



OL GROUPE

NILMAR TRANSFER: AGREEMENT WITH THE CORINTHIANS

Lyon, December 14, 2007.

Jean-Michel Aulas, Chairman and CEO of the OL Groupe, met Andrés N. Sanchez, the new President of the Corinthians, in order to end the financial dispute relating to Nilmar, a player transferred in July 2006. During this meeting a settlement protocol was signed, to bring to a final close what over the months has become known as the "Nilmar affair".

For the record, the Court of Arbitration of Sport confirmed, on appeal, FIFA's decision of 16 January 2007 relating to the dispute between Olympique Lyonnais and the Corinthians over the transfer of the player Honorato Da Silva Nilmar, therefore requiring the Corinthians to pay the balance of the transfer fee as well as arrears interest.

The new President of the Corinthians, Andrés N. Sanchez, who was appointed on 10 October 2007, immediately displayed a willingness to bring an end to this dispute by proposing a payment schedule for the outstanding amount, increased by arrears interest, and various fees and expenses of the proceedings, for a total of €6.5 million.

During the signature of this protocol, Jean-Michel Aulas emphasised that: *"The priority of Corinthians was to resolve all outstanding problems, including one of the main ones relating to the transfer of the player Nilmar. Therefore, I am very pleased that we have finalised this agreement with people who have conducted themselves honourably and have been very precise and clear in their approach. Above all, this enables a solution to be arrived at that is beneficial to each club after two years of drama."*

OL's relations and links with Brazil will not suffer from this issue, with Jean-Michel Aulas stating that *"Upon conclusion of this dispute, we have promised to visit the Corinthians to play a game in their stadium to ensure that historic friendly relations return to normal"*.

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