

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

# Swiss Federal Criminal Court orders repatriation of US\$16.303 million from accounts linked to Paulo Maluf

Court accepted the arguments presented by Brazil based on joint action between MPF and AGU

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**T**he Swiss Federal Criminal Court ordered the repatriation to Brazil of US\$16.303 million blocked in bank accounts in the European country linked to the former mayor of São Paulo and former deputy Paulo Maluf. The Court accepted the arguments presented by Brazil, based on joint action by the Federal Public Ministry (MPF) and the Attorney General's Office (AGU).

International Cooperation, to the Swiss Confederation sought financial information, blocking and repatriation of assets deposited in bank accounts linked to Maluf, resulting from the crimes for which he was convicted by the Federal Supreme Court (STF ) in Criminal Action No. 863.

The Brazilian authorities justified the request for repatriation of the values based on the STF judgment, emphasizing the exhaustive analysis of evidence in the criminal case. Joint action was essential for developing the appeal strategy, especially with guidance, additional information and subsidies necessary to defend the need for repatriation to the Swiss authorities.

Since 2014, when the STF authorized the repatriation of values, the MPF has worked to implement the measure and guarantee the repair of public coffers. The request for assistance to AGU was made in April 2022 as a strategy to overcome the obstacles that still prevented the return of values. The MPF Secretary for International Cooperation, Hindenburgo Chateaubriand, highlights the importance of the measure for concluding the process. "The return of resources is what society expects from the institutions' actions in this case, which is emblematic for the country and which has already been condemned in Brazil," he said.

For the AGU, the Swiss Court's decision in favor of the repatriation of US\$16.303 million represents a victory for international cooperation in the fight against corruption. "Based on robust legal foundations, Brazil demonstrated firm determination to seek justice beyond its borders," said Union lawyer Sara Lopes, member of the National Prosecutor's Office of the AGU International Affairs Union (PNAI). "The support we provide to the PGR shows the importance of the joint work of the competent State bodies to act in foreign forums to combat financial crime," she added.



The process is still ongoing in Swiss courts and the amounts remain blocked until the final judgment of the case.

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Justice and Security

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