

# **The Madeleine McCann mystery and the strange role of Madeira lawyer, Marcos Alexandre Aragão Correia**

His links with the McCanns and *Método 3*, and his legal actions against his ‘target’, Gonçalo Amaral, the senior Portuguese detective who declared the McCanns suspects in the disappearance of Madeleine McCann

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**A note about this article:** This essay was originally written by Tony in November 2008 and has been updated periodically since then. It has now been re-written for The Madeleine Foundation website, in pursuance of one of the aims in our Constitution, namely paragraph 2(b): “To pursue - in conjunction with others - the truth about Madeleine McCann’s disappearance on 3 May 2007”.

As in all our work, we endeavour to present the facts, together with our analysis of those facts. We do not intentionally libel anyone, but we will not suppress inconvenient facts just because someone doesn’t like those facts. We may not always get things right. So if you spot any errors in this article, or have relevant information that you think we should include in it, please contact us, and we will put that right. The article will in any event be updated shortly. The accounts in this article of legal proceedings in Portugal are inevitably constrained to a considerable extent by the amount of material from those proceedings that has been reliably translated into English. That material is limited in scope. Many useful translations of the proceedings have appeared on the various Madeleine McCann forums and blogs on the Internet and as always we are very grateful for their excellent work.

If you have any further information relating to Madeleine’s disappearance which can help us get closer to the truth about what really happened to Madeleine McCann, we would very much welcome your help. We will treat any information received in strict confidence.

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This article examines whether the McCanns, their ‘Find Madeleine Fund’ and their financial backers have been using the services of a highly controversial Portuguese lawyer, Marcos Alexandre Aragão Correia, to pay for a variety of actions on their behalf, including:

- (a) promoting the theory that Madeleine was abducted by a gang of paedophiles, and
- (b) bringing a series of politically motivated prosecutions against Gonçalo Amaral, the detective who brilliantly solved the murder of Joana Cipriano, and who, for the first five months, led the investigation into why Madeleine McCann was reported missing. He was then removed from the investigation in controversial circumstances.

### **Executive Summary of this article**

There is little evidence that Madeleine McCann was abducted. It is confined to assertions by the McCanns and their friends in Portugal that she was abducted, and, in particular, to the statements of one of them, Jane Tanner, that she saw a person carrying a child, on the night Madeleine was reported missing.

In a book on the case, 'The Truth About A Lie', the original senior investigating detective in the case, Gonçalo Amaral, wrote of what he believed was compelling forensic and circumstantial evidence that Madeleine died in the McCanns' holiday apartment, and that her parents, perhaps with the help of others, hid her body.

A highly controversial Portuguese lawyer called Marcos Alexandre Aragão Correia was contacted by a private detective agency, *Método 3*, that the McCanns used during the latter half of 2007 and the first part of 2008. They were allegedly investigating Madeleine's disappearance and supposedly trying to find her. Between them, however, that article suggests *Método 3* and Mr Aragão Correia fabricated a story saying that they had received information from the underworld that Madeleine had been abducted, raped and killed - and her body dumped in a 'murky lake'. The first public indication that Mr Aragão Correia might be working for the McCanns came in November 2007.

Mr Aragão Correia later - and dramatically - changed this clearly fabricated account to claimed that he had had a 'supernatural indication' or 'vision' that pointed to the Arade Dam as a place to look for Madeleine's body. Two very public searches were conducted there, with the media conveniently on hand to record every discovery, for example a 17-foot 'knotted cord' and 'a bag of bones'. These 'discoveries' helped to promote the theory in the media that Madeleine was abducted by a paedophile - a theory developed by the McCanns and their supporters from Day One..

Later - in mysterious circumstances - the same controversial lawyer was appointed by Leonor Cipriano, the evil murderer of her 8-year-old daughter Joana Cipriano, to represent her in her claim that she had been tortured and beaten by four police officers under the control of Gonçalo Amaral. Mr Amaral was the senior investigating officer who secured Ms Cipriano's conviction for murdering her own daughter - together with her brother and the girl's own uncle. The lawyer later admitted to a court in Faro that he had been asked by *Método 3* to represent Leonor Cipriano and in particular to 'get' Gonçalo Amaral. *Método 3* denied this, but Mr Aragão Correia himself admitted first to receiving 'expenses' from *Método 3* - and later to being paid by them - though he has never disclosed how much he was paid. As we saw in a previous article by John Whitehouse, also on our website, *Método 3* was appointed and possibly partly paid for by the multi-million-pound double glazing magnate from Cheshire, Mr Brian Kennedy, who heads the *Latium Group* based in Wilmslow. Mr Kennedy's in-house lawyer, Edward Smethurst, has been the McCanns' 'co-ordinating lawyer' since the summer of 2007.

The 'Find Madeleine Fund' was ostensibly set up by the McCanns to find Madeleine. It raised millions of pounds from the general public. Hundreds of thousands of pounds were used from that fund to pay *Método 3*, on the pretext that they were using that money to try to find Madeleine. In fact, some of that money was being used to fund Mr Aragão Correia (a) to make a bogus claim that he 'knew' Madeleine had been raped, killed and then thrown into a reservoir (b) to conduct a bogus search for Madeleine with the media on hand to record discoveries allegedly made during the search and (c) to use every endeavour to 'nail' Gonçalo Amaral on bogus charges of being directly involved in torturing and beating Leonor Cipriano and her former partner (before she was imprisoned) António Leandro David da Silva.

It may be inferred that the McCanns knew how the Find Madeleine Fund was being spent and that they knew very well it was being used to fund the various activities of Mr Aragão Correia. Pensioners who gave their weekly pension to help find Madeleine and children who similarly gave up their weekly pocket money for the same purpose and sent it to the McCanns would probably be very unsettled to discover how their kind donations had been misused.

The article also explores other incidents in the life of Mr Aragão Correia, including his claim that ‘The target has been hit’, after Gonçalo Amaral was found guilty on a trumped-up charge of ‘falsifying a report’, and his disruption of a birthday party for Mr Amaral, when he was seen outside the restaurant where the party was being held, making provocative and obscene gestures. His many applications in the courts against Mr Amaral are also covered.

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## **1. Was Madeleine McCann abducted?**

First, some context - and I’ll assume that some of you reading this essay will not be acquainted with many of the background facts that are relevant to this particular matter.

We need to say, first of all, that there are many question marks about the claim that Madeleine McCann was abducted. Some of the many statements made to the Portuguese police during their investigations shed light on the claims of abduction. We have included twelve of the most important in our latest book on the case: ‘The Madeleine McCann Case Files: Volume 1’. The first senior investigating officer in the case, Mr Gonçalo Amaral, for example, believes that the evidence suggests that Madeleine McCann died in her parents’ holiday apartment in Praia da Luz. The same conclusion was reached by senior inspector Tavares de Almeida, in a hard-hitting report dated 10 September 2007, three days after the McCanns were made suspects and were interviewed by Portuguese police - a report we have also included in our latest book.

And that immediately brings us to one of the focal points of this essay - namely, a Portuguese lawyer, Marcos Alexandre Aragão Correia, who at the time of writing (March 2010) has for the past two years been representing a lady - if we can call her that - who claims that she was beaten up by police under Mr Amaral’s control, and that Mr Amaral covered up this beating. One of the main questions we shall return to and discuss in detail is this: who has been directing and funding Mr Aragão Correia to become involved in this action?

But before we go any further, who is this ‘lady’ who claims to have been beaten up by Amaral’s detective? - and what did she do to become famous? or, as we shall soon see - notorious? Well, her name is Leonor Cipriano. She took part in the killing of her own daughter.

## **2. Solving the murder of Joana Cipriano**

[WARNING: This section of our essay includes some graphic details].

Back in 2004, Ms Leonor Cipriano was the mother of an 8-year-old girl, Joana Isabel Guerreiro Cipriano. According to her, Joana went missing one day. It was, however, 24 hours or more before she actually got round to telling everyone that Joana was missing. Joana was said to have gone missing on 12 September 2004. Ms Cipriano's story was that Joana had gone down to the village shop to buy one or two provisions, and gone missing, probably abducted by an opportunistic predator. The media soon became involved and there was a nationwide hunt for Joana. Ms Cipriano appealed emotionally on TV and in the newspapers for her safe return.

But she wasn't missing. She had in fact been brutally murdered in her own home. In truth, Joana had been out of the house, and had returned to find her mother together in bed with her mother's brother - her uncle, in other words. She had stumbled on her mother and her uncle having an illegal incestuous relationship, punishable by a prison sentence in Portugal and most other countries. As we now know, Joana tried to run out of the house, only to be pulled back inside by a now-furious uncle who was determined that Joana should not tell anyone else their guilty secret. The police later found Joana's fingerprints on the front door jamb, showing that she had frantically tried to make her escape, only to be pulled back in again by her far more powerful uncle.

Within minutes, she was first tortured and then brutally killed by Leonor Cipriano and her brother João Cipriano. The wicked uncle then used a saw to chop up her body, and stored it in a freezer whilst he and Joana's mother worked out how to get rid of it. They did so in the end, they admitted, by placing what was left of Joana's body in an old second-hand car, then ordering a Spanish car-crushing company to take the car away and destroy it.

The detective who investigated Joana's reported 'disappearance', who painstakingly accumulated forensic evidence, and who eventually secured a frank, full and unforced confession from little Joana Cipriano's mother and uncle, was none other than Gonçalo Amaral. The case came to court in 2005. The court unanimously found that her mother and uncle had deliberately killed Joan, and sentenced them to 20 years' imprisonment respectively. The sentence was commuted to 16 years and 8 months in March 2006.

Less than two years after presenting to the court the evidence which convicted the evil Ciprianos, Gonçalo Amaral was to become the senior investigator, once again, in the case of a young child who was supposed to have been abducted - three-year-old British girl, Madeleine Beth McCann.

## **3. Gonçalo Amaral is stopped from investigating the 'disappearance' of Madeleine McCann**

As we now know from Gonçalo Amaral's best-selling book, 'The Truth About A Lie', first published in July 2008, he was suspicious from 'Day One' about the

McCanns' claim that Madeleine had been abducted. The 'Lie', says Mr Amaral, was the claim that Madeleine had been taken from her apartment by a stranger (or strangers) at around 9.15pm on Thursday 3 May, while her parents were dining with friends over 100 yards away at a local restaurant.

It was on 3 October 2007 - exactly five months after Madeleine was reported missing, and on his birthday - that Mr Amaral was removed from the investigation into Madeleine's 'disappearance'. By that time, he had formed the view - we believe correctly - that powerful forces within the British government were actively working to sabotage his investigation. He had spoken out about this alleged interference in what he regarded as a private, off-the-record chat with a journalist. When his off-the-record comments were made public, he was quietly removed from the investigation by the top brass of the Portuguese police. We now know also that two hours before Amaral himself was told, a top Portuguese official rang Gordon Brown, the British Prime Minister, to tell him the news that he and the British government had been expecting and hoping to hear: "We're removing Amaral from the Madeleine McCann investigation later today".

During 2008, one of Gonçalo Amaral's detective colleagues spoke up on his behalf, describing him as 'incorruptible'. He had indeed acquired a formidable reputation as a fearless and dedicated detective, who, amongst other achievements, had succeeded in obtaining convictions against major drug dealers, some of them quite possibly having connections with powerful Portuguese political figures.

If Gonçalo Amaral is right in thinking that the evidence points to Madeleine having died in her parents' holiday apartment, Ocean Club Apartment 5A, and that the McCanns, possibly with the help of some of their friends, covered up her death and hid the body, then it is understandable that the McCanns and their many public relations and legal advisers would want Mr Amaral removed from the investigation. As we now know, it had been clear to them from fairly early on that the police were not actively pursuing the abduction theory but were working on the assumption that something very different had happened. That became crystal clear to all when the McCanns were made 'arguidos' - suspects - and called in for questioning on 7 September 2007, just four months after Madeleine was reported missing.

The warning signs had become clear to the McCanns when, in July, experienced Leicestershire detective Mark Harrison spent a week researching the case in Praia da Luz, and came to the conclusion, like Mr Amaral, that Madeleine had died in Apartment 5A and her body hidden or disposed of. Mark Harrison recommended that two highly trained Springer Spaniel sniffer dogs be brought in to see if their capabilities in detecting the scent of human corpses and blood could be of value to the investigation.

One of these dogs, Eddie, was trained to detect only human cadaverine - the scent of a human corpse - while Keela was trained to 'alert' only to human blood. Eddie had already been used on some 200 previous occasions to locate the places where a corpse had once lain, and had never given a 'false positive'. To put it more plainly, he had alerted to the smell of a corpse 200 times, and on every single occasions, there was definite proof that a corpse had been in exactly the spot where he sniffed the scent of human cadaverine.

Eddie found the scent of human cadaverine, which is usually only emitted after a body has been dead for around two hours or more (sometimes a little less), in four places in the McCanns' apartment, in the Renault Scenic car they hired three weeks after Madeleine went 'missing', and on its key, on two articles of Dr Kate McCann's clothing, on a T-shirt belonging either to Madeleine or her younger brother Sean, and on the soft pink toy, 'Cuddle Cat', which Dr Kate McCann was always clutching whenever in sight of the media.

The dogs did not alert at any other apartment or in any other car in Praia da Luz. No one else was known to have died either in Apartment 5A or in the Renault Scenic.

This potentially explosive evidence of Madeleine's death in Praia da Luz was strengthened when the first tests on the blood and other body fluids detected by the blood-hound Keela in the McCanns' apartment and in the hired Renault Scenic appeared to show a 99.9%-plus certainly that the blood was from Madeleine McCann. In other words, there was only 1 chance in 1,000 that that blood was from someone other than Madeleine. But in a later report from the Forensic Science Service in Birmingham, boss John Lowe stated that because the initial sample had subsequently been re-tested and contaminated, it was no longer to be so sure that the blood was Madeleine's and now said this was only possible. The samples could have been contaminated by three of his staff who did the testing. The blood, said Lowe, could have belonged to any one of many individuals, and the DNA tests on it were pronounced 'inconclusive'.

Gonçalo Amaral had brought the mystery of Joana Cipriano's disappearance to a successful conclusion. In the case of Madeleine McCann, he had identified three suspects - the McCanns and Robert Murat (see our separate article on Robert Murat which we hope to publish shortly). He was not, however, going to be allowed to bring the mystery of Madeleine McCann's 'disappearance' to a successful conclusion. According to him, the British government had seen to that. Amaral, it appears, then became a marked man so far as the McCann camp were concerned. He became the target of a vicious smear campaign in the media, who branded him as 'incompetent', 'lazy', 'boozy' and even 'corrupt'. One of the weapons used to attack him in the British press and in Portugal was the testimony of little Joana Cipriano's mother, the murderer, Leonor Cipriano. We shall look at this next.

#### **4. The allegations against Gonçalo Amaral by Leonor Cipriano**

What were Leonor Cipriano's allegations against Amaral?

Whilst in prison, she appeared to suffer two black eyes, and some other bruising on her body. Her photo has been shown frequently in the British press, with two obvious black eyes. Leonor Cipriano's central allegation, for what it is worth, was that four of Amaral's team had beaten her up, apparently in order to extract a false confession. The allegation against Amaral, in broad terms, was that he had either taken part in this beating, or authorised it, or, alternatively, that he had got to know about it and then covered it up, instructing his officers to lie about the beating.

And that is what the court case against Gonçalo Amaral and his four fellow detectives, which began to be heard in late 2008, was all about. The person representing Leonor Cipriano in court - and who subsequently led the prosecution of Amaral and his fellow officers on charges of assault, perverting the course of justice and misconduct in public office - was Portuguese lawyer Mr Marcos Alexandre Aragão Correia.

We shall now explore more fully how this came about. It is now time to learn something more about him, and in particular how he became interested in the Madeleine McCann case and about his dramatic search for Madeleine's remains in a large Portuguese reservoir.

### **5. Marcos Aragão Correia says he knows, from an 'underground source' how Madeleine died**

It was in late January 2008 that Mr Aragão Correia first came to public notice in Britain. He came forward with the dramatic news that he was sure that Madeleine's body was lying in a reservoir. He added various details that suggested that he 'knew' - as he had 'been told' - that Madeleine had been stolen to order by a gang of ruthless paedophiles, who had then, in turn, raped her and killed her and then dumped her body at the bottom of a reservoir - the Arade Dam in Portugal.

One aspect of Mr Aragão Correia's claims is that they chimed in perfect harmony with the repeated claims of both the McCanns and their team of public relations advisers that Madeleine had been abducted by evil men - quite probably paedophile predators. Story after story appeared in the press claiming that Madeleine had been stolen to order by a paedophile gang.

Indeed the possibility that Madeleine had been abducted by paedophiles was specifically mentioned by Dr Gerald McCann the very night that Madeleine was reported missing. Some reports claimed Madeleine had been abducted by a paedophile gang operating in Belgium; more commonly it was said to be paedophile gangs based in Morocco or elsewhere in North Africa.

Another version put out by the McCann Team from time to time was that Madeleine had been stolen to order, perhaps to satisfy the need of a wealthy North African family, many of whom, it was claimed, wanted a white child. It was said that young white children were very much in demand by middle class North Africans, a claim that has little foundation in fact. This line of thought was so important to the McCanns that their private investigation team made considerable efforts in Morocco, actually discussing the nature and terms of their search for Madeleine with top Moroccan government officials.

