

2016 March 13

Russian Whistleblowers appear at iNADO Anti-Doping Conference

Whistleblowers Vitaly and Yuliya Stepanov today made their first public appearance since being forced into hiding after revealing the depth of doping in Russian athletics.

The Stepanovs were guests of the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO) at its annual conference in Lausanne and delegates heard why they felt the need to tell all and the effect that has had on their lives. In spite of the difficulties they are now facing, they encouraged others with knowledge about doping in sport to come forward.

The couple and their young son were forced to leave Russia after Vitaly and Yuliya gave evidence in a documentary for German television. They have been in hiding ever since.

Joseph de Pencier, chief executive of iNADO said, "Yuliya and Vitaly have shown extraordinary courage in telling the world what has been going on in Russia. Anti-doping organisations from around the world and clean athletes owe them a great debt. iNADO has reached out to them because our Members want to and need to learn from them. We also need to encourage and protect whistleblowers. Today's presentation from Yuliya and Vitaly confirms iNADO's view that Russian athletics should not take part in the Rio Olympics."

The information the Stepanovs gave led to the World Anti-Doping Agency setting up an Independent Commission. The commission's report in November 2015 resulted in the suspension of the Russian athletics federation and the removal of the accreditation for the Moscow laboratory and the Russian anti-doping agency.

About iNADO

The Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations is the member association of, currently, 56 National Anti-Doping Organisations. With the vision of 'Clean Sport Together', the Institute promotes best practices among its members and is their collective international voice. www.inado.org

Joseph de Pencier can be contacted on +49 175 8296704

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