

TRAPPED BY THE
TRANSFER SYSTEM

THE STORY OF

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Matuzalem Francelino da Silva is a football player from Brazil. Nine years ago, he was in demand among European clubs when the transfer system got in the way.

Matuzalem wanted to leave Shakhtar Donetsk in Ukraine and move to Real Zaragoza in Spain. Shakhtar demanded he pay a 25 million euro release clause.

His case went to an appeal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ordered Matuzalem to pay Shakhtar 12 million euros – ten times his annual salary – in compensation.

Neither Matuzalem nor Real Zaragoza could afford to pay that amount. FIFA ruled he should be banned from football until he complied with the court's order.

Eventually, the Swiss Federal Supreme Court decided that was an excessive restraint on his freedom and "serious violation" of his personal rights.

The CAS nevertheless ruling has left footballers worried about lodging a challenging with CAS in case they have to pay out 10 times their annual salary to change clubs.