So how did Mr Aragão Correia - up until now an obscure lawyer hailing from the Portuguese island of Madeira - burst on the scene? And what did he have to say for himself?

## 6. The Press Association Report on Mr Aragão Correia of 4 February 2008

What we will do next is to examine a crucial news agency report on Mr Aragão Correia, namely the Press Association's report dated 4 February 2008.

The Press Association has the highest possible reputation in the U.K. as an authoritative news source. The British broadsheets - and many other British media - routinely rely on their detailed and fully researched reports. What made this particular report of outstanding value to the Press Association, however, was that it has an 'exclusive' tag - meaning that the news they were breaking had not been revealed to anyone else. It is well known that to develop a story in the British media, a Press Association report is one of the best ways to break it. Those who are media savvy will cultivate their Press Association contacts and use them. As we read the Press Association report, which we'll reproduce below, we can see how cleverly the McCann Team, in conjunction with Mr Aragão Correia, had conveyed to them exactly what they wanted to say. The message in the Press Association report was just what the McCann Team wanted.

The report was 'by-lined' to Emily Nash, who was reporting direct from the Arade Dam at Silves, Portugal. It is clear she must have talked to Clarence Mitchell, the McCanns' chief public relations adviser, and to Mr Aragão Correia at length before filing her exclusive report. Here's the full report, which we'll comment on below:

### QUOTE

DIVERS HUNT FOR MADELEINE MCCANN'S BODY IN A REMOTE RESERVOIR (filed 4 February 2008 by Emily Nash)

*EXCLUSIVE: Underworld tip-off leads to fresh search*

The search for Madeleine McCann took a grim twist yesterday as divers trawled a remote reservoir for her body. The hunt, near the Algarve resort where she went missing in May, followed an underworld tip-off to lawyer Marcos Aragão Correia. Marcos, 32, said: "They told me she was thrown into a deserted lake with murky waters. I'm convinced this is the place". It was a search that began in hope but gave way to heavy-hearted resignation as the weeks and months went by.

Now there are fears the hunt for Madeleine McCann could end in the murky depths of a reservoir 40 miles from where she went missing. Good Samaritan Marcos Aragão Correia, 32, is paying for a team of British divers to trawl it after an underworld tip-off that she was dumped in a lake just days after being abducted.

And they have unearthed a 17ft cord he believes was used to tie up the four-year-old. The desolate reservoir in Barragem do Arade - 150ft deep (45m) in places - has a beach and a walkway leading to a tower. It matches clues the Portuguese lawyer was given. Marcos said: "I am convinced this is the place. My sources told me Madeleine was thrown into a deserted lake with murky waters, a beach and lots of trees. I believe this would have been the best place for someone to have dumped the body, based on

my investigations. It's not overlooked, has easy access by car and if you threw the body from the tower the water is 55ft deep (17m) there”.

The site is also a short drive from Silves, where a trucker has told police that on 5 May - two days after Madeleine went missing - he saw a woman hand a man a child looking like her. News of the grim lead came as Portugal's top cop conceded his men acted with ‘hastiness’ in making the McCanns suspects. And Marcos believes Kate and Gerry had nothing to do with Madeleine's disappearance.

He is funding the dive search - at an estimated £1,200 a day - after he told Portuguese detectives eight weeks ago about the tip-off, but was ignored.

The lawyer said: “I was able to identify the site on 10 December and immediately informed police, who did nothing. I got tired of waiting for them to act on my information, so I decided to act. I will stay here as long as is necessary to try to solve this mystery. I don't care how much the divers cost, what matters is that my conscience will be clear”.

Six frogmen, working seven hours a day, are searching by touch alone as there is almost zero visibility in the lake's dark depths. Marcos is convinced the nylon cord they retrieved - of a type used on window blinds - was tragically connected to Madeleine's abduction. He said: “They have found a cord tied in knots down there, right below the tower. I have given it to police. It's logical that if you throw a body in the water, you would tie it to something to weigh it down. There's no other rubbish there. There is no reason for it to be there”.

Arade Reservoir, accessible via a dirt track, is a few hundred yards from a derelict hilltop diner and a car park used as an unofficial caravan camping site. The divers are focusing their search on the base of the tower - 15ft (4.5m) from the shore - as Marcos believes the body may have been thrown from there. He explained: “I don't have enough money to pay for the entire lake to be searched. That would take many divers and many weeks. But because of the clues I have I decided to pay for searches in this area”.

The underwater unit began their grim task last Thursday. Alan Wilson, who heads the team based in Lagos, Portugal, said: “You can't see anything down there. Everything is black because there is no light. The divers are searching entirely by touch, feeling in the silt for anything suspicious that shouldn't be there. It's a long, slow process”.

The woman said to have been seen in Silves passing a girl to a male accomplice is said to have looked like Michaela Walczuch - girlfriend of suspect Robert Murat. Ms Walczuch has never been an official suspect and dismissed the claim as ‘ridiculous’. However, both Marcos and *Método 3*, the Spanish detective agency hired by the McCanns, believe the sighting of the girl could be a crucial clue. The lawyer said: “*Método 3* believe this lead is quite credible. They told me their investigations indicated that Madeleine was switched from one car to another, precisely in Silves”. He added: “I don't believe Kate and Gerry did it. It could have been a single madman or a gang, I don't know”.

Marcos, who was first given his tip-off three days after Madeleine went missing from Praia da Luz, visited the reservoir with *Método 3* detectives in December. Last night [3 February 2008] the McCanns' spokesman Clarence Mitchell welcomed the possible breakthrough.

He said: "We're grateful to anyone who feels they have important information in the search for Madeleine. If his search produces significant results, he must, of course, share that information with the police and our investigators".

Meanwhile, Portuguese police chief Alipio Ribeiro conceded at the weekend his officers showed a 'certain hastiness' in making Kate and Gerry, both 39, suspects. He admitted there "perhaps should have been a different evaluation...I have no doubt about that". Kate and Gerry believe it could be a key step in clearing their name. A friend revealed: "They're not punching the air as they know there's still a long way to go, but it's a step in the right direction".

Mr Mitchell added: "There was no air of celebration, but it's the sort of thing we have been waiting for. We hope that his comments are an indication police realise there's no case against Kate and Gerry and that it leads to them being eliminated from the inquiry".

#### UNQUOTE

Let us briefly summarise what this remarkable Press Association report told us that:

- this 32-year-old lawyer, Mr Aragão, was in touch with 'underworld sources' - career criminals, in other words - *just three days* after Madeleine 'disappeared'. In other words, on Sunday 6 May
- he visited this reservoir with detectives from *Método 3* 'in December'
- he had finally identified the site where he thought Madeleine's body had been dumped, on 10 December, and informed the Portuguese police about his ideas that day - but they had 'done nothing'
- his 'underworld sources' had told him that Madeleine's body had been 'thrown into a deserted lake with murky waters, a beach and lots of trees'
- Mr Aragão Correia, by his own brilliance, had identified the Arade Dam as the *only* place which matched the description of 'a deserted lake with murky waters, a beach and lots of trees' (!)
- again, through his deductive powers, he had located the area of the dammed lake 'near the tower' as the only one to be searched
- he was a 'Good Samaritan' who was shelling out thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of pounds out of the goodness of his heart, and based on his underworld sources. The cost of the search, he said, was at least £1,200 a day. Some estimates put the cost a great deal higher
- his 'team of British divers' had found a 17-foot long piece of 'knotted cord' that 'could have been used to tie up Madeleine'
- Madeleine's body could well have been thrown into the lake from the top of a tower by the lake

- *Método3*'s investigations had apparently indicated to them that Madeleine was switched from one car to another, 'precisely in Silves', very close to the Arade Dam, and finally that
- "a woman said to have been seen in Silves passing a girl to a male accomplice looked like Mikaela Walczuch - girlfriend of suspect Robert Murat". Thus the Press Association report neatly linked one of the suspects, Robert Murat, to the possibility that Madeleine had been raped, murdered and her body thrown into the Arade Dam.

## 7. The effect of the 4 February Press Association article

Next, we may note the reaction of the McCanns and their official spokesman, Clarence Mitchell, to this Press Association report that Madeleine's body could be found at the foot of a murky lake in Portugal. Most parents - and their advisers - would be utterly distraught at the news that their daughter may have been cruelly snatched and her body dumped in a reservoir. But the McCanns chose to avoid commenting on that, instead concentrating on the news that police chief Alipio Ribeiro had publicly said that making the McCanns suspects 'may have been too hasty'.

Kate & Gerry McCann were said to: "...believe it could be a key step in *clearing their name*. A friend revealed: 'They're not punching the air as they know there's still a long way to go, but it's a step in the right direction'."

At the same time, their chief public relations adviser, Clarence Mitchell, also made commented on Mr Ribeiro's remarks and the Arade Dam searches. He "...welcomed the possible breakthrough: 'We're grateful to anyone who feels they have important information in the search for Madeleine. There was no air of celebration, but *it's the sort of thing we have been waiting for*. We hope that his comments are an indication police realise there's no case against Kate and Gerry and that it *leads to them being eliminated from the inquiry*.'" [Our italics].

To sum up their reaction to the dreadful news that Madeleine's body might be lying at the bottom of a Portuguese reservoir, both the McCanns and their chief spokesman concentrate only on a remark by Mr Ribeiro. They appear to be pleased, very pleased in fact - but not quite 'celebrating' or 'punching the air'. The atmosphere, as can be seen from these quotes, is distinctly upbeat. The exact opposite, one might think, of the reaction you would get from parents who were about to learn the worst possible news about the fate of their missing daughter.

Now let us look at the other elements in this Press Association report and see how the report assisted the 'spin' of the McCanns and their PR advisers on the investigation into Madeleine's 'disappearance'. The report conveniently promulgated the following suggestions:

- (a) that the Portuguese police had acted 'hastily' in making Dr Gerry McCann and Dr Kate McCann suspects
- (b) that the Portuguese police had deliberately ignored the vital evidence of Mr Araújo Correia's underworld sources that Madeleine had been dumped at the

- bottom of a murky lake - and ignored his apparently unshakeable conviction that this 'murky lake' was the Arade Dam
- (c) that the possibility that Madeleine's body had been dumped in the Arade Dam tied in with the suspicious sight of a woman transferring a young child to another car in the Silves area, the woman said to look like Michaela Walczuch, the girlfriend of Mr Robert Murat. This neatly linked Madeleine's 'disappearance', once again, to the 'one-eyed oddball', Robert Murat
  - (d) that Gerry and Kate McCann were not responsible; Mr Aragão Correia said: "I don't believe Kate and Gerry did it. It could have been a single madman or a gang".

Finally, in our analysis of this Press Association article, let us raise a few queries about Mr Aragão Correia's account:

- 1) Did he really receive inside information about Madeleine having been abducted, within three days of Madeleine being reported 'missing'? (We shall discuss that further in a moment)
- 2) What did he do with that information at the time?
- 3) He says he first contacted the Portuguese Police in December. Why the apparent 7-month delay in telling the police?
- 4) Why did his information about the 'murky' lake lead him to the Arada Dam?
- 5) Is it just a coincidence that this location, near Silves where a woman had apparently been spotted with a child soon after Madeleine 'disappeared', linked Madeleine to Robert Murat and his girlfriend?
- 6) Aragão Correia claimed in his statements to the Press Association that '*Método 3* believe this lead is quite credible. They told me their investigations indicated that Madeleine was switched from one car to another'. Really? Did we ever hear anything more from *Método 3* about that theory? Do they still adhere to it?

To sum up, the Press Association newswire story was perfect for the McCanns and their support team. It gave 'legs' to the McCanns' repeated claim that Madeleine had been snatched by an evil abductor, possibly a paedophile. It gave the impression that the dubious private detective agency, *Método 3*, was really on to something. The article had the bonus of making the Portuguese police look stupid on two accounts - first, making the McCanns' suspects in the disappearance of their own daughter 'too hastily', and, second, ignoring Mr Aragão Correia's fervent claims that Madeleine was in the reservoir.

Then of course there was that extra detail that gave apparent credibility to the story - the alleged finding of the 17-foot knotted cord.

The McCanns and Clarence Mitchell were very pleased and only, in Mitchell's own words, just a tad short of celebrating by punching the air. Mitchell had been able to capitalise on the story by issuing an immediate statement in which he 'urged the Portuguese authorities to act humanely by removing their arguido status as swiftly as possible'. This story was just what they wanted - in a case where public perception has been of supreme importance to the McCanns and their advisers.

Other newspapers subsequently added other details to Mr Aragão Correia's claims. It was claimed that the 'knotted cord' had been found five days into the search, which we learnt was made by British divers from the local firm 'Dive Time'. Mr Alipio Ribeiro, the National Director of the Policia Judiciaria (PJ), told a radio interviewer that weekend that "perhaps there should have been another assessment" before the McCanns had been declared 'arguidos'.

More details about what turned out to be the strong and continuing links between Mr Aragão Correia and *Método 3*, hinted at by the reference to Mr Aragão Correia having met *Método 3* detectives at the Arade Dam on 10 December 2007, emerged in March. One newspaper, for example, reported as follows on a second search of the Arade Dam that month:

"Barcelona detectives from *Método 3* are now also at the site on the Algarve. A team of detectives from the Barcelona firm, *Método 3*, arrived there yesterday as there were reports that a local reservoir, the Arade, is being dragged again in the search for the body of the missing British youngster, Madeleine McCann. A team of seven divers have been at the reservoir since Monday, in what is the second search of the site. An earlier search proved fruitless five weeks after Madeleine disappeared".

The report continued: "Lawyer Marcos Aragão Correia has said that he is sure that the body of Madeleine, who vanished from Praia da Luz, on May 3, will be found there". The report went on: "There are reports that objects found there already are strengthening his 'deep conviction'." It was not said at the time what those objects were. The report concluded: "The office [of Mr Aragão Correia] claims that there is 'a 99% possibility' that the body will be found there and the Portuguese paper *Correio da Manhã* claims a child's white sock has been found at the scene".

The '99% possibility' was a very bold claim to make. But as we now know, it wasn't substantiated.

## **8. Two bags of small bones**

The belief that Madeleine's body could yet be found in the Arade Dam was strengthened by reports surfacing on 15 March that 'a bag of small bones' had been found in the reservoir. Here are some of the points made in Tom Worden's report that day in the *Daily Mail*, which was accompanied by several shots of divers in the lake and of items apparently being recovered from the lake:

- Divers searching a reservoir for Madeleine McCann yesterday [14 March] found two small black plastic bags containing small bones.
- Portuguese lawyer Marcos Aragão Correia, who sponsored the dive, says he was acting on an underworld tip-off that Madeleine was murdered and her body thrown in a lake within 48-hours of being snatched.
- Mr Aragão Correia said: "We found two bags, one of which contains some small bones. We don't know at this stage if they are human bones. If they are, they look like they come from a child's fingers. They are too small for an adult. I can't tell you how many we found, because we didn't count them. As soon as we made the find, we handed them over to the Portuguese authorities and the private detectives working for the McCanns" [NOTE: We might pause

here to question how a set of bones could be ‘handed over’ to two agencies at once. What is likely is that, since Mr Aragão Correia, the divers and *Método 3* were all apparently working hand-in-glove, the *Método 3* detectives initially examined the bags of bones and only then passed them to the Portuguese police]

- John Fellows, a frogman with the Lagos-based dive school Dive Time is said to have made the discovery
- Divers had previously recovered ‘several lengths of cord’, some plastic tape and a single white, cotton sock
- Madeleine's parents had previously dismissed Mr Correia as a ‘self-publicist’ and said there is ‘no evidence to suggest there is any link between their daughter and the reservoir’
- A bystander said: “We're told one of the bags is empty but the other one contains small bones. We don't know if they are the bones of a child or not”.
- The divers first searched the reservoir five weeks ago and resumed again on Monday morning (10 March).

We will now look more closely at the relationship between Mr Aragão Correia and *Método 3*. In doing so, we must continue to remember, at all times, that *Método 3* were in effect employed by the McCanns, and, according to the McCanns’ own spokesmen, were paid by the McCanns’ ‘Find Madeleine Fund’ for their work. The entire operation run by *Método 3* was in turn co-ordinated by double-glazing magnate Brian Kennedy, who set up his the nerve centre of his private intelligence operations in a house in Knutsford in late 2007. And we must at the same time recall that it was Brian Kennedy’s in-house lawyer, Mr Edward Smethurst, based at Kennedy’s *Latium Group* headquarters in Cheshire, who has throughout the past three years been described as ‘the McCanns’ co-ordinating lawyer’. We say all this to emphasise the fact that whatever *Método 3* did was approved of and known about by the McCanns, by Brian Kennedy, and the McCann Team. If Mr Aragão Correia, as he claimed, met *Método 3* detectives at the Arade Dam on 10 December 2007, no doubt this was arranged some time earlier with the full knowledge and approval of the McCanns and Brian Kennedy. Mr Kennedy had, after all, personally chosen *Método 3* to carry out private investigations relating to Madeleine’s disappearance, and gave them instructions. Evidence of this was contained, inter alia in an article by Mark Hollingsworth in the *Evening Standard* in August 2009.

