



## “Sigilo Profissional em Risco”

### A book about attacks on journalists’ sources all over the world

What do journalists like Judith Miller, Mathew Cooper, Jeff Gerth, James Risen, Robert Drogin, Pierre Thomas, Walter Pincus, Jim Taricani (USA), Ken Peters (Canada), Douglas de Coninck and Marc Vendermeir (Belgium), Tamrat Serbesa, Andualem Ayle and Tesfa Tegen (Ethiopia), Barry O’Kelly (Ireland), Vladimir Antonio Jara (Paraguay), Alex Thomson and Lena Ferguson (UK) or Manso Preto (Portugal) have in common?

All of them were told to reveal their confidential sources in court, and their denial to do so got to be punished with probation verdicts (like Manso Preto) or with effective jail time for contempt of court (like Judith Miller).

The book “Sigilo Profissional em Risco – Análise dos Casos de Manso Preto e de Outros Jornalistas no Banco dos Réus” (*Reporters’ Privilege at Stake – Analysis of the cases of Manso Preto and of other Journalists as Defendants*), written by Portuguese journalist Helena de Sousa Freitas, starts with an example from Portugal and later broadens up its scope to analyse how the confidentiality of journalistic sources has been put at risk all over the world.

Besides the summoning of journalists to court, the attacks on the sources are also apparent in actions such as postal interception, phone tapping or newsroom raids, which happened in dozens of media outlets all over the world between 2002 and 2005.

To cover this four year period, the study relies on news articles that were published in Portugal, most of them based on information gathered by press freedom organizations like the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) or The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP).

### The rights of bloggers

Besides the juridical and deontological approach to the protection of journalistic sources, this book focuses on one other question: do bloggers share the same rights as journalists as to what keeping anonymous their sources of information is concerned?

Focusing mainly on the controversial *Apple vs. Does* case, the chapter on the blogosphere also refers to sites like Le Blondy Blog (Switzerland), OhmyNews (South Korea) or Back to Iraq (USA), analysing the pros and cons of extending to bloggers and site editors the reporters’ privilege to protect sources.

Blogging ethics and codes of conduct like the ones proposed by Jonathan Dube, Rebecca Blood or Martin Kuhn are also discussed in this final chapter, which intends to further open the debate around this exciting issue.

#### Further inquiries:

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## The book and the author

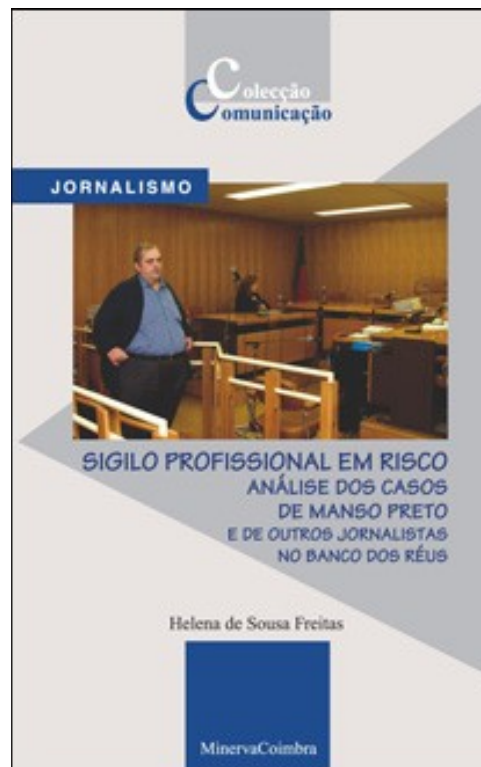
The book, published in Portugal by MinervaCoimbra, the leading publishing house of books about the media, will be presented at the Fnac Chiado, in Lisbon, on November 16th, with the presence of Manso Preto, the journalist who refused in 2002 to reveal his sources for an article on drug traffic. For that he was sentenced to 11 months in jail on probation, a verdict overturned many months later on appeal.

The foreword of this essay was written by Jorge Reis Novais, teacher at the Lisbon University School of Law and former juridical advisor to Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio. The book also includes two previously unpublished interviews with Manso Preto, one after the verdict and another following his acquittal.

“Sigilo Profissional em Risco – Análise dos Casos de Manso Preto e de Outros Jornalistas no Banco dos Réus” is Helena de Sousa Freitas’ second essay, following her debut in 2002 with “Jornalismo e Literatura: Inimigos ou Amantes?” (*Journalism and Literature: Enemies or Lovers?*), which is recommended reading in several Portuguese and Brazilian universities.

Journalist at Lusa, Portugal’s top news agency, since 1998, the author is also a fiction writer of short stories and poetry. Her works have been published in several anthologies in Portugal, Brazil and Chile (in Spanish), as well as in about fifty websites from Portugal, Angola, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the United States.

Please visit the website [www.sigiloprofissional.com](http://www.sigiloprofissional.com) for high resolution images and more information about the subject, the book and the author.



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