

TRAPPED IN A  
LEGAL NIGHTMARE

THE STORY OF

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CZECH REPUBLIC



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**Martin Sus has been entangled in football's slow-moving legal system for nine years, wrecking what was once a promising career.**

Sus was a 17-year-old talent when an FC Brno (Czech Republic) official forged his signature on a fake agreement to try and secure a transfer fee from FC Twente (Netherlands).

Sus had the bogus contract nullified by a civil court at Utrecht which ordered the Czech Football Association to pay him 1,000 euros for every day it delayed his release from FC Brno. The Czech F.A. ignored the ruling, leaving itself with a bill for 400,000 euros.

The legal wrangle stopped Sus becoming a member of Twente's first team, he said. He agreed to move back to Brno when its management changed. "I just wanted to play football," Sus said. However, after he refused to withdraw his legal claim, he was ordered to train on his own without pay for six months.

Six years after his 2007 court victory, and having left FC Brno, Sus again sought what was owed to him. But this time a so-called dispute resolution chamber at the Czech FA said it was not "competent" to make a decision. In 2016, the Court of Arbitration for Sport agreed that the Czech FA could not rule on a case which involved itself.

Sus is not the only one handicapped by football arbitration. On average, it takes 808 days for players in Europe to have contract disputes with clubs resolved by FIFA-appointed tribunals.