Towards the end of 2008, there arose a dispute between *Método 3* and Mr Aragão Correia over how Mr Correia came to be involved in representing Leonor Cipriano, the evil co-killer of her own daughter, in a legal action against Gonçalo Amaral and his fellow detectives, who carried out the investigation into Joana Cipriano’s death. The prosecution had outlined the following charges:

- (a) against Gonçalo Amaral, for perverting the course of justice by covering up torture methods used by his colleagues, and
- (b) against three detectives accused of torture (Leonel Marques, Marques Bom and Pereira Cristóvão), and a fourth detective (António Cardoso), accused of making a false report.

*Método 3* denied having any involvement in arranging for Mr Aragão Correia to represent Leonor Cipriano against Gonçalo Amaral. That was wholly contrary to Mr Aragão Correia's claims, as we shall now see as we delve further into Mr Aragão Correia's career.

### **9. Marcos Aragão Correia - from 'Good Samaritan' who funded a diving team, to prosecutor of Gonçalo Amaral, funded by the Find Madeleine Fund**

After Marcos Aragão Correia's unsuccessful efforts to find Madeleine's body in the Arada Dam, little more was heard about him, until the dramatic opening of the trial of Gonçalo Amaral and his four fellow detectives at Faro, on the Algarve Coast, in October 2008. The claim against the five men had originally been filed back in 2006 by Leonor Cipriano's lawyers, but the proceedings were not activated until 2008

On the first day of the trial - 21 October 2008 - the court heard a dramatic announcement. Leonor Cipriano, the person bringing the allegation against the five detectives that she had been tortured by them in prison, announced that she was dropping the legal team she had been using to date. She said that she would now be represented by the controversial lawyer from Madeira, Marcos Aragão Correia.

There was a further sensational revelation as the trial got under way. During the early days of the trial, Mr Aragão Correia said on the record that *Método 3* themselves, acting on behalf of the McCanns, had asked him to get involved in the Joana Cipriano case. He went on to claim that the McCanns, via *Método 3*, "ordered him to do an investigation" into allegations regarding the accusations against Gonçalo Amaral and his men by Leonor Cipriano.

At the same time, Aragão Correia - who, it will be remembered, was described as a humble 'good Samaritan' in article about him privately funding the search in the Arade Dam - claimed on oath that no-one was currently *paying* him to bring the case against Amaral and his fellow-detectives. He said he was doing it out of the goodness of his own heart and because he believed in 'the cause'. He claimed that he had gone to the Algarve in search of Madeleine's body 'at his own expense'. He told the court on oath: "*Método 3* asked me to try to get involved in the Joana case to obtain statements from Leonor and her brother to try to understand if she was tortured by the police, nothing else".

Dealing with suspicions that in agreeing to defend Leonor Cipriano, he was being paid by someone who could be very interested in ensuring that Gonçalo Amaral should be convicted of a crime, or at least that his reputation should be damaged (because of his public comments about Madeleine probably having died in Apartment 5A in Praia da Luz), he retorted to the court: "I don't get paid in pounds or in euros. I am here for principles, and my objective is to set free Leonor Cipriano".

The sensational revelation that Marcos Aragão Correia was, in some senses at least, acting on behalf of *Método 3*, and therefore, in turn, on behalf of the McCanns, was publicised in the Portuguese newspaper, *Correio da Manhã*.

The Find Madeleine Fund had obtained most of its funds from the public on the pretext that the money was being used to ‘find Madeleine’. Pensioners had given their weekly pension. Children had given their weekly pocket money. People in their thousands had donated money based on emotive stories of how Madeleine had apparently been abducted. Yet here was the public’s money apparently being used to fund Marcos Aragão Correia - first to conduct a dramatic, but wholly unproductive, search of the Arade Dam, clearly in conjunction with *Método 3* and, second, to conduct a criminal case against the senior detective who had led the initial investigation into Madeleine’s disappearance, Gonçalo Amaral. Moreover, the case that Mr Aragão Correia was now conducting - that of Leonor Cipriano - was on matters connected with a wholly different case. It had nothing whatsoever to do with Madeleine McCann’s disappearance - except, of course, for one thing. Namely, that it involved the same senior detective, Gonçalo Amaral.

According to *Correio da Manhã*, *Método 3* denied any connection whatsoever to the lawyer, and, further, denied making him any payments. But as *Correio da Manhã* was understandably quick to point out to their readers, *Método 3*’s denial was simply not credible. They told their readers: “Aragão Correia has already admitted that he received money from *Método 3* to pay his ‘expenses’ when he made the searches to find Madeleine’s corpse in the reservoir”. Though the newspaper didn’t say so in so many words, the interpretation that can be put on the paper’s comments about *Método 3*’s denials of involvement with Aragão Correia and further denials of paying him is that *Método 3* were not telling the truth.

## **10. Marcos Aragão Correia’s claim of a vision**

We saw earlier that Mr Marcos Aragão Correia had earlier told the press, in connection with his much-publicised searches of the Arade Dam, that he had received information about Madeleine’s abduction, rape, murder and being thrown into a lake as a result of ‘information received from underworld sources within three days of Madeleine’s disappearance.

Many had begun to question Mr Correia as to who exactly these mysterious ‘underground sources’ might be and why, if he believed their claims to be true, he did not go straightaway to the Portuguese Police and tell them.

It seems that he now had to invent an entirely new story about how he came to believe that Madeleine’s body had been thrown into the Arade Dam. And he did so in spectacular style.

He now told the press that his story about getting this information from underworld sources was a lie. Instead, he said, he had got this information in a supernatural ‘vision’. That was quite convenient, of course, as there is no obvious way of proving that someone has or has not had a vision. As to whether this new story was true, we have an indication as to whether it was true or not from the very fact that his previous account of what led him to the Arade Dam was admitted to be an outright lie.

The vision, he claimed, had come to him upon his conversion to spiritualism on Madeira. He said that he had become a spiritualist and had received a supernatural vision on the evening after his very first attendance at a Spiritualist Church meeting on

Madeira, on Saturday 5 May, two days after Madeleine was reported missing. In this vision, he claimed he had seen Madeleine's body being thrown into the Arade Dam. We recount his detailed statement about his alleged vision in Section 19 of our essay.

## **11. A dirty deal to frame Gonçalo Amaral**

During the court session held on Monday 3 November 2008, it emerged that Marcos Aragão Correia had made efforts to do a deal with the four detectives under Amaral's command. The lawyer defending the four detectives said he had received an approach from Mr Aragão Correia proposing a very dirty deal.

Aragão Correia, he said, had asked him to consider a deal whereby, in exchange for the four detectives all agreeing to testify against Gonçalo Amaral, and state that it was Mr Amaral who gave the order to torture Leonor Cipriano, he would ensure that the charges against the four detectives were re-drawn so that their sentences would be greatly reduced. They would not get a custodial sentence, he promised.

Challenged about this dirty deal, he blustered that to offer such a deal was 'normal procedure', adding that although he had been paid by the McCanns, via *Método 3*, in the past, he was 'no longer' being paid by them. This seemed one more deception in the long-running saga over whether Aragão Correia was being funded by *Método 3* or not - a question to which he has given numerous different answers and to which, as we saw above, *Método 3* made a wholly unconvincing denial.

By then - judging by accounts from those present in court - he had lost all credibility with most of those in court. So had Leonor Cipriano, with members of the public openly laughing at her preposterous lies and constant changes of story.

The defence lawyer for the four detectives, Pragal Colaço, commented: "This proposed deal was not ethically correct. Resorting to a deal of this nature results from an attitude which demonstrates a certain dementia" - in other words, he was saying that the deal proposed by Mr Aragão Correia was due to his 'madness'. Gonçalo Amaral's lawyer, António Cabrita, had of course not been notified about this dirty deal.

Pragal Colaço didn't deny the conversation he had had with Marcos Aragão Correia. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, Mr Aragão Correia was frustrated that he could not clinch his proposed dirty deal with Mr Colaço. Gonçalo Amaral's lawyer in these proceedings was a Mr Cabrita. The word 'cabrita', in Portuguese, means 'goat'. On one occasion, a frustrated Mr Correia snapped in court and called Mr Cabrita 'a goat'.

Questioned about the deal, Pragal Colaço preferred not to comment, saying that he feared possible 'reprisals' from the Portuguese Lawyers' Association, the *Lawyers' Order*.

He said on the record: "I don't want any more disciplinary processes. I was notified by the *Lawyers' Order* about an issue where I made a statement four years ago, and now this happens. I don't want any problems because I know that the *Lawyers' Order* keeps persecuting me and I don't want any further trouble. Any lay person is able to understand that a *proposal to cut a deal that is made in order to condemn Dr Gonçalo*

*Amaral means that this process is being used for purposes that are not part of the process". [Our italics]*

The deal to 'get' Gonçalo Amaral was preceded by news of an e-mail, which Mr Aragão Correia claimed to possess.

Before proposing his dirty deal, Mr Aragão Correia said to Mr Colaço: "I possess an e-mail that incriminates Gonçalo Amaral. It accuses him being present at the torture and beating of Ms Cipriano". He said: "I hold information that Mr Paulo Cristóvão sent an e-mail to a friend of mine at the Polícia Judiciária, in which he confessed that there was torture, not by him, but by Mr Gonçalo Amaral himself. We may get to the point where we have to present this e-mail in court".

It seemed to most observers in court a desperate ploy to worry Amaral and his legal team. He had claimed that the alleged e-mail was sent approximately 3 years ago [in 2005] by one of the detectives now on trial, Paulo Pereira Cristóvão, to a friend who works at the Polícia Judiciária (Paulo Pereira Cristóvão is no longer in the Portuguese Police).

Mr Aragão Correia had said that he was not ready to reveal the document 'yet'. In it, Pereira Cristóvão allegedly confirmed that 'four days before Leonor's confession' there was indeed 'torture and beatings' and that it was the Portimão Police team, led by Gonçalo Amaral, who were responsible for the assault. Amaral, it was claimed, would not only have known about the details of the torture and beatings, but was also responsible for issuing orders "for every possible method to be used in order to force a confession from Leonor". (So far as the writer of this article is aware, this e-mail was in the event never produced in the court proceedings).

It was following the revelation of the 'trump card' of this supposed e-mail by Mr Aragão Correia to Mr Colaço that he proposed the deal, apparently something that is not permitted by the Portuguese penal law process. Correia is alleged to have offered the four defendant detectives the prospect of suspended sentences. If they confessed, stating that Gonçalo Amaral gave the order to assault Leonor Cipriano, and that Mr Amaral had also personally participated in the torture and beatings of Leonor Cipriano, he would guarantee a reduced charge for each of the four and a suspended sentence. He made this offer despite the fact that the accusation against Amaral and his fellow detectives was brought by the Public Ministry, not by Aragão Correia himself. Any penalty must be decided by the Court that in this case consisted of three judges and four jurors - a panel of seven.

The Police Officers of Portugal (the Polícia Judiciária) belong to a trade union - or perhaps more correctly, a staff association - the Association of Criminal Investigation Employees (ASFIC). Its President, Mr Carlos Anjos, was quick to speak out against the dirty deal and in support of Gonçalo Amaral and his four detectives.

Carlos Anjos recalled that: "The only people [throughout this case] to always maintain the same version of events - because they are the truth - are the four detectives. [By contrast], just look at the contradictions in Leonor Cipriano's various statements - as well as the evidence given by the Prison Governor, the Chief Prison

Officer and the Consultant Prison Doctor on the health of Ms Cipriano”. (We will deal with those many contradictions later in our article).

It was clear, said Carlos Anjos, that Gonçalo Amaral was the real target of this trial. He was the one individual in all this that the prosecution really wanted to crucify, he explained to the media. Carlos Anjos said that the official response of ASFIC to this grubby, dishonest deal, was a firm ‘No’. He said: “I refused straightaway because I don’t cut deals. The five are all innocent. We stand or fall together. This lawyer - Marcos Aragão Correia - worked for *Método 3*”. So here, from the lips of Carlos Anjos, the President of ASFIC, was yet more confirmation that Marcos Aragão Correia was indeed working for *Método 3*.

The former Director of the National Judicial Police (PJ), the ‘Judge-Adviser’ Mr Santos Cabral, also spoke out and said there had been no culpability by Gonçalo Amaral in the conduct of the complex investigation into the ‘disappearance’ of Joana Cipriano.

The dramatic revelations about the McCanns having paid Marcos Aragão Correia, via *Método 3*, to pursue Gonçalo Amaral, and the news that there had been an attempt to persuade the four detectives to say that they had been ordered to torture Leonor Cipriano, prompted respected Portuguese University Professor, Dr Francisco Moita Flores, to pen an article in the Portuguese newspaper, *Correio da Manhã*, about the increasingly bizarre and dishonest court case against Gonçalo Amaral. Amongst other robust comments, clearly uttered with real feeling, he wrote:

“The trial alleging the possibility of torture on the mother of Joana is revealing aspects of a perversion of justice which do not cease to amaze us...the Police are not angels, nor were they sent by Christ to Earth. Their profession hardens them, makes them stubborn, suspicious, and determined...and a crime so heinous as this one [the murder of Joana Cipriano] can lead even a Police officer to lose his head and to commit an unforgivable foolishness [like an assault on the perpetrator].

“Now the trial has arrived and the evidence is unfolding...Leonor Cipriano has confessed that she helped to kill her daughter on a given day, and that the beating by the police was on the day *immediately following [her confession]*[our italics]. It is an absurdity.

”The amazement we all feel [at this absurdity] only increases when we learn that Leonor Cipriano cannot even identify a single one of the Police officers who allegedly attacked her.

“Gonçalo Amaral is clearly being persecuted, not because of the Leonor Cipriano case, but by the agents of *Método 3*, the detective agency hired by Madeleine’s parents. This simply confirms that this case is not about justice. In fact, it is an abuse of the court process, a disgrace, and a heinous farce. And all of this is happening for the ugliest of reasons - reasons which are also part of our human condition”.

One final question might be asked about Correia’s dirty little proposal. How would it serve the cause of justice and good policing in Portugal to convict only someone - Amaral - who is no longer with the force, and leave working as serving police officers

two men (Marques Bom and Cardoso) who were either willing to torture a witness, or actively cover it up, or both? (The other two inspectors, Chief Inspector Leonel, one of the most respected men ever to have worked for the PJ, and Paulo Pereira Cristovao, also highly respected, have already resigned from the Portuguese Police over the affair). It was further proof that the object of these proceedings was to 'get Amaral', and not in any sense about justice.

## **12. The involvement of the *Lawyers' Order***

A further indication of sinister forces at work in this case came with the involvement of The Portuguese *Lawyer's Order*, or the Portuguese Bar (the 'Ordem dos Advogados'). They requested the status of 'Assistente' in this case - similar to the role of 'Amicus Curia' in the English courts - a 'friend of the court' who is supposed to assist the court to achieve the 'right' result. Their request - which was granted by the courts - was to become involved in the proceedings against Amaral and his four fellow detectives "in order to assist the public prosecution (Ministerio Publico) in finding out the truth". Hmmm.

The President of the Portuguese *Lawyer's Order*, Mr Marinho Pinto, is a man that has often made public statements in order to maintain and strengthen the abduction theory in the Madeleine McCann case. Many Portuguese lawyers have regarded him as guilty on many occasions of exceeding his role, by his frequent forthright criticisms of the Polícia Judiciária in the McCann case.

In this particular case, it appeared initially that Marinho Pinto himself had been proposed to give evidence, as his name appeared in a list of possible witnesses to give oral statements in court about the Cipriano case. But although Mr Pinto has always keen to come and make statements about various topical issues on TV, it appears that on this occasion he was much less comfortable giving those statements in a court of law. His status of 'Assistente', granted to the *Lawyer's Order*, meant that he could not be heard as a witness any more in this case - very convenient for Mr Marinho Pinto, whilst he continued his attacks on Gonçalo Amaral and the PJ in the media.

At this point in the case, there were already many concerns about its conduct and procedures. For a start, there are the obvious links between *Método 3* and Cipriano's lawyer, Mr Aragão Correia - and in turn with Madeleine's parents, Dr Gerald and Dr Kate McCann. Then there were questions about the very public statements made by Marinho Pinto about the McCann case and his opposition to Gonçalo Amaral. In addition, we have him conveniently re-classified as an 'Assistente', rather than as a witness, a testament to his sudden unwillingness to speak personally in court on the Joana Cipriano case.

We can add to that the fact that the *Lawyers Order* in Portugal, which represents the country's lawyers, continues to prefer to deliberately attack the Polícia Judiciária at the expense of truth and justice. On top of all that is the fact that the judges in the case accepted the *Lawyer's Order's* application for its President to become an 'Assistente', rather than a witness, in the Cipriano process, to the obvious disadvantage of Gonçalo Amaral.

### **13. The evidence from Odemira prison in the Cipriano case**

One curious feature of this case was the news that Aragão Correia had visited Odemira Prison, where Leonor Cipriano was being held, as far back as April 2010. He had had interviews with both Leonor Cipriano and with the Prison Governor.

A report later in the year said of this visit: “Aragão Correia also met the Director of Odemira prison, Ana Maria Calado, who confirmed suspicions about Cipriano's treatment, noting that she was ‘shocked about the conditions in which Cipriano entered the prison”.

