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iNADO Denounces Criminal Release of Private Athlete Information

The release of private athlete information is a new low in efforts to undermine clean sport. The Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO) condemns it in the strongest terms. Joseph de Pencier, iNADO CEO, said: “The criminal cyber-attacks on the World Anti-Doping Agency and release of private medical information are despicable: using athletes and their personal data in an attempt to destabilise anti-doping and weaken clean sport is beyond criticism. We stand behind WADA. We appreciate WADA’s swift response. We echo its call to Russian authorities to take all necessary measures to find the perpetrators and to prevent more criminal acts of the same sort.”

Ironically, these releases illustrate anti-doping as it is meant to work: permitting athletes to use the medications they legitimately require through the therapeutic use exemption process. That process involves rigorous medical review according to an international standard, and independent oversight by WADA. The anti-doping community has nothing to hide and is proud to show how it serves clean athletes in this way. But that does not diminish the seriousness of cyber-crime that discloses personal and private medical information of individual athletes.

iNADO urges its 59 Members National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) to continue consulting their IT service providers as a matter of urgency and to take additional steps to enhance their IT security. We also urge our Members to reach out to their athletes and explain to them what has happened, and what has not, and talk to them about the steps needed in their countries to deal with such malicious and misguided abuse of clean athletes. Finally, we suggest our Members consult with their national data and privacy protection authorities for assistance in dealing with such illegal behaviour.

iNADO is the international member association of NADOs. NADOs have the sole and unequivocal mandate to protect clean athletes, without conflicting responsibilities such as promoting sport. iNADO's 59 Members represent all Olympic Regions and conduct the majority of anti-doping work world-wide each year.

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iNADO is the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations. It promotes best practices by NADOs and RADOs, and is their international voice.