

# Five footballers from east London who quit UK to transfer to ISIS in Syria linked to Jihadi John

*From the [Sunday Times](#) and [Expresso](#) newspaper in Lisbon.*

Celso Rodrigues da Costa, 28, is believed to have had training sessions with Arsenal – but was not offered a contract by the club. Last April, he was seen in an ISIS video shot on the banks of the Euphrates in Syria with an AK-47 in hand. In the clip, he slammed the West and denounced school teachers as ‘drug dealers and paedophiles’.

Celso is thought to have followed his older brother, Edgar, to Syria in 2012. His 31-year-old sibling, who studied management and accounting in Portugal before emigrating to London, is thought to leading a band of foreign militants in Aleppo.

The fifth member of the cell, a 26-year-old former Catholic known as Sandro, was the last to travel to Syria and was reportedly killed last October in a coalition airstrike.