A report to the ‘top judicial authorities’ in Portugal at the time (April 2008) said: “The report concludes that the testimony of Leonor Cipriano and of the Prison Director, as well as other available evidence, are convincing in terms of proving that a crime of torture was committed by officers of the Portuguese judicial police” [referring to Gonçalo Amaral and his four detective colleagues]. The same report was said to ‘condemn the use of medieval methods’ to ‘extract confessions at all costs, even if they are false’, as ‘inadmissible’ and as ‘harmful for Portugal's image as an EU member that defends human rights and has a modern legal system’ and, as such, argues that these practices must be punished in ‘exemplary’ fashion, or the Portuguese citizenry will lose faith in the judicial system.

This judicial report ended with a message from Leonor Cipriano, as follows: “I hope that my daughter Joana re-appears, not only to be with her again, but also to show the world that it was the male officers of the Policia Judiciara who tortured me and who are the real monsters’.” [She is regularly referred to by many Portuguese as ‘a monster’].

[NOTE: The following information in this section comes mostly from a press report by the agency *RTP* on 18 November 2008, and is based on a rough translation from the Portuguese (as always, we acknowledge with thanks the wonderful help we have had here in the U.K. from those who have translated various statements and articles into Portuguese). Some of the translation is not entirely clear, but we reproduce the gist of the reports of the proceedings here as they conveniently summarise what was being discussed in the court proceedings at that time].

The General Director of the Portuguese Prison Service acted after the denouncement of her made in court by the Chief Prison Officer, over pressures put on her to change her report on Leonor Cipriano's injuries. The Chief Prison Officer of Odemira Prison, António Maia, told the court that the Prison Governor had told her to change the medical report about Leonor Cipriano's bruises. The report originally suggested that the cause of the injuries might have been a fall down some stairs. She was told to change it so that the bruises were held to have been caused by torture and beatings. The General Director of the Prison Service had to act, as it was being suggested in open court and reported by the press that a Prison Governor had asked her Chief Prison Officer to lie.

In fact, the Prison Governor, Ana Maria Calado, faced disciplinary procedures after the Prison Service requested the Court in Faro to send a copy of the statements made by António Maia in the court session of 28 October. The Chief Prison Officer said in

court that she had suffered pressure from the Prison Governor to frame Gonçalo Amaral and his four police colleagues. The lawyers defending Gonçalo Amaral had already announced their intention to bring separate proceedings against Ana Calado.

In the Court at Faro on 18 November, the doctor who assisted Leonor Cipriano at the Odemira Health Centre, only a few hours after the alleged beatings, said in court that the lesions that he saw on her legs did not match those that were visible on one of the photos that were taken.

Whilst recognizing that he was not an expert in forensic medicine, because he is a general practitioner, the doctor, who gave his oral statement on a video link, stated that the lesions that were visible on the photo he had been shown did not match the ones that he had seen on Leonor Cipriano at the time.

The doctor was the second witness to be heard during the fourth session of the trial, after the court finished the questioning of the prison employee who photographed Leonor Cipriano. The questioning of that photographer had been interrupted in the previous trial session, two weeks ago.

According to the doctor, Joana's mother Leonor Cipriano presented lesions in the right facial, frontal and temporal areas, but not on the left side, as revealed on the photograph that was showed to him by the court. In that photograph, Leonor Cipriano clearly shows lesions on both sides of the face, in the eye area.

According to the clinician, despite it being *possible* that a drainage of blood in the descending direction could have taken place a few hours *after* the beatings were inflicted, that was most unlikely to have happened, unless Ms Cipriano had been lying on her left side for hours.

“What I saw was one single, very strong, blow on the right side”, he asserted, observing that, in his opinion, it would be ‘impossible’ for the lesions to spread into the left side of the face, even more so because Leonor must have been sitting or standing up during that day, and never lying down.

The doctor from the Medical Centre in Odemira Prison also said that Leonor Cipriano adamantly refused to show her her body, alleging that she had no further lesions apart from those that she presented on her face, adding that it ‘wasn’t worthwhile’ for the medic to observe her in a more detailed manner.

According to the clinician, despite at the time tending to trust the information given to her by the patient, she did not believe the specific explanation that was given to her for the lesions - namely, that she had bumped her head into a wall when she tried to throw herself off the stairs in an attempt to kill herself. She reasoned that a fall of that nature would inflict bodily lesions as well. But Ms Cipriano said she had no other bruises or injuries, and refused to undress to provide evidence of any other injuries.

During the morning of the session on 17 November, Ferreira Leite, who was the Director of the Serious Crime Unit of the Polícia Judiciária at that time, was also heard, confirming that a team was sent [from Lisbon] into the Algarve to reinforce the investigation in the Joana Cipriano case. Ferreira Leite further stated that he didn't

know who was responsible for the co-ordination of operations in the Joana case, whether in fact it was Gonçalo Amaral or the national joint director, Guilhermino da Encarnação, given the fact that it was the Faro Directorate that decided about actions on the ground. Guilhermino da Encarnação, we may note, has since died, from stomach cancer, in early 2010.

At the end of the first part of the hearing, Rodrigo Santiago, from the *Lawyers' Order*, which made itself an 'Assiente' ('friend of the court) in the proceedings, asked for the President of the National Institute for Forensics Medicine to be heard in court, given the fact that he possessed specific knowledge of forensic medicine.

On leaving the court on 18 November, Leonor Cipriano's lawyer, Marcos Aragão Correia re-stated his intention for the Public Ministry to file an accusation against Gonçalo Amaral, in a new and separate legal process, over alleged torture, given the fact that he was alleged to have been the 'main responsible person' over the torture and beatings that Leonor Cipriano claimed to have suffered.

Mr Aragão Correia said: "The prosecution was incomplete and I cannot accept that the main person responsible for the torture of Ms Cipriano goes unpunished. He also referred to other alleged false statements that were said to have been made in court by Gonçalo Amaral and which were the subject of a separate criminal complaint by Leonor's defence team at the time.

Gonçalo Amaral's lawyer, António Cabrita, stated that he preferred to wait to see whether or not any new accusation is filed, and underlined that during the trial he believed there had been no change in the facts, nor the production of any new evidence that would in any way justify new proceedings.

<b>14. An article by Hernâni Carvalho: Marcos Aragão Correia wanted Amaral's head</b>
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First, for the sake of the record, second, because valuable additional detail is included, and, third, despite a substantial amount of repetition - we reproduce here an article by Hernâni Carvalho, published in late 2008. I have very slightly revised the English translation which I hope will make the article by Carvalho clearer:

QUOTE

Leonor Cipriano's lawyer proposed to help the Polícia Judiciária's inspectors, who stand accused of torture, if he was 'given the head of Gonçalo Amaral'. The news was confirmed by himself to *TVMais*. Gonçalo Amaral's head, in exchange for absolution for the other inspectors - such was the proposal that was made by Leonor Cipriano's lawyer to one of the lawyers for the PJ inspectors. The information hit the newsroom at *TVMais* like a bombshell.

"I confirm it", *TVMais* was told by Carlos Anjos, the President of ASFIC, the union for the PJ's Criminal Investigation staff. "Our colleagues' lawyer (Pragal Colaço) has informed us about the said proposal that was made by Leonor Cipriano's lawyer, Marcos Aragão Correia. He wanted Gonçalo Amaral's head. Concerning the others, he said that a way would be found to clear them".

If we in the newsroom found this strange, any doubts were dismissed when we contacted Marcos Aragão Correia himself. “Yes, indeed I spoke with Dr Pragal Colaço and I confirm that I proposed to help him in the defence of the other inspectors if they were prepared to state that they acted under Gonçalo Amaral’s direction. A reduction of the sentence would be achieved for them”, the lawyer told our magazine. Leonor Cipriano’s lawyer confirmed to us that he is ready to defend the inspectors who stand accused of torturing his client, if, in exchange, he can obtain from them an unequivocal condemnation against the PJ’s co-ordinating inspector, Gonçalo Amaral.

Mr Aragão Correia told *TVMais* that he is in possession of an e-mail that was written by Paulo Cristóvão to another PJ inspector where he states that he was given ‘carte blanche’ by Gonçalo Amaral to beat up Leonor Cipriano. We contacted Paulo Cristóvão. The former PJ inspector told us, laconically, that Correia’s claim: “...doesn’t even deserve a comment. We shall see what happens in the appropriate location, which is a court hearing”.

Concerning the deal, António Cabrita, Gonçalo Amaral’s lawyer, told us: “I don’t know about these proposals [of Correia’s]. Dr Gonçalo Amaral trusts the Portuguese justice system that he served for 27 years. Those deals have no validity whatsoever in the Portuguese penal system. Here, the court only appreciates facts, not deals”.

He continued: “An inspector sits on the bench, accused of forgery, but it was the Chief Prison Officer who went to court to state that it was the Director of Odemira Prison (Ana Maria Calado) who ordered her to change a document, which she refused to do”. Carlos Anjos from ASFIC/PJ found this strange. “I have yet to understand what stands behind all this. Marcos Aragão Correia is more committed to ruining the credibility of Gonçalo Amaral and the PJ in the Madeleine McCann case than concerned about Leonor Cipriano’s pain”, he said.

The truth is that contradictions and requests for new ‘certificates of application’ is what has been mostly seen at the Court in Faro. During the various hearings in the trial of the five PJ inspectors who stand accused of torturing Leonor Cipriano, requests follow upon requests for certificates to be allowed to file new complaints. These come both from the prosecution and from the defence. Due to the sheer volume of accusations and counter-accusations, the combined judgment panel of judges, which is led by Henrique Pavão, and consisting of three judges, four jurors, has already complained about the fact that bureaucratic issues are delaying and lengthening the trial.

What is known for certain is that on 13 October 2004, Leonor Cipriano confessed to murdering her daughter Joana. It is also known that she did so *in the presence of her then lawyer*, Célia Costa, who confirms on oath that she didn’t see anyone assaulting Leonor. The process begun by the Public Ministry (PM) over alleged assaults on Leonor Cipriano commenced two days later, on 15 October. But the PM failed to determine who committed the assaults.

The PJ inspectors and Gonçalo Amaral stand accused of having created the circumstances in which the assaults to be carried out. Then, Leonor Cipriano was

detained awaiting questioning in Odemira prison and the Polícia Judiciária (PJ) was searching for her daughter Joana, or what was left of her.

Two days after she had confessed to killing her daughter Leonor, in the presence of her lawyer, Leonor Cipriano returned to the prison in Odemira with haematomas to her face. At that time, she stated that she had fallen, whilst in police custody, and the prison guards wrote a report. Now, she says that she was assaulted by the PJ inspectors with fists, kicked, and assaulted with a cardboard tube.

Why did Leonor dismiss Grade, her former lawyer - and instead seek to be represented by Marcos Aragão Correia? Grade simply said: "I don't know." Leonor Cipriano's former lawyer told *TVMais* that he heard about his dismissal "from a journalist, who asked me if I had been removed from the case. As I knew nothing about it, I denied it. It was only later that I read an e-mail from my colleague Marcos Aragão Correia. That was how I found out that I had been dismissed from the defence of Mrs Cipriano. She had apparently signed a document revoking my Power of Attorney and had hired another lawyer. I know through my colleague that she stated she was not happy with me because I didn't mount a full frontal attack on Dr Gonçalo Amaral. She said that she felt better supported now that she was being defended by my fellow lawyer, Marcos Aragão Correia".

UNQUOTE

To this we might just add, briefly, that there had obviously been a deep and lengthy deception by Leonor Cipriano and Marcos Aragão Correia to keep Mr Grade, her original lawyer, in the dark about the change of lawyer. As we shall shortly see, it was in April 2008 that Mr Aragão Correia first went to visit Leonor Cipriano in Odemira Prison and at the same time visited and chatted with the Prison Governor there, Ana Maria Calado, who was shown in court to have told her Chief Prison officer to lie about Leonor Cipriano's injuries. Yet it was only shortly before proceedings opened in October 2008 that Mr Aragão Correia announced that it was he, and no longer Mr Grade, who was representing Ms Cipriano. It had been a deliberate deception by both of them lasting the best part of six months

## **15. The contradictions in the evidence of Leonor Cipriano - and a summary of her 16 lies in court**

In the court, Leonor Cipriano sometimes 'remembered' and sometimes 'forgot'. Mostly, she simply fabricated stories or told outright lies, as she has done for years

For example, she said that she had seen who had assaulted her, but later she denied this.

During the investigation into Joana Cipriano's disappearance, Ms Cipriano said that she had been tortured and assaulted 'more than once', but now, during the trial, she stated it that it happened only once. Furthermore, she said she knew the time of the beating - around 8.00pm - because she had looked at the clock in the room where she had been beaten. However, during the trial, she was asked to describe the room and did so without referring to any clock.

There were several major contradictions from Leonor, but one of her sentences has stuck in everyone's memory. "I don't remember having made any confession", she told the court on one occasion.

It is understood that no confession is admissible in court in Portugal unless the defendant repeats it in open court. It is understood that Leonor Cipriano *did* repeat her confession in her trial for murder in 2005, this making it admissible. So what made her change her mind, over two years later?

Leonor Cipriano originally said she had been beaten up by several PJ inspectors, but when asked to pick them out of a line-up, she could not. She then changed her story to say that the PJ inspectors 'must have arranged for a person or persons unknown to come into the police station and beat her'.

She then changed her mind again to say she was sure she *was* beaten by the PJ - but she claims she cannot now identify them because a bag was placed over her head during the beating. She first of all said it was a blue plastic bag, but soon afterwards she changed this to saying it was 'green or blue'.

Leonor Cipriano had never previously said that Gonçalo Amaral had personally laid a hand on her - until the court hearing in Faro. Indeed, he had 'only' been charged with the Portuguese equivalent of 'criminal malfeasance' for the alleged actions of men under his command. Yet, in the Faro court, Leonor Cipriano now changed her story once again and said, yes, Amaral had *personally* hit her after all. However, there was no evidence given to the court that Gonçalo Amaral was even present when she was being questioned.

In her original statement, Leonor Cipriano said she knew the time the assaults on her took place because there was a clock on the wall in the room in the police station, and that it was approximately from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Yet three of the named PJ inspectors accused of torturing her were not even in the building at that time; they did not sign into the police station until 8.00 pm on the day in question.

Leonor Cipriano at one point said that she was forced to kneel on broken glass. But there appears to be no record of damage to her knees or legs that would be consistent with such a serious incident.

A major question mark from Leonor Cipriano's evidence was to explain how anyone, suffering the kind injuries that Leonor Cipriano now claimed she has suffered (namely being beaten about the body, head and face for two hours), did not suffer additional injuries such as cracked ribs or bruises all over her body, cracked, broken, or knocked-out teeth, a split lip, broken or bloody nose, or bruises below the level of her cheekbones?

According to press reports, when asked by the Prison Governor at Odemira Prison to explain her injuries, Leonor Cipriano did not implicate anyone in the police. We must ask then under what circumstances the Prison Director asked her Chief Prison Officer to change the account Ms Cipriano originally provided.

When she was asked in court to give the names of the people she was accusing, Leonor Cipriano had to pull a piece of paper out of her purse to do so. One would think that four years after she claimed to have been tortured, she would have had the time to learn the names of those who she says assaulted her. It begs the question of who wrote that list. Did someone else write it out for her?

### A summary of Leonor Cipriano's 15 lies in Court

Here's a convenient summary of at least 15 of the lies Leonor Cipriano told in court:

- (1) She said that she had seen who had assaulted her, but later she denied this.
- (2) During the investigation into her allegation, she said that she had been assaulted 'more than once', but now, during the trial, she stated it that it happened only once.
- (3) She said she knew the time of the beating - around 8.00pm - but during the hearing described the room she was supposedly beaten and did so without referring to any clock.
- (4) Despite having made a full confession in front of her lawyer and again in her trial for murder in 2005, she told the Faro Court: "I don't remember having confessed".
- (5) Leonor Cipriano originally said she had been beaten by PJ inspectors, but when asked to pick them out of a line-up, she could not. She then changed her story to say that the PJ inspectors 'must have arranged for another person or persons unknown to come into the police station and beat her'.
- (6) She then changed her mind once again to say she was beaten by the PJ – claiming she cannot identify them because a bag was placed over her head during the beating.
- (7) Ms Cipriano had never previously alleged that Gonçalo Amaral had personally laid a hand on her until the Court hearing in Faro. Yet, in the Faro court, Leonor Cipriano changed her story once again and now said that Gonçalo Amaral personally hit her during the beating.
- (8) The photographer who took pictures of Leonor Cipriano's injuries said he had taken the photographs immediately after the injuries had occurred and that he was there 'during the afternoon and with daylight'. Yet Ms Cipriano had claimed that the photographs had been taken 'at night, in a room without light'.
- (9) She said that at one point during the beating she was forced to kneel on broken glass. But there was no record of damage to her knees or legs that would be consistent with such a serious incident.
- (10) When originally asked by the Prison Governor at Odemira Prison to explain her injuries, Leonor Cipriano did not implicate anyone in the police.
- (11) When Ms Cipriano was asked in Court to give the names of the people she was accusing, Leonor Cipriano had to pull a piece of paper out of her purse.

(12) It was clear from the evidence that the beating of Leonor Cipriano took place during the 48 hours *after* she confessed to murdering her daughter. This is consistent with the reliable reports circulating that Leonor Cipriano was assaulted by fellow prisoners only *after* they got to learn that she had confessing to her appalling crime.

