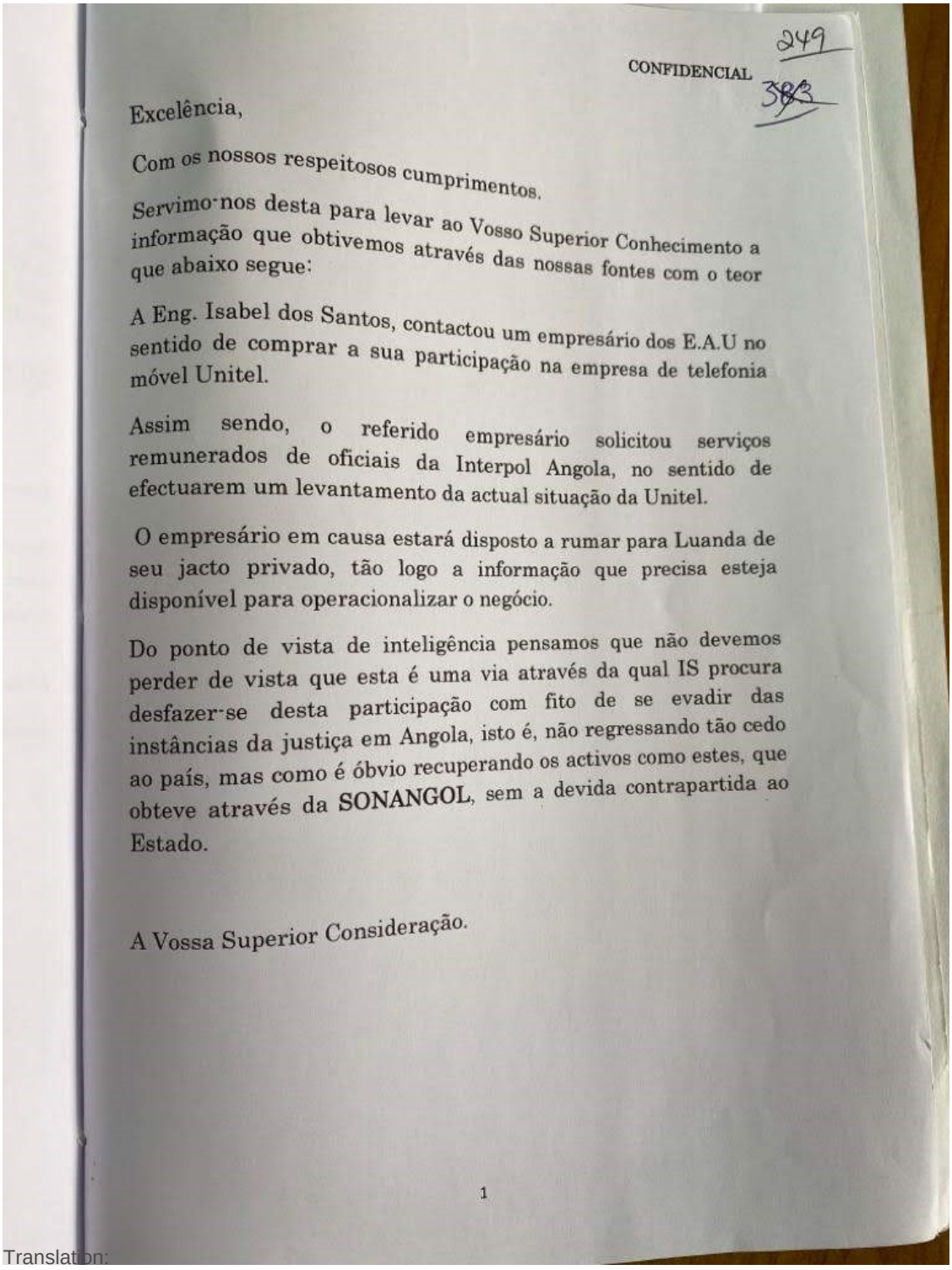
Special Attention of Dr Edward Rodregrez, Luanda

Dears Sirs,

We have the honour of submitting to your knowledge to inform you and with the effects that you will think pertinent the information in annex that was gathered through the channels of intelligence in regard to the citizen Isabel dos Santos.

To your consideration, Luanda 9th July 2019

Signed: Leopoldo Nascimento Director of Cabinet



249

CONFIDENCIAL

383

Excelência,

Com os nossos respeitosos cumprimentos.

Servimo-nos desta para levar ao Vosso Superior Conhecimento a informação que obtivemos através das nossas fontes com o teor que abaixo segue:

A Eng. Isabel dos Santos, contactou um empresário dos E.A.U no sentido de comprar a sua participação na empresa de telefonia móvel Unitel.

Assim sendo, o referido empresário solicitou serviços remunerados de oficiais da Interpol Angola, no sentido de efectuarem um levantamento da actual situação da Unitel.

O empresário em causa estará disposto a rumar para Luanda de seu jacto privado, tão logo a informação que precisa esteja disponível para operacionalizar o negócio.

Do ponto de vista de inteligência pensamos que não devemos perder de vista que esta é uma via através da qual IS procura desfazer-se desta participação com fito de se evadir das instâncias da justiça em Angola, isto é, não regressando tão cedo ao país, mas como é óbvio recuperando os activos como estes, que obteve através da **SONANGOL**, sem a devida contrapartida ao Estado.

A Vossa Superior Consideração.

1

Translation:

Confidential

Your excellency,

With the expression of our respectful consideration.

We hereby submit to your higher consideration the following information obtained through our sources:

Ms. Isabel Dos Santos contacted a businessman in the United Arab Emirates to sell him her stake in the telecom company UNITEL.

Thus, the businessman in question sought the paid services of agents of Interpol Angola to verify the current situation of UNITEL.

The businessman in question said he was available to fly to Luanda in his private jet as soon as the

information he needed to finalise the deal was available.

From our point of view, we believe that this is a means by which IS trying to get rid of her stake in order to escape justice in Angola, that is to say that by refusing to return to the country but obviously by recovering assets like this that she obtained through Sonangol without compensation for the State.

To your higher consideration.

The memo above is set out on pages 248 and 249 of the Angolan prosecution against Ms dos Santos. This shows how the Angolan security services have made accusations that are, at best, vague. There is reference to an unidentified businessman who has supposedly received a proposal from Ms dos Santos to sell her shares in the telecom company, Unitel.

There is no date, no precise references, no evidence, nor even the precise source of this information.

To establish the financial credentials of the UAE businessman, there is a reference made to his private jet, which he would use to travel to Angola to close the deal. This reference illustrates the extent to which the services did not in fact have any real factual information, but had to show that there was an "imminent risk of dissipation of assets" in order to obtain the court order.

Without realising it, the security services have unveiled a corrupt practice to the prosecutor by mentioning that the businessman intended to remunerate the agents of Interpol in Angola, even though Interpol services are free and do not cover financial audits of private companies. By mentioning this, the State has indicated that one of its most important security services is committing a criminal act. And this is through the judicial testimony from an official of the intelligence services. Yet the prosecutor has not opened an investigation into the matter.

ENDS

## Company Contact:

**Powerscourt**

T. 07795550749
E. gerard.lyons@powerscourt-group.com
W. https://www.powerscourt-group.com/

View Online

**Additional Assets:**

**Newsroom:** Visit our Newsroom for all the latest stories:
**https://www.powerscourt-group.pressat.co.uk**