(13) She denied that she ever had a female lawyer. However, she did have a female lawyer present when she made her original confession.

(14) She said that there was a blue plastic bag over her head, but soon afterwards she changed this to saying it was 'green or blue'.

(15) She denied that she was visited in prison by her lawyer, Mr Aragão Correia, on 30 October 2008, during the trial. In this respect, she was contradicted by Mr Aragão Correia himself.

## **16. False evidence by the authorities to help frame Gonçalo Amaral**

The weakness of the prosecution case was clear from early on in the trial of Gonçalo Amaral and his colleagues.

The sequence of events leading up to the injuries sustained by Leonor Cipriano were soon established. Leonor Cipriano had apparently made her confession to the Polícia Judiciária at a police station on 13 October 2004. She had then been taken to prison. What was clear was that the main injuries she suffered to her face and knees, quite probably caused by a fellow inmate, or a group of them, were probably sustained a day or two afterwards, certainly no earlier than 13 October, i.e. *after* she made her confession to the police. The date of the assault on Ms Cipriano was between 14 October 2004 and the date she was seen by the Consultant Prison Doctor, namely 18 October. The most probably dates of any assault were on 14 and 15 October

The Consultant Prison Doctor who was giving medical evidence to support the alleged torture of Leonor Cipriano contradicted herself on one important detail. A report written on the 18 October 2004 mentioned no lesions to the *knees* of Joana's mother, who didn't complain about any either. Yet on 29 October, she requested an X-ray to be performed on these lesions.

According to the doctor, when she observed Leonor Cipriano on 18 October 2004, she presented lesions on several parts of her body. She had 'red swollen eyes', 'the left eye shut', and 'minor cuts on both knees, superficial but symmetrical'. She also presented lesions to her back, to her chest and on her arms. *But on 18 October the doctor reported no 'lesions' on her knees.*

Evidence was then heard by the court that the Prison Governor of Odemira Prison, where Ms Cipriano was being held, had ordered the Chief Prison Officer to materially alter a report about Leonor Cipriano's health. Yet, said Mr Carlos Anjos, speaking on behalf of Gonçalo Amaral - it was a 'stupefying fact' that [instead of the Prison Governor being on trial] the person on trial for allegedly falsifying a document was António Cardoso, one of the four detectives.

There was a reference to Ms Cipriano having suffered injuries *before* she arrived at the prison. A former prison guard of Odemira Prison, Ana Paula Teixeira, was heard during the trial on a video-conference link. She claimed that Leonor Cipriano had *arrived* at the prison with injuries. Leonor Cipriano, she explained, had suffered her injuries while she fell down some stairs at the police station where she was interrogated.

Her evidence co-incident with that of social worker Adélia Palma. Ms Palma explained during a later court session during the trial that Leonor Cipriano had told her that she had been assaulted during the questioning she was subject to at the Polícia Judiciária and that the detectives had ‘ordered’ her to say that she fell. But what is the value of any evidence coming from the lips of Leonor Cipriano?

However, whatever these injuries might have been, the clear evidence heard by the court was that Leonor Cipriano suffered her main set of injuries between 14 and 18 October *whilst she was already in prison*.

One of Leonor Cipriano’s many lies in court was her denial that she was visited in prison by her lawyer, Mr Aragão Correia, on 30 October, during the trial. Gonçalo Amaral’s lawyer, António Cabrita, had asked for Leonor Cipriano to be heard again, as he wanted to clarify what he referred to as ‘a lie’ about this visit - either by her, or by her lawyer. Cabrita referred to an article that was published in a national newspaper, where Mr Aragão Correia admitted to having visited Ms Cipriano in prison on the night of the 30 October, after she had been giving evidence on Day One of the trial. He had told the press that it was necessary to visit her to ‘calm her down’ as she had been ‘very nervous’ following questions earlier that day from the Polícia Judiciária’s lawyers.

Yet before that newspaper article appeared, during the second day’s session, when António Cabrita had asked Leonor Cipriano if she had received any visits at the prison, she replied that she had not. “So someone is lying”, said Cabrita, merely stating the obvious.

A further contradiction between Leonor Cipriano’s evidence and that of others occurred when the photographer who took the photographs of Ms Cipriano’s injuries in the prison reported that he was called *immediately after the injuries were sustained* and that he took the pictures ‘during the afternoon and with daylight’. But Ms Cipriano had claimed that the photographs had been taken ‘at night, in a room without light’.

There was further consternation when another official admitted that the prison had destroyed the photographs taken of Leonor Cipriano’s knees because ‘the alleged injuries to her knees were not very visible’.

Given these examples of lies, contradictions and attempts to falsify documents and cover up certain matters, it was scarcely surprising that some of the four jurors asked a lot of questions of the witnesses during the trial. One interesting statement made by Mr Aragão Correia to the court was that British Police officers had been ‘investigating’ Gonçalo Amaral. But with Aragão Correia’s history of outright lies, fabrications and changes of story, this might well have been yet another fabrication by

him. He did not of course give details of their names, ranks, collar numbers or their places of employment. It would be a truly sensational revelation if it could ever be proved that any part of the British security services had actually been used to investigate Gonçalo Amaral with a view to trying to get any 'dirt' on him.

It was speculated in some quarters that it was just possible that the case against Gonçalo Amaral and his fellow detectives had been brought by Portugal's equivalent of the Crown Prosecution Service in order to clear Amaral and to prove him innocent. It was thought that the country's chief prosecutor had a good relationship with the Portuguese Police and perhaps had allowed the case to be brought, perhaps anticipating that Leonor Cipriano's allegations would be exposed as bogus. But the eventual outcome of the case - Gonçalo Amaral's conviction for allegedly 'filing a false report' (which we shall come to in a moment) - suggests more that this was a political trial wholly intended by the relevant authorities to destroy Gonçalo Amaral's reputation.

The British press's response to the trial of Gonçalo Amaral was of no little interest. The facts about Marcos Aragão Correia's direct links with *Método 3* - and thereby to the McCanns - were at least partially uncovered during the hearing, but the British press were silent about it. On the contrary, the alleged misconduct of Gonçalo Amaral was mentioned, alongside endless pictures of Leonor Cipriano with black eyes, clearly linking Mr Amaral to them as the alleged perpetrator or author of the beating she had evidently suffered. So much so, in fact, that many people I have spoken to in England seriously believe that it was Amaral himself who was the one who personally beat up Ms Cipriano. Such is the power of sustained disinformation circulated by the once-respected mass media of Britain.

Let us at this point summarise the most important information to have come out of the trial of Amaral and his colleagues. We now know about, for example:

- (1) The involvement of *Método 3* in the case against Mr Amaral, given their close association with Mr Aragão Correia and their having been employed by the McCanns and Brian Kennedy
- (2) The apparent funding of Aragão Correia by *Método 3* - though clearly we do not yet know the full extent of this
- (3) The claim that the Prison Governor ordered the alteration of an initial report of the beating of Leonor Cipriano and of a medical report
- (4) The alleged special treatment that Leonor Cipriano was accorded by the Prison Governor after the beating
- (5) The fact that Leonor Cipriano appears to have been beaten some time *after* her confession, probably by fellow inmates who might have learned about her confession and felt it their duty to punish her for it
- (6) The dirty and possibly illegal proposed deal to give the four detectives light sentences in order to 'get' Gonçalo Amaral.

A French journalist who has closely covered the Madeleine McCann case, Duarte Levy, appeared on TV in October 2008 and claimed to have interviewed an ex-convict who was serving a sentence in the same prison as Leonor Cipriano at the time of the events. When asked if she knew who had beaten Leonor Cipriano in prison, the female ex-convict is said to have replied to Mr Levy: "Of course I know. I was one of

them”. That account seems far more credible than what Leonor Cipriano asks us to believe, namely that four police detectives, none of whose identities she can recall, beat her up.

The trial of Mr Amaral suited the agenda of the McCann Team and their chief public relations adviser, Clarence Mitchell. Right from the early days of the hunt for Madeleine, the McCanns and their advisers had criticised the Portuguese police, first for mounting what they said was an ineffective search for Madeline, and later for wrongly and cruelly accusing them of having been involved in Madeleine’s disappearance. At every opportunity, Clarence Mitchell, the man who had been at the head of the government’s mission to influence the output of the mass media, attacked the Portuguese police in general and Gonçalo Amaral in particular. He had been Head of the ‘Media Monitoring Unit’ at the Central Office of Information on the day Madeleine had been reported ‘missing’. He later boasted that in that capacity he directed a 40-strong team whose job it was ‘to control what comes out in the media’. It was perfect for the McCann Team for Mr Amaral to be repeatedly referred to in the British press as a ‘disgraced cop’. [NOTE: At the time of concluding this essay, Mr Mitchell had been appointed to a top role in the Conservative Party’s General Election campaign, as right-hand man to Andy Coulson, the Head of the Conservative Party’s public relations department and, of course, the former Editor of the *News of the World*. Mr Mitchell was clearly and prominently visible in the background of a 2-minute pre-election speech by party leader David Cameron released on YouTube on 4 April]

Every time bad news about the Portuguese Police’s investigation surfaced, the McCanns and their public relations team would be quick to seize on ‘corruption’, ‘beatings’ etc. that were supposedly ‘rife’ in the Portuguese judicial system. It would surely invalidate Mr Amaral’s conclusions in his book if the person who had disgracefully smeared them by making them suspects was a man who could be shown to have a track record of corruption and brutality. That would in turn confirm that the McCanns and their ‘Tapas 9’ friends were absolutely correct not to co-operate with Mr Amaral and his team. It would provide justification for the McCanns hot-footing it out of Portugal - despite promising to stay there ‘until Madeleine was found’ – as soon as they were made ‘arguidos’. It would also be a good excuse for refusing to go back for a reconstruction of events on 3 May 2007, as the Portuguese Police requested of the McCanns and their Tapas 9 friends in early 2008.

As one person on one of the many Madeleine McCann forums pointed out: “Odd, isn’t it? ‘McCann friends get out-of-court payout from newspaper’ is front-page news in several national papers, while ‘McCann private detectives accused of paying lawyer to frame Maddie cop’ doesn’t get a mention. Clearly I have no nose for what makes a powerful front-page story”.

Finally, we might conclude this section with a translated report from the newspaper *24Horas* published on 30 October 2008:

QUOTE

LEONOR’S LAWYER RECEIVE MONEY FROM THE MCCANNS  
30 October 2008 - by Luís Maneta

*Aragão Correia confirms that he was supported with money from Maddie's parents: The lawyer claims he is defending Joana's mother for free and that the McCanns paid him to 'investigate' Gonçalo Amaral*

“Was Dr Gonçalo Amaral in charge?”; “Was Dr Gonçalo Amaral present?”; “Did Dr Gonçalo Amaral hit you?”. Gonçalo Amaral, Gonçalo Amaral, Gonçalo Amaral - this seems to be the obsession of Leonor Cipriano's defence lawyer during the trial in which Joana's mother makes claims against five Judiciária inspectors. Three policemen stand accused of torture: Pereira Cristóvão, Leonel Marques and Paulo Marques Bom. But Leonor's lawyer, Marcos Aragão Correia, has pointed his guns at Gonçalo Amaral, who in this process stands accused of false testimony and 'omission of denunciation' [failing to file a report on an incident].

“This doesn't look like a trial in the Joana case but rather one in the Maddie case”, says a source that is connected to the defence of the former co-ordinator of the PJ in Portimão, who headed the investigations into the disappearance of both children and became a sort of 'public enemy No. 1' for the McCann couple.

“A possible condemnation of Gonçalo Amaral in this process may make it easier for the English to prosecute the Portuguese state”, the source says.

*They have paid the expenses*

“When confronted by *24Horas* with suspicions about his connection to the Maddie case, Marcos Aragão confirmed *that he was already paid by persons that are connected to the McCanns*. “They haven't paid me honoraries but rather expenses due to transportation, lodging and food, in order to interview João Cipriano [Leonor Cipriano's brother] in prison”, the lawyer explained, adding that the purpose of the conversation with Mr Cipriano was 'to analyse the procedures of Amaral as a PJ investigator'.

“Following the investigation - which originated from a report from the Association Against Exclusion through Development (ACED), founded by Aragão Correia himself (!) - Aragão Correia says that he accepted to represent Leonor Cipriano without charging one cent. 'I accepted this case for humanitarian reasons only. I am not receiving any honoraries', the lawyer asserted, claiming that the 'attacks' against Gonçalo Amaral are linked to Leonor Cipriano's strategy in this case: 'It's not an obsession. I can't insist on the other arguidos because she has not identified them'.

“Yesterday's session at the Court in Faro was marked by a new contradiction from the plaintiff. On Monday, Leonor Cipriano had guaranteed that Gonçalo Amaral did not watch the questioning during which she allegedly suffered abuse in order to make her confess to her daughter's death. Yesterday, Joana's mother corrected her version: “Gonçalo Amaral beat me”. When questioned by the judge, she said she had recovered her memory after watching a report on television”.

UNQUOTE

**17. A book by Marcos Alexandre Aragão Correia**

In December 2008, there was a remarkable interview given by Mr Aragão Correia to a Portuguese journalist, José Leite, from the magazine *O Crime*. In this interview, he spoke about a book he was writing that ‘mixed truth and fiction’ (perhaps a bit like himself in real life), titled: “The Little Girls that Came from the Stars”. He said it contained references to the hunt for Madeleine McCann.

Aragão Correia told the journalist: “I mix true facts with imaginary ones, dealing with new aspects of the private investigation that Maddie’s parents carried out into their daughter’s disappearance. *In the book I speak about my powers as a medium - and how those powers were useful to develop a private investigation that counted on the support of the Método 3 Detective Agency. I wanted to employ that gift of mine to help discover hard truths about the disappearance of Maddie*, without in any way using my gift for material gain. My goal was not to earn money - especially as I am fortunate enough to lead an economical life in Madeira without any financial difficulties - but simply to help those parents who were so distraught and living in such a distressed state. One of the major teachings of spiritualism is that it is only through helping others that we are able to help ourselves. That was what I intended to do in this case: to help this little girl, showing her my all-conquering, precious love”.

Pausing there, we see that Aragão Correia states boldly that he is a spritualist, claiming the psychic powers of a medium. Now people have different views about claims like these, some dismissing them as complete fantasy, others by contrast emphasising that these are dangerous occult powers and not to be tampered with (the Christian view). One thing that can safely be said is that a procession of psychics (over 250, it has been reported) offered their help to the McCanns and the Portuguese police. But from reports we have seen and heard on the news and elsewhere of the various claims they made about what really happened to Madeleine, it seems that every ‘psychic’ had a different ‘hunch’ or ‘feeling’ about what might have happened to Madeleine. In short, without wishing to unduly hurt the feelings of mediums and those who claim psychic powers, they are unreliable. Each had a different hunch about what happened to Madeleine. Therefore we can place no trust whatsoever in what ‘information’ Aragão Correia claims to have divined from his claimed powers as a medium. It is far more likley to be his imagination rather than ‘information’.

Aragão Correia then went on to give the journalist an account of his ‘vision of Madeleine’. The journalist asked: “How did that premonition of yours about the Maddie case happen?” In the next section is Aragao Correia’s reply - if you can believe it.

## **18. Marcos Aragão Correia’s vision described**

Mr Marcos Aragão Correia said:

“On 5th May [the Saturday immediately after Madeleine was reported missing], on returning from a spiritualist meeting in Madeira, immediately after going to bed, but just before falling asleep - at around midnight - an extraordinary thing happened to me, for the first time in my life. I saw the image of a little girl that must have been around four years of age, with blonde, shoulder-length straight hair, blue eyes, very disturbed, visibly unable to understand what was happening to her, accompanied by a female being of great beauty and great spiritual standing.

“Then, other images appeared to me, concerning what had happened to this girl. I saw a strongly-built man, blue eyes, somewhat balding and with blondish hair, brutally raping that girl and then strangling her with his hands, throwing the cadaver into a lake. I perceived by a map that was shown to me [presumably he means during his alleged vision], that this happened in the Algarve, but I couldn’t read the name of the village. I stress that I hadn’t seen any photo of Maddie before. I only knew, from what I’d heard on the radio, that she was 3 years old”.

Correia Aragão developed his story further, as the journalist then asked him if his ‘vision’ of a ‘strongly-built blond man’ corresponded with anyone who featured in the Portuguese investigation:

“Yes, there were references about a strongly built individual of British appearance as a suspect. Still, as this was my first vision in my entire life, there was, on my part, a certain reluctance to divulging it. So I let a few days pass, to see whether or not the little girl showed up. Eventually, I gave this lead to the Polícia Judiciária (PJ), on 9 May, but after that they never contacted me.

“Later on, I received information from a PJ insider in Portimão that the investigation was no longer based on the working hypothesis of abduction. So it was then that I decided to carry out my own private investigation. I travelled over to continental Portugal, and visited the various lakes and dams of the Algarve, until I reached the Arade Dam, which was the only one that precisely matched the scenery that I had seen in my vision. I decided to contact a senior official at *Método 3*, the detective agency that had been hired by the McCanns to investigate their daughter’s disappearance. When I mentioned that the dam was located in Silves, I noticed that they were surprised and immediately wanted to speak with me”.

Again, let us pause to evaluate these words from the unreliable Aragão Correia. He tells us he had this vision on a Saturday night (5 May), after a spiritualist meeting. Then he claims he gave the information to the PJ four days later. What information? And how? - by e-mail? Or by ‘phone? To whom? He doesn’t tell us. Then we get to an interesting snippet - that he says he received inside information (from a PJ police officer, presumably) that the investigation is no longer working on abduction as a theory, but presumably on the possibility that Madeleine died in Apartment 5A and her body hidden or disposed of.

That ties in with information received by journalist Duarte Levy that there was indeed a Portuguese detective who was leaking information about the Madeleine investigation to *Método 3*. If there was such a leak, that information would of course been leaked to the McCanns and to their teams of lawyers, public relations advisers and private investigators.

Then we are asked to believe that Aragão Correia only decided to contact *Método 3* after he had finally located the Arade Dam as the one which matched his ‘vision’. The claim that he only contacted *Método 3* after visiting the dam must be put alongside his admission that he had been paid ‘expenses’ for searching the Arade Dam by *Método 3*. Prior to that admission, of course, he had claimed that he had been funding the

search out of the charitable goodness of his own heart, and as a consequence was portrayed in the British press as a 'Good Samaritan'.

It would not be unreasonable to suggest, therefore, that Aragão Correia was in touch with *Método 3* (and through them, Brian Kennedy and the McCanns) well before the searching of the Arade Dam. It might well be suggested, then, that the Arade Dam searches were a well-prepared attempt to divert attention away from the McCanns as possible suspects in the disappearance of Madeleine and to develop and further promote their claim that Madeleine had been snatched by one or more predatory paedophiles.

However, at the time of the second search of the Arade Dam, one newspaper reported the McCanns as being 'furious'. It claimed: "Kate and Gerry McCann reacted with fury yesterday after divers began a second search of a reservoir for Madeleine's body. The couple told friends that the search - funded by a Portuguese lawyer who they claim is a 'fantasist' seeking publicity - is a distraction from the hunt.

The report continued: "Marcos Aragão Correia claims crime contacts told him she was killed and left in the lake two days after going missing. Correia spent thousands of pounds on a previous search but found nothing. But a McCann source said: 'There's no evidence Madeleine is in that reservoir. They believe she is alive and are concentrating on finding her'."

Quite why the McCanns would be 'furious', given that the very private detectives they were funding, *Método 3*, appeared to be paying Correia, is hard to explain. We suggest that the McCanns and Brian Kennedy knew in advance about Marcos Aragão Correia's two planned searches of the Arada Dam. If we are right about that, then the McCanns' claim to be 'furious' about Mr Aragão Correia's new searches at the dam would be bogus fury. Only one month later, Mr Aragão Correia, according to him on instructions from *Método 3* (and therefore from the McCanns and Brian Kennedy), was visiting Odemira prison, and talking to Leonor Cipriano and the Prison Governor with a view to embarking on a campaign to target Gonçalo Amaral

Let us continue with Aragão Correia's story: "Two detectives [from *Método 3*] met with me and told me that they had already received thousands of leads, but that mine was corroborated by a physical case that they had already established. It involved a Portuguese truck driver, M. Gautier, who only two days after the disappearance of Madeleine, at around 4pm to 5pm, while driving down the IC1 road, near the Arade Dam, saw two cars parked by the road, an Audi A3 that was driven by a man - and a green car (of a very unusual green) that was driven by a blonde woman. The two vehicles were separated by a small metallic fence, and while driving by in his truck, the driver saw what seemed like an inanimate child to him, being passed from one car to another, wrapped up in a blanket".

Aragão Correia claims, then, that *Método 3* had a credible report of a child in a blanket being passed from one car to another on Saturday 5 May in the afternoon - two days after Madeleine 'disappeared'. He goes into detail, claiming that *Método 3* had established from M. Gautier, the Portuguese truck driver, that he "knew the blanket contained a child by the manner in which the body stood out from the blanket. The bent legs and small dimensions made him conclude, without hesitation, that it

was a child. On the other hand, the extremely protective way in which the couple held the blanket, on a hot day, was suspicious”.

He adds the claim that M. Gautier contacted the police the very same day - Saturday 5 May. Correia says: “I spoke to M. Gautier myself. He told me that the PJ had ridiculed him as soon as he called them, on the very same day that he had witnessed the body being transferred from car to car near the metal fence”.

“It was all extremely strange”, continues Aragão Correia, “and because of that, in November, the truck driver reported everything to the detectives at *Método 3*”.

Let’s pause there. The truck driver is supposed to have contacted *Método 3* in November? That’s six whole months after Madeleine went missing. Are we to take seriously the claim that this Portuguese truck driver, M. Gautier, waited for six whole months to contact *Método 3*, and tell them about the child being passed from one car to another - one of the cars a vivid green? And how likely is it that the PJ ‘ridiculed him’, as he claims?

Marcos Aragão Correia continued: “*Método 3* detectives showed M. Gautier the photos of some of the main suspects in the disappearance of Maddie, and found some physiognomic similarities with at least two of them. The PJ were given this lead once again in November, but discarded it once again, after analysing the triangulation points from the suspicious couple’s mobile ‘phones, and after questioning the owners of a plot of land on that site. The PJ committed a gross mistake by investigating only that suspect and his girlfriend. The truck driver said that he couldn’t be certain that it was that precise suspect, but rather that it was a person with similar physiognomic features, mainly in terms of body mass”.

So what are we left with here? A truck driver, M. Gautier, says he saw a ‘suspect’ with a similar body shape and body mass to two ‘suspects’ apparently already identified by *Método 3*. A truck driver, moreover, who waits six months after he says he first reported this to the PJ, to contact *Método 3*. It all sounds very unlikely. And as it is Marcos Aragão Correia telling the story, we can probably assume that parts of it, at least, are fabricated.

And if all that sounds unlikely, what can we make of the next part of Marcos Aragão Correia’s account? He said: “*Método 3* submitted me to a test *in order to prove beyond all doubt whether or not my mediumistic abilities and my accounts were credible*. They were fed up with following false leads. The fact is that the test gave totally positive results, according to what was confirmed to me personally by the Director of *Método 3* in Barcelona himself. Following my mediumistic abilities passing *Método 3*’s stringent tests, *Método 3* offered full support to my research. But given the fact that Maddie’s parents preferred to spend the decreasing money from the Find Madeleine Fund mainly following leads based on the belief that their daughter was still alive, they dismissed the possibility of paying professional divers to search the dam. So I offered myself to pay for the first phase of the searches in the dam, having later received much support, including financial support, from mediums and spiritualists who believed in and corroborated my theory”.

Well, what can we make of that account? We are left guessing at the possible nature of the ‘stringent test’ that *Método 3* could have devised to ‘prove’ Mr Aragão Correia’s mediumistic abilities. And now we have yet another story on who paid for those expensive dam searches. First, Aragão Correia told us he had generously funded the searches himself, out of the goodness of his heart, then we were told that *Método 3* had ‘helped him with expenses’.

Now we get a third version, namely: “I was given money by a group of mediums and spritualists who corroborated my theory”. If anyone still thinks that Aragão Correia just might be telling the truth, here surely is another mass of contradictions about who funded his dam searches that tells us that this man is a stranger to the truth, if not an out-and-out con-man and a fraud.

Aragão Correia then returns to the subject of the dam searches and tells the journalist: “The dam searches found items of relevance, but these were not sufficient as evidence. Maybe I made some mistakes, which might have alerted the possible abductors of the little English girl: On 11 January, before the diving in the dam started, *Lux* magazine published my suspicions in a front page article. Yet it was almost two months later that the searches were started at the dam. That was more than enough time for the criminals to hide any incriminating residues. Nevertheless, we discovered a girl’s sock that was Maddie’s age. I believe the sock might have been used by Maddie, although the lab tests failed to detect any human residues, due to the fact that it stayed underwater for such a long time. We also found several knotted lengths of rope, over five metres [16 feet] long, which would have been ideal to tie up the body at the bottom of the dam. All of this was recovered by the divers in an area where there was no other rubbish. *Método 3* were always closely involved in the searches, monitoring them closely, and took all of those objects back to Spain for examination”.

The journalist then asks Aragão Correia to comment on the PJ investigation. He answered: “The information that I received as a medium didn’t allow for me to understand what the criminal’s motivation was. But information that I obtained later on - especially from consulting an excellent book by criminologist Barra da Costa - led me to believe the theory, admitted by the former PJ Chief Inspector, that the police weren’t interested in finding Maddie, nor in catching the real culprits over her disappearance. Dr Barra da Costa said in his book that there was something like a tacit plan to induce a general sense of insecurity across society, to allow for the micro-chip (a device implanted in human beings that gives out signals to track down where they are) to be produced on a major scale.

“At the beginning I had some reservations concerning that issue, because I had never heard about it, but I was interested careful enough to go on the internet and to consult several credible websites, including FBI and CIA sources, where I found some amazing things: the micro-chip was indeed being promoted as the ideal weapon to prevent crime. These sources added that the population should be induced into accepting this technological revolution, even if it was at the expense of a policy of deliberately promoting mass public insecurity. Well, the Maddie case fell like ‘manna from heaven’ for the promotion of the microchip, especially as far as children are concerned”.

And on that very puzzling note, the interview with Aragão Correia ended.

The trial continued. Amazingly, it lasted a whole 7 months, having begun on 21 October 2008 and finished on 22 May 2009. It had been subject to at least five adjournments, mostly lasting around a month, caused by various procedural problems and by new applications of one kind or another, mostly made by Marcos Aragão Correia.

The the main lines of evidence in the trial had been:

- a) a set of digital photographs of Leonor Cipriano's injuries, of disputed provenance, recorded on a CD
- b) the wildly contradictory and ever-changing statements by Leonor Cipriano, who has already been diagnosed as a clinically pathological liar, and
- c) an array of contradictory statements from selected prison staff, forensic experts and doctors, who couldn't agree on the origin of all of Ms Cipriano's lesions and in some cases were shown also to have given false testimony.

We have mentioned the five or more adjournments. One of them, which occurred on 21 January 2009, was caused by the news that Marcos Aragão Correia had been suspended by the *Madeira Lawyers Order* (the Madeira Bar Association) for unprofessional conduct. Despite that suspension, on 21 January he had tried in the Faro courtroom to continue representing Leonor Cipriano. But the trial judge ordered him to cease representing her. Aragão Correia argued with the judge, protested and refused to leave the court. The judge had to order him to leave the court. with the words: "I have told you to leave the court, Mr Aragão Correia. There are several exits to this court building. Now find one of them and leave this court immediately". The trial of Mr Amaral had to be suspended once again whilst urgent arrangements were made for Leonor Cipriano to be represented by another lawyer.

However, the Head of the Portuguese *Lawyer's Order*, Marinho Pinto, who had previously, on many occasions, publicly supported the McCanns' claim of abduction, and has criticised the Portuguese police investigation of the disappearance of Madeleine McCann, intervened by attempting to order the Madeira Bar Association to revoke its suspension. He was also reported as having tried to intervene by contacting the trial judge and demanding that Aragão Correia should be re-instated as Leonor Cipriano's lawyer. Soon after these events, and despite being peremptorily ordered out of the courtroom by the trial judge on 22 January, Aragão Correia was indeed re-instated and allowed to continue to represent Leonor Cipriano. The exact circumstances of how this came about, given that the judge had thrown Aragão Correia out of court, are still obscure.

## **19. The conclusion of the trial on 22 May 2009: A verdict against Gonçalo Amaral**

On 22 May 2009, the Court delivered its verdict in the trial of Gonçalo Amaral. The decision was that he was guilty of the criminal offence of 'filing a false report' - roughly equivalent to our offence of 'perjury'. It was held that when he told investigators that he was 'unaware of any attack on Leonor Cipriano', he was not

telling the truth. His fellow inspector António Cardoso was also convicted of a similar offence. Here is how the *Daily Express* gleefully reported the news on Saturday 23 May. Once again, they used that favourite term of abuse of Mr Amaral: ‘Disgraced’:

#### QUOTE

“The disgraced former head of the Madeleine McCann police investigation was yesterday sensationally found guilty of falsifying evidence in the case of another missing girl. Gonçalo Amaral - who was thrown off the Madeleine inquiry - was handed an 18-month suspended jail sentence in Portugal. He was found guilty over a cover-up by detectives following the alleged torture of the mother of eight-year-old Joana Cipriano who went missing in September 2004. Madeleine’s parents Kate and Gerry McCann are suing Amaral for defamation over his book ‘The Truth About A Lie’.

Amaral, 49, was in charge of the inquiry when the McCanns were named as formal suspects in September 2007. Portugal’s Attorney General later said there was no evidence to link the couple to their daughter’s disappearance and they were formally cleared of any involvement. Father-of-three Amaral was already under investigation when he was put in charge of finding Madeleine. He was one of five senior police officers charged over the Cipriano case.

#### UNQUOTE

He was given a suspended prison sentence of 18 months for either ‘falsifying evidence’ or ‘falsifying a false report’, depending on which translation you prefer. As we understand it, under Portuguese law a sentence does not take effect until any appeal against conviction has been heard. Gonçalo Amaral immediately appealed against the conviction. The three co-accused detective inspectors under Amaral’s command, Cristovao, Leonel, and Marques Bom, were acquitted.

For reasons, which have not been fully explained, his appeal has yet to be heard. Apparently, under Portuguese law, an appeal against conviction cannot be heard until the jury in the original trial has been paid. Up until recently, the news from Portugal was that, months later, the four jurors in the trial had not been paid. Certainly, at the time of writing, Mr Amaral’s appeal against conviction has yet to be heard. One of the most remarkable features of the day the decision against Mr Amaral was announced was Marcus Aragão Correia’s brief but triumphant comment on the case: “Our target was hit. Gonçalo Amaral was convicted”.

We might well ask: If you were mainly there to represent the interests of your client, Leonor Cipriano, would you not emerge from the court to make a statement expressing your outrage that three of the detectives who had beaten your client into submission and forced a confession out of her, had been acquitted and got away with their crimes?

Leonor and João Cipriano and Leonor Cipriano’s former partner António Leandro David da Silva appear to have been used as no more than pawns in a complex chess

game played by Mr Marcos Aragão Correia, *Método 3*, Brian Kennedy and of course the McCanns. The trial was highly unusual in a number of aspects, including:

- 1) Lasting nearly 7 months in total with five separate adjournments, most of them lengthy
- 2) The *Lawyer's Order* making an unprecedented intervention in the proceedings, basically representing one lawyer (Marcos Aragão Correia) against another (Gonçalo Amaral's lawyer)
- 3) The acceptance of the CD of digital photographs in evidence. In the notorious 'Freeport case' in Portugal, which involved alleged corruption by high-ranking politicians, a controversial DVD became public. The Public Prosecutor at the time, Cândida Almeida, stated: "*That type of evidence cannot be used in a Portuguese court because, among other reasons, they can be easily tampered with*".

Quite so. Yet a CD of photographs is easier to tamper with than a DVD. So why was it accepted as evidence in a case involving Gonçalo Amaral?

Questions arise as to why Marinho Pinto of the *Lawyers' Order* had himself created an 'Assistant' in the case. A probable reason was so that he could not be put on the witness stand and questioned about the provenance and chain of custody of a number of photographs of Leonor Cipriano, with her black eyes, that he had arranged to have published, first of all, in the *Expresso* newspaper. Otherwise, he might have had to admit that he arranged for those photos to be released, wholly contrary to Portugal's strict judicial secrecy laws.

Perversely, far from representing Leonor Cipriano's interests in these proceedings against Amaral and his colleagues, Marcos Aragão Correia may have made her situation worse. As a result of this trial, Leonor Cipriano could find herself prosecuted yet again - this time for perjury, as the chief judge stated in his judgment that he believed she had not told the truth in relation to her allegations against the PJ inspectors and formally referred the matter to the PJ for further investigation. As in the U.K., perjury carries heavy penalties.

## **20. Marcos Aragão Correia launches an appeal against the conviction of Leonor Cipriano - but fails**

Just 17 days after successfully prosecuting Gonçalo Amaral for allegedly filing a false report, Marcos Aragão Correia, on 8 June 2009, filed another appeal in the courts on behalf of Leonor Cipriano, this time against her sentence for murdering her eight-year-old daughter. Here's one newspaper report on the appeal, based on a translation provided by 'Astro':

### **QUOTE**

Today, Leonor Cipriano's lawyer, Marcos Aragão Correia, has filed in the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ) an appeal under exceptional circumstances against the conviction and sentence imposed on her. The appeal is based on 'new facts', which are said to have been discovered. The request for the conviction to be overturned is based on apparent proof in [a recent court case] that Leonor was beaten in the

building of the Polícia Judiciária (PJ) in Faro, although it was not proved who beat her or in what manner.

In a press release, Marcos Aragão Correia says that Joana's mother - who was sentenced to 16 years in prison over the joint murder of Joana - must be acquitted because there are new facts and evidence that raise 'very serious doubts' about her conviction.

The lawyer's appeal points first of all towards Leonor Cipriano's recent confession in January, in which she denied ever being involved in her daughter's death, claiming that her brother, João Cipriano, was responsible for her death, after a failed attempt to sell the little girl.

At the time of Leonor Cipriano's new, January, confession, five PJ inspectors and former inspectors were standing trial in Faro, charged with assault on Ms Cipriano during questioning. But during this trial, she gave false testimony, which has already prompted the opening of another police investigation against her. The Court of Faro ended up acquitting the three inspectors that stood accused of torture, but condemned two (Gonçalo Amaral and António Cardoso), who were accused of other crimes, to suspended prison sentences.

According to Aragão Correia, Leonor's condemnation was based on 'false confessions' that were obtained under 'brutal' torture, but also on the false accusations against her made by her brother, who until a short while ago had been incriminating her as a co-murderer of Joana.

In order to try to reverse the situation, the lawyer says he 'bluffed' João Cipriano in order to convince him to sign a confession, which was written down at the Prison of Carregueira, Sintra, in May 2009, in which he stated that he tried to sell the little girl.

Marcos Aragão Correia told Leonor's brother that he had heard that a convict that had been condemned to over 20 years for murder was going to be transferred to the Prison of Carregueira with the purpose of murdering him. The order to kill João would have come from elements of a criminal network that tried to buy Joana, stresses Mr Correia, who says that he invented the story in order to force Leonor's brother to confess that he had lied throughout the entire process. "João Cipriano had nothing to gain, judicially, from making this confession, in fact quite the contrary", the lawyer emphasised, adding that, apart from homicide, the convict will now have to answer charges over his confession of being involved in the crime of human trafficking.

According to Aragão Correia, the grounds for Leonor Cipriano's conviction were already 'very shaky' and 'doubtful' both from a factual and a judicial point of view, with many gaps highlighted by the new evidence and facts.

"We can only conclude that the court merely based itself - unconsciously - on the false indications of the original investigation, namely on the false confession from Leonor (which she says was obtained under torture) and above all on the systematic lies of João Cipriano", the lawyer stressed.

The claim of alleged assaults on Leonor Cipriano dates back to the 'Joana case' which

began on 12 September 2004, the day when the child, aged eight, disappeared from the village of Figueira, near Portimão.

Following the questioning that took place at the PJ in Faro, Joana's mother allegedly presented lesions on her face and body, which prompted the accusations from the Public Ministry against former and current PJ inspectors, three of whom were indicted over allegations of inflicting torture to obtain a confession.

Leonor Cipriano and her brother, João Cipriano, were sentenced by the Supreme Court of Justice to 16 years in prison each, over the crimes of homicide and concealment of Joana's corpse.

#### UNQUOTE

There was at least good news on this particular one of Leonor Cipriano's many claims when, on 17 December 2009, judges Souto Moura, Soares Ramos and Carmona da Mota of the Supreme Court of Justice dismissed the appeal to reduce the sentence of Leonor Cipriano presented by Marcos Aragão Correia.

In their judgment, the judges referred to the new claim by João Cipriano that he had allegedly murdered Joana Cipriano alone. This confession had been given, as Aragão Correia boasted, because he had 'bluffed' João Cipriano by telling him to sign a confession of being the sole murderer of his niece, adding that if he did not admit to this truth, an inmate from another prison (that was going to be transferred to that prison shortly) would murder him, and simulate his suicide. João Cipriano, as it turned out, ended up presenting a different version of events to the Supreme Court, in which he said that he "denied (or could not remember) either writing, signing or dictating any confession to anyone".

Marcos Aragão Correia had told the court that on his visit to João Cipriano in Carregueira prison, in Belas (Sintra) prison on 18 May 2009, he saw - as a psychic who is capable of receiving visions - "lots of blood running down his face, as if he was guilty of an heinous crime".

Correia must have suffered a regrettable memory lapse in his visions, because he had earlier told the media about another of his notorious visions - one in which he asserted that he was "not completely sure that Joana is dead because I saw her walking, accompanied by a couple".

Before that, Aragão Correia had presented yet another version of events. In an 8-page declaration written by Leonor Cipriano on 15 January 2009, she accused her brother of murdering Joana on his own, at the same admitting that he did so because Leonor admitted that she had been willing to go along with his suggestions that they sell her daughter to a foreign couple.

During the proceedings, Aragão Correia also presented witness statements made by members of the Cipriano family, excerpts of a book written by criminologist Barra da Costa, a private letter, and a old PJ report to which he admitted receiving, though he was unclear about how he had come into possession of it.

The judges also held that Marcos Aragão Correia had fundamentally undermined Ms Cipriano's appeal by using the appeal as a means of persistently attacking Gonçalo Amaral, the detective who had successfully led the investigation into Joana's murder.

During the appeal hearings, Marcos Aragão Correia had made the following outrageous statement: "We cannot therefore be impressed the calamitous results of a criminal investigation handed to a dangerous and violent alcoholic [Gonçalo Amaral]. This is made even more catastrophic by the fact that we are dealing here with serious crimes committed against children. It is just as well that the authorities had the good sense to remove Gonçalo Amaral from the investigation, when the same alcoholic man repeated the same gross mistakes he made in the Joana Cipriano case without any basis and having no evidence against the mother of another missing child in the Algarve [Madeleine McCann].

The Portuguese Public Ministry recommended to the judge that Ms Cipriano's appeal should fail, pointing out that: "Having seen the text of the appeal, there is a clear attempt to tarnish the image of the Polícia Judiciária, especially of one former member of the police force who was involved in the investigation of the case which led to the conviction".

Their recommendation added: "This animosity by Correia cannot serve to justify the application for a review of the decision, much less claims he makes such as this: 'Apparently, Gonçalo Amaral took a course in criminal investigation in Guinea-Bissau or in a similar country, and was driven by motives as yet unknown by us in order so that the truth [about what really happened to Joana] was never to be discovered'. The Public Ministry went on: "But beyond this, the Public Ministry must raise questions about the legitimacy of adding on to the appeal a private letter, referred to as a letter sent by the wife of one PJ individual to his boss, as well as producing an alleged PJ report which clearly reached his hands in an illicit manner".

On the confession which was forced out of João Cipriano by Marcos Aragão Correia's bluffing of him, the Public Ministry submitted: "In his actions in relation to the convicted co-defendant João Cipriano, the actions of Marcos Aragão Correia *go well beyond all legal and ethical rules to which he owes obedience*. The description given by the distinguished lawyer himself of how he obtained this declaration, signed by the arguido [João Cipriano], who is now represented by another lawyer, is almost frightening, and an absolutely forbidden method of obtaining evidence".

Regarding the new declaration made by Leonor Cipriano, the Public Ministry stated: "The justification that she now gives to the court is pathetic. She says she is only now revealing the facts for being afraid of being arrested for trying to sell her daughter. What the defendant and appellant in this case is doing here is a desperate attempt by her to escape liability for the acts performed by her and for which she is serving a sentence".

Dealing with parts of a book by Barra da Costa: 'Maddie, Joana and the Criminal Investigation', and used as another basis for the appeal by Marcos Aragão Correia, the Public Ministry wrote: "Finally, as to the alleged 'scientific' view of the criminologist, Dr. Barra da Costa, the appellant [Ms Cipriano] limits herself to simply transcribing long excerpts from his book. In that book, he made claims that the

criminal investigations carried out in this case and in another high-profile case [Madeleine McCann] were ‘poorly conducted’. They continued: “No matter how ‘scientific’ is the opinion of that author, all that he says is totally irrelevant to the case at issue here. It is nothing more than the personal opinions of a person who was not even involved in the judicial process and who only criticises the actions of everyone, including those of the Supreme Court of Justice”.

Summarising their grounds for opposing Ms Cipriano’s appeal, the Public Ministry submitted that the appeal should be refused because:

- a) there were no new admissible facts
- b) even if those facts were ‘admissible’, the various statements and declarations attached to the pleadings are invalid
- c) even if these declarations were to be treated as valid, they do not contain credible evidence, and
- d) even if they raised a sufficient doubt to review the final decision, they are unaccompanied by any valid evidence.

Unsurprisingly, the judges gave a unanimous verdict against Cipriano.

## **21. July 2009 - Another complaint against Gonalo Amaral, this time by Ant3nio Leandro David da Silva**

Just a month after launching a belated appeal by Leonor Cipriano against her conviction, Marcos Arag3o Correia launched yet another action against Gonalo Amaral. This time it was to submit a complaint by Leonor Cipriano’s former partner, Ant3nio Leandro David da Silva, often described as little Joana Cipriano’s ‘stepfather’. Leandro accused Gonalo Amaral of assault at the Portuguese Police regional headquarters at Faro on 13 October 2004. But his claim of assault was not presented until 4¾ years later, in July 2009. He asked for a cool 500,000 euros compensation (around £450,000).

It was on 18 March 2010, nine months later, that the *Correia da Manh3* newspaper reported that the Faro Court dismissed all the accusations of Ant3nio Leandro David da Silva and Marcos Arag3o Correia against Gonalo Amaral.

## **22. A lawsuit by Gonalo Amaral against Marcos Arag3o Correia**

It is little-known fact that back in April 2008, Gonalo Amaral began a lawsuit against Marcos Arag3o Correia, claiming he had been defamed and vilified by him.

Over a year later, on 16 June 2009, Gonalo Amaral filed an addendum to his original lawsuit. As was reported at the time, for some strange reason the Ministeria Publico (the ‘Public Ministry’ or what we would call the Ministry of Justice) had by that time delayed the hearing of Mr Amaral’s complaint for 15 months, and at the time of writing (March 2010), his case has still not been heard, two years later. Yet the same Ministeria Publico was apparently able to expedite the hearing of the case against Mr Amaral brought by convicted murderess and serial liar Leonor Cipriano. Here, then, is

another very powerful indicator that the persecution of Gonçalo Amaral in the courts has been politically motivated.

Below we reproduce the fascinating addendum complaint of Gonçalo Amaral against Marcos Aragão Correia, which had been filed in June 2009:

JUDICIAL COURT OF FARO - PUBLIC MINISTRY SERVICES  
Process 87/08.8JAFAR - 1ST SECTION

Mr Prosecutor,

Gonçalo Amaral, the offended party and applicant with the capacity to constitute himself as an 'Assistant', and who is better identified in the files, comes forward to APPEND the following material to the criminal complaint that was presented against arguido Marcos Aragão Correia, exercising his rights of petition and of probative intervention:

A. The arguido [Marcos Aragão Correia] has publicly displayed what seems to be a manifest lack of balance of pathological origin, including episodes of social irresponsibility, which militates in favour of his eventual unfitness to plead and impedes him, if that scenario is confirmed, from being the defendant in any accusation against him.

B. Taking into account that, under the provision of law, 'public and notorious facts' in the public domain may also constitute valid evidence, it is possible to collect from the press, in a brief search through the Internet, the following probative material, which is now presented as part of the present addendum:

**1. DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS, 22 Jun 2007:** Madeira. Fifty children will launch yellow balloons with a photo of little Madeleine, who disappeared fifty days ago today. Marcos Aragão Correia, one of the organisers, explains why he considers it to be important for Madeira to join this homage. (Cfr. Document No. 1)

**2. SOL, 13 Nov 2007:** A lawyer from Madeira, Marcos Aragão Correia, has judicially prosecuted the Portuguese postal service for failing to personally deliver a registered letter that was addressed to the McCann couple, in which he indicated leads that he considers could assist the investigation, and which he had already revealed to the Polícia Judiciária in Funchal. "As I didn't get any feedback from the PJ", he explains, "I decided to communicate them directly to the child's parents, in a letter." (Cfr. document No. 2)

**3. SOL, 13 Nov 2007:** Lawsuit against the Portuguese postal service. The judge has ruled that the litigation that had been filed by the lawyer [Marcos Aragão Correia] seeking the prosecution of the Portuguese postal service is unfounded, and condemns him to pay a judicial fee of approximately 100 euros, and has postponed the trial sine die. (Cfr. document No. 3)

**4. BARLAVENTO, 7 Feb 2008:** Lawyer from Madeira claims to know everything. A lawyer from Madeira is the most recent star in the search for Madeleine. Marcos Aragão Correia, who went as far as filing a lawsuit against the Portuguese postal

service, has headed a search operation with divers at the reservoir, on Saturday [2 February 2008]. He only found a shutter strap. (Cfr. document No. 4)

**5. IOL.DIÁRIO, 12 Mar 2008:** Lawyer from Madeira reinforces searches at the Arade Dam. Marcos Aragão Correia is a lawyer, and for the second time within only a few months, he is heading searches at the Arade Dam, in Silves. The searches have started again this Monday and strange objects have been found already: several ropes, a sheet of plastic and a child's sock. (Cfr. document No. 5)

**6. DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS, 15 Mar 2008:** Upon conclusion of the searches, Marcos Aragão Correia said his conscience was at peace. "I don't leave disillusioned, because I've done what I could on the basis of information that I consider to be credible." (Cfr. document No. 6)

**7. PORTUGAL DIÁRIO, 12 Mar 2008:** And what moves Aragão Correia? The lawyer says that he has received 'credible leads' concerning what happened to Maddie. "For the time being, we can't publicly reveal the leads and who offered them, due to security concerns." (Cfr. document No. 7)

**8. DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS, 13 Mar 2008:** Lawyer Marcos Aragão Correia is more and more convinced than ever of the relationship between the possible death of Maddie with that of Mari Luz, from Huelva, whose body was found. "*There are no doubts left* - he says - that the criminal abducted Madeleine and fled to Spain, where he abducted another girl, Mari Luz." (Cfr. document No. 9)

**9. BARLAVENTO, 17 Oct 2008:** Marcos Aragão Correia, lawyer to Leonor Cipriano, is going to request police protection. "We've been targeted by threats", he said, mentioning that one of the arguidos in the process compared him to his dog, saying that when one is playing at an inappropriate time, one should receive a correctional slap on one's back." (Cfr. document No. 11)

**10. CAMARADECOMUNS.BLOGS.SAPO.PT, 4 Dec 2008:** Today, 4 December, I read what I never thought would be possible to read about the Maddie and Joana cases. The illustrious lawyer Dr Marcos Aragão Correia believes that there is an intervention by British secret services and secret societies, namely the 'Skull and Bones Society', to which he states that president George Bush belongs, whose purpose it is to create a climate of insecurity to promote the implementation of chips in children. (Cfr. Document No. 10)

**11. SOL, 15 Dec 2008:** Marcos Aragão Correia states that he is a medium and has had 'visions' of Maddie and Joana, asserting that he saw the body of the little English girl at the Arade Dam. Searches were carried out in the area, but revealed to be fruitless. "In that case I committed a serious mistake. I revealed my plans with anticipation and the person responsible for Maddie's death had time to go there and remove the body." (Cfr. document No. 8)

**12. SOL, 22 Jan 2009:** Leonor Cipriano's lawyer is thrown out of court. Before the trial session started, he was notified of the court's decision. He was suspended from practising by the *Lawyers' Order*. But 15 minutes later, he returned to the courtroom

saying that ‘the situation was already solved’. The judge, however, threw him out of the room: “Get yourself out of here”, he ordered. (Cfr. document No. 12)

**13. IOL, DIÁRIO, 22 Jan 2009:** Marcos Aragão Correia announced that he is going to request the annulment of today’s audience. “I’m filing a complaint with the Magistrates’ Superior Counsel, against the president of the judge’s panel.” (Cfr. document No. 13)

**14. DIÁRIO DIGITAL, 22 Jan 2009:** Marcos Aragão Correia claims that judge Henrique Pavão is biased. Backing up his claim, the lawyer said that the magistrate had refused no fewer than 40 separate requests from the ‘Assistant’. (Cfr. document No. 14)

**15. BARLAVENTO, 20 Feb 2009:** Today, presiding judge Henrique Pavão held that the request made by Aragão Correia the previous month should not have been presented at the court of Faro, but, instead, at the Supreme Court of superior hierarchy. But for reasons of efficient administration, the judge had decided on his own authority to send Aragão’s request to the Appeals Court of Évora.” (Cfr. document No. 15)

**16. BARLAVENTO, 21 Mar 2009:** Appeals Court of Évora denies Marcos Aragão Correia’s motion to removal the presiding judge in the case. (Cfr. document No. 16)

**17. DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS, 23 Apr 2009:** Leonor Cipriano’s lawyer, Marcos Aragão Correia, accuses the judge of ‘censorship’. Today he presented yet another complaint about the judge to the Magistrates’ Superior Counsel. He claimed that the judge, Henrique Pavão, had - without any legally acceptable justification - abruptly, and on six occasions, interrupted his allegations, causing him ‘manifest disturbance’. (Cfr. document No. 17)

**18. SOL, 28 Jan 2009:** Leonor Cipriano’s lawyer Marcos Aragão Correia asked the GNR police today to search at ‘an abandoned house up in the hills of Figueira’, where Joana’s mother confessed that her brother João Cipriano had buried the little girl’s body. (Cfr. document No. 18)

**19. DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS, 08 Jun 2009:** Leonor Cipriano’s lawyer, Marcos Aragão Correia, says that she must be acquitted. She was condemned to 16 years in prison over the joint murder of Joana. The lawyer claimed that he ‘bluffed’ with João Cipriano in order to convince him to sign a confession in which he stated that he tried to sell the little girl. Aragão Correia told Leonor’s sister that he had heard that a convict who had been condemned to over 20 years in prison for homicide, was about to be transferred to Carregueira prison with the purpose of murdering João Cipriano him. (Cfr. document N. 19).

C. If he weren’t the victim of a serious pathology, Marcos Aragão Correia would certainly be determined to be guilty of breaching the public peace and the mental health of the people with his erratic claims of ‘psychic visions’ of missing children, extraterrestrial informants, searches in reservoirs, warnings about the mass implementation of chips in children and teenagers, not forgetting his deliberately comparing himself with a dog in a court of law and thus publicly bringing disgrace on

the legal profession. He has also made an endless succession of requests that are rejected by judges due to their absurdity, he has been called to order many times by the judge, and he has interrupted the judge on frequent occasions and has had on one occasion to be expelled from the precincts of the court.

D. Two questions arise in view of the foregoing evidence, which suggest, to those who are affected by his conduct, that there has been a history of insanity over a short period of time:

1st - The question of the lack of capability of Marcos Aragão Correia, or rather the question of the increasing probability that the subject suffered, during the practice of the facts under investigation, from a psychiatric illness (permanent or temporary) that may have rendered him incapable of evaluating the unlawfulness of his behaviour and of determining whether he is capable of practising law himself. If confirmed, this would prevent the Public Ministry from accepting any accusation against him, given the fact that the probative indications will then not result in a reasonable probability of him being convicted in any trial.

2nd - The question of whether Marcos Aragão Correia constitutes a danger to the population at large and to the efficient administration of justice. If that is confirmed, the court may insist that he attend for regular psychiatric treatment or, in the last resort, commit him for a period to an institution such as a psychiatric hospital.

E. Apart from what is established in our Mental Health Law, the Penal Code itself clearly determines that anyone who practises a typical kind of illicit action and is considered not to be imputable, shall be committed for cure, treatment or to a place of safety, whenever there is a sustained reason to believe that he may commit further acts of the same kind. And Marcos Aragão Correia does, indeed, seem to constitute a permanent danger to himself and to others.

F. The following actions are considered to be relevant and pertinent to the court being able to make a correct decision in this cause, as well as being apparently necessary for the treatment of arguido Marcos Aragão Correia. These are simple procedures which can be taken without prejudicing the outcome of the trial:

a) The referral by the court of Marcos Aragão Correia for a psychiatric examination, which will evaluate the state of his psychiatric health including any pathological causes that may raise the issue of his lack of capability and the consequent impossibility of convicting him if any offence, and

b) The referral by the court of Marcos Aragão Correia for an examination of the arguido's personality, which may evaluate his psychological characteristics independently of any pathological causes, in order to determine his personality and level of danger he poses to others. This possible danger may be alleviated through regular psychiatric treatment or, as a last resort, committing him for a period to an institution such as a psychiatric hospital.

Thus Your Excellency is requested to integrate the present ADDENDUM and the appended documents with the original file in this case, as well as to put mechanisms

into action, in the sense of ensuring that competent examinations by psychiatric experts as outlined above are carried out.

APPENDED: Addendum and 19 accompanying documents.

Filed by the offended, with the ability to constitute himself in the capacity of an 'Assistant':

GONÇALO AMARAL

### **23. Marcos Aragão Correia interrupts Gonçalo Amaral's birthday party**

On 3 October 2009, Gonçalo Amaral held a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party. All was going well until it was interrupted, late on, by Marcos Aragão Correia. Here is an eyewitness account of this event, published on Joana Morais' blog:

"The party was interrupted between 11.30pm and 12.00 midnight when Marcos Aragão Correia turned up, in the company of the local PSP police patrol. The PSP and Aragão Correia claimed that Aragão Correia had been the victim of attempted assault on him. The eyewitness said:

"The incident occurred after dinner, just outside the restaurant, which was in Portimão's riverfront area. There had been a huge cake, dessert and champagne. The Mayor of Portimão, Manuel da Luz, and a few members of his staff, joined the party. At 11.30pm, there were some fireworks, 'Happy Birthday' was sung to Gonçalo Amaral and champagne bottles were popped. Then, shortly after the fireworks, a car approached and parked opposite the entrance to the restaurant. The party inside was in full swing. Inside the car, looking towards the restaurant, was Marcos Aragão Correia. The lawyer sat in the car with two other occupants, parked in front of the restaurant where the party took place, in Portimão's riverfront area.

"He made sure that his presence was noticed by those partying at the restaurant. At the same time, Marcos Aragão Correia made an obscene gesture to the guests, some of whom were on the street proposing a toast to Mr Amaral after the fireworks. A witness - who was later identified by the Public Security Police (PSP - the Portuguese regional police) - later admitted to having made a threat of some kind to Correia after seeing him make the obscene gesture. After the threat, the lawyer, who was driving the vehicle, took off in a hurry with his tyres screeching. He returned, minutes later, accompanied by a PSP patrol.

The eyewitness continued: "There were police all over the place (PSP, Public Security Police) because Marcos Aragão Correia had called in the police. He claimed he had been threatened and assaulted by several party guests. The whole scene was witnessed by dozens of people, including a reporter from *Correio da Manhã* and the Mayor. It soon became clear to the PSP officers, however, that Aragão Correia had not been assaulted. Once the officers were satisfied about this, they left, about 15 minutes later.

*Correio da Manhã* reported: "At the moment when Gonçalo Amaral and Paulo Pereira Cristóvão approached the PSP officers in the middle of the street, Aragão

Correia fled running. *Correio da Manhã* attempted to contact him yesterday, but he had his mobile 'phone disconnected. Aragão Correia's obscene gestures were perhaps trying to provoke a violent reaction from those attending the birthday party".

#### **24. Marcos Aragão Correia joins a leading pro-McCann blog in the U.K.**

As further evidence of the very close ties between Marcos Aragão Correia and the McCann Team, we need look no further than the fact that he has joined one of the most notorious pro-McCann forums on the Internet, titled: 'Justice4ALLtheMadeleineMcCannfamily'.

It is run by a character known on the Internet as 'Rosiepops'. We say 'notorious' because Rosiepops regularly abuses those who question the McCanns' account of Madeleine being abducted and uses many obvious lies and libels to do so. S/he also claims to be the anonymous author of a book, titled: 'The Madeleine Investigation: Incompetence or Corruption?' which consists prominently of a long rant against Mr Amaral - and against the author of this article for having had the audacity to write the now-banned book: "What Really Happened to Madeleine McCann? - 60 Reasons which suggest she was not abducted". Some of the photographs and documents in Rosiepops' 'Madeleine Investigation' book appear to have come from Mr Aragão Correia himself, quite possibly without the knowledge or permission of the Portuguese police. On Rosiepops' blog, he openly posts in the username: 'Leonor Lawyer'.

In one of his many postings on this site, dated 9 December 2009, he boasted of his having made a commentary on the film 'Bases 5'. The film deals with incidents said to be examples of the 'paranormal', a subject in which, as we have come to see in this article, Marcos Aragão Correia is very interested.

#### **25. Gonçalo Amaral is accused of a breach of confidence by lawyer Isabel Duarte**

Whilst it is not directly relevant to our main subject of the actions and motives of Marcos Aragão Correia, we should just mention here that in addition to all the other moves against Gonçalo Amaral, the McCanns' lawyer in the libel proceedings against him, Isabel Duarte, on 16 March this year submitted an accusation to the Portuguese judicial authorities that Mr Amaral be prosecuted for allegedly breaching the strict code of secrecy relating to criminal investigations. She alleged that Mr Amaral had used confidential Portuguese police papers in the production of his book, apparently forgetting that his book was published only after the Portuguese police released many of their papers in the case in July 2008.

*Correio da Manhã* reported the following day that Gonçalo Amaral had been questioned by the Portuguese Police at Faro regarding the accusation. Isabel Duarte had previously alleged during the hearing of Gonçalo Amaral's application for the ban on his book to be lifted that Amaral had sent a draft of his book 'Maddie: The Truth

About A Lie' to his publishers *Guerra & Paz* before the judicial process in the Madeleine McCann case was archived by the Public Ministry in July 2008.

As a matter of record, the Portuguese Public Ministry prosecutor evaluated the final report of the Portuguese Police on 1 July 2008, with a view to deciding on whether or not to continue the investigation into Madeleine's disappearance. On 21 July the Portuguese Attorney-General announced in a media release that the case had been archived. From that date on, most of the documents in the case were released to the media, and to any other interested person. Gonçalo Amaral's book: 'Maddie, The Truth About A Lie', was released on 24 July 2008.

But the judicial secrecy rules had in any event been modified on 15 September 2007, when amendments were made to Article 86, Paragraph 6 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The effect of those amendments was to withdraw the complete ban on breaching judicial secrecy in all criminal investigations. Instead, decisions as to the secrecy of any particular criminal investigation would now be decided on a case-by-case basis by either the Public Ministry or the 'Instruction Judge' in charge of the investigation of any crime.

## **APPENDIX: The career to date of Marcos Aragão Correia**

Here are the main events so far in the life of Marcos Alexandre Aragão Correia:

**1975** - Born: Madeira.

**2000?** - Aged 25, sets up legal practice in Madeira claiming he 'specialises in human rights' cases.

**2001?** - He sets himself up as head of a 'Human Rights Association', ACED, widely regarded as a self-promotional 'joke' in Portugal, and which has a track record of making outrageous legal claims.

**2004?** - Co-founds right-wing, nationalist, political party, which as yet has little popular support and no MPs or Councillors. That party has taken into membership a number of people with neo-Nazi ideology, some of them who have served prison sentences for their crimes.

**3 May 2007** - Madeleine McCann reported missing.

**5 May 2007** - He now claims that on this day, two days after Madeleine was reported missing, he attended a spiritualist church on Madeira for the first time, and on returning home, sometime before midnight, had a vision in which he learnt that Madeleine had been raped by paedophiles and killed (see also below). NOTE: We do not accept this account as truthful. He had previously claimed that 'underworld sources' had told him about Madeleine having been abducted, raped and killed (see next item)

**6 May 2007** - This is the day Marcos Aragão Correia had previously claimed that his underworld sources told him that Madeleine McCann had been raped and killed and her body thrown into a 'murky lake'. He later admitted that this had been a lie.

**9 May 2007** - He claimed that on this day he told the Portuguese Police what the underworld sources had told him about Madeleine being killed. He says the PJ ignored him.

**21 June 2007** - Aragão Correia organises a release of yellow balloons on Madeira in support of the McCanns' claims that Madeleine had been abducted. This is the first clear sign that he was actively supporting the McCanns' campaign.

**June to November 2007** - There is no information about his actions during this period, except claiming that he sent a recorded delivery letter to the McCanns (see below). Other evidence (see below) suggests that by September 2007, or soon afterwards, he was probably in touch with private detectives from *Método 3*, negotiating a lucrative financial deal with them, on behalf of the McCanns, to (a) arrange searches of the Arade Dam (see below) and (b) to represent child murderer and serial liar Leonor Cipriano in a set of legal proceedings primarily intended to target Gonçalo Amaral.

**2 Oct 2007** - Claims to have sent a Recorded Delivery letter from Madeira to the McCanns in Rothley on that date, allegedly containing details of 'vital clues and evidence' in the case. He also says that he had earlier notified the Polícia Judiciária in Funchal (Madeira) about his concerns but got no reply.

**17 Oct 2007** - Says he was notified that the Recorded Delivery letter never arrived to the McCanns, although allegedly the letter was 'signed for'.

**13 Nov 2007** - Mysteriously sues the Portuguese postal service (the Correios de Portugal - CTT) for allegedly failing to deliver this letter. He told the court that heard his claim: "They are controversial matters, because there is no material proof of them, but I assure you there is a high degree of credibility about them. I am fulfilling my duty as a Portuguese citizen to take my ideas to the right place. I took my ideas to the PJ in Funchal, but since they didn't reply, I took them direct to the McCanns". He says a CTT official falsely reported that the Recorded Delivery letter had been received. The judge dismissed Aragão Correia's claim as unsubstantiated and ordered him to pay court costs of 100 euros (around £80). Source: *Madeira Daily News*, 13 Nov 2007.

**10 Dec 2007** - Says that on this day, he personally visited the Arade Dam with *Método 3* detectives. He says that on the same day, he also told the Portuguese Police about his theory that Madeleine's body was probably lying in the Arade Dam, near the tower by the lake. He said he had reached this conclusion after carefully considering information he said he had received from 'underworld sources', who told him that Madeleine's body was 'in a murky lake, with a beach, near some trees'. Later, when questions were asked about his sources of information and why he hadn't acted sooner, he changed his story to say that he had had a 'supernatural indication' or 'vision' of where Madeleine's body might be (see below).

**Dec 2007 - late Jan 2008** - Said Portuguese Police did ‘nothing’ to act on his ‘information’.

**Jan 2008** - Says that he paid British divers from *Dive Time*, Lagos, Algarve to search one part of the Arade Dam at a cost of at least £1,200 a day. He says he did this out of the goodness of his own heart, but he later conceded that *Método 3* paid him ‘expenses’ [denied by *Método 3*]. He was described in sections of the British press as ‘a Good Samaritan’ for apparently funding these searches out of his own pocket. The media were conveniently on hand to record the discovery of a 17-foot length of cord, which he said ‘could have been used to tie up Madeleine’. At the same time the head of the Portuguese Police publicly stated that in his opinion the McCanns were made arguidos ‘hastily’ by Gonçalo Amaral and his colleagues.

**Mar 2008** - Further search of the dam, this time managing to find ‘two black plastic bags of bones’ in the lake. Once again, media were on hand to take photos of *Dive Time* divers, bags of bones etc. - there were lots of pictures of divers in black wet-suits in British media. Aragão Correia says he is ‘99% certain that Madeleine’s body will be found here’ in the Arade Dam.

These stories served a number of purposes, including:

- (a) promoting the claim by the head of the Portuguese police that they had acted ‘hastily’ in making Dr Gerald and Dr Kate McCann suspects
- (b) promoting the notion that the Portuguese police had been incompetent by (allegedly) deliberately ignoring the vital evidence of Mr Aragão Correia’s underworld sources that Madeleine had been killed and her body dumped at the bottom of a murky lake
- (c) re-opening the possibility that Madeleine’s body being dumped in the Arade Dam tied in with the suspicious sighting of a woman transferring a young child to another car in the Silves area, the woman being said to look like Michaela Walczuch, Robert Murat’s girlfriend
- (d) promoting the view that Dr Gerald and Kate McCann were not responsible for what happened to Madeleine. Aragão Correia said: “I don’t believe Kate and Gerry did it. It could have been a single madman or a gang”.

The McCann Team were buoyant about the news of the Arade Dam searches and the comment by the head of the PJ that perhaps the PJ had been ‘too hasty’ in making the McCanns ‘arguidos’ - see below:

QUOTE: “Kate and Gerry believe it could be a key step in clearing their name. They think it could be a breakthrough. A friend revealed: ‘They’re not punching the air as they know there’s still a long way to go, but it’s a step in the right direction’.”

QUOTE FROM the *Daily Mail* 5 Feb 2008: “It’s fantastic news”.

QUOTE from the McCanns’ chief public relations spokesman: “There was no air of celebration, but it’s the sort of thing we have been waiting for”.

**Mar - October 2008** - Silence from Aragão Correia, apart from, in the background...

**8 April 2008** - Visits Leonor Cipriano in Odemira Prison and has discussions with the Prison Governor there.

**October 2008** - Dramatically pops up in court to replace the lawyer representing the serial liar and murderess of her own daughter, Leonor Cipriano, currently serving a 16-year jail term for murder, in her claim that a confession was beaten out of her by Gonçalo Amaral and his four detectives. The original claim against Mr Amaral had been made in 2006 by other lawyers but was now, suddenly, being handled by Marcos Aragão Correia.

**November 2008** - Admits to a proposed deal to ‘crucify Gonçalo Amaral’, He tells the lawyer representing the four detectives accused together with Gonçalo Amaral that his detectives will only get suspended sentences for a more minor offence if they give evidence against Gonçalo Amaral and state that it was he who ordered the torture and that he was there when it happened.

**November 2008** - Calls defence lawyer for Gonçalo Amaral, Mr Cabrita, a ‘goat’ in the court room [‘cabrita’ is also the Portuguese word for goat].

**21 January 2009** - Suspended as a lawyer/barrister by the Madeira Bar Association [*Madeira Lawyers’ Order*] and thrown out of court by the trial judge in the case against Mr Amaral based on Ms Cipriano’s allegations. He was later allowed to continue representing Ms Cipriano.

**22 May 2009** - Wins the case against Gonçalo Amaral, at which Mr Amaral gets an 18-month suspended jail sentence for allegedly filing a false report. Says triumphantly: “Gonçalo Amaral has been convicted. The target has been hit”.

**8 June 2009** - Brings new proceedings against Gonçalo Amaral on behalf of Leonor Cipriano, claiming once more that Amaral’s men had tortured her.

**July 2009** - Brings further new proceedings against Gonçalo Amaral, this time on behalf of Leonor Cipriano’s former partner, António Leandro David da Silva. He also alleged that he had been assaulted by Amaral’s men.

**3 October 2009** - Tries to sabotage Gonçalo Amaral’s birthday party by driving up outside the restaurant where the party was being held, making a provocative obscene gesture, and then fabricating to the Public Ministry Police claiming that he had been assaulted.

<p><b>SOURCES:</b> This essay has been compiled from many sources, including Court documents, translations of them, newspaper reports and a variety of Internet sources. It is intended to publish a full list of the sources used in compiling this article at a later date.</p>
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Report compiled by Tony Bennett for The Madeleine Foundation, 7 April 2010

