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ABOUT US

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AN OVERVIEW OF ORGANIZATION **AND FUNCTIONS OF INTERPOL** **AS AN INTERNATIONAL LAW** **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

AUTHORED BY - DR. SAMBEETA DABRAL

ABSTRACT

INTERPOL is one of the largest international organization which is involved in the matters of transnational policing and international police co-operation, to curb and control criminal activities around the world. It possesses high degree of power with minimum accountability. As per Sheptycki, INTERPOL is a 'transnational organization which is much mythologized and little understood.'¹ Among the public, there are misconceptions about the legal status, power, role, membership, etc. of INTERPOL. The INTERPOL was initially recognised as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) but after the second world war, it was controlled by the Nazi authorities. After the war got over, this organization was reformed and later came to be known as International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL). Since then, several changes have been introduced but the organization remains as an international body without a constitutive treaty. This paper provides a clear picture about what exactly is INTERPOL, its legal power and status across the world, its structure, organization, membership, functions, modus operandi and the role it plays globally in aiding in crime detection and prevention.

Keywords: ICPO-INTERPOL, International organization, National Central Bureaus, Instruments of INTERPOL, I-24/7

¹ Sheptycki, James. 2017b. Transnational Organization, Transnational Law and the Ambiguity of Interpol in a World Ruled with Law. Brill Research Perspectives in Transnational Crime 2–3: 65–86

INTRODUCTION

The 20th century witnessed the onset of globalization phenomenon in business, trade, transportation, banking, communication, traveling and it revolutionized the total array of human existence and its activities. The criminals adopted this movement more easily, eagerly and effectively than the common man. The birth of transnational criminal activity and international criminals was crystallized. Not that such criminals were not existing earlier but what made the difference was the possibility of wide area networking and unbelievable pace of mobility. The result is that the States bound by logistical, legal and sovereignty limitations have been left far behind in controlling, preventing and nabbing such criminals in the absence of co-operation from international agencies.

We are all aware that since last couple of decades, number of accused of Mumbai bomb blast and other cases left the country and our investigating agencies made hectic efforts to nab them. Also, accused in Rajeev Gandhi blast/assassination case, the extortion operation accused belonging to Mumbai mafia, U.P mafia, Gujarat mafia, etc. have made their operational headquarter in Dubai, Abu-Dhabi, Bangkok, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan, Nepal and several other European countries but they are to be brought and tried in Indian courts for the offences committed by them in India. Similarly the accused in bank scams, dowry harassment cases, fake-currency cases, criminal cases, have absconded abroad and the government took efforts to bring them back and subject them to the process of law and trial and bring the cases to the logical end.

WHAT IS INTERPOL?

INTERPOL is an official International police co-operation organization solely and permanently responsible to ensure day-to-day International police co-operation. INTERPOL (or International Criminal Police Organization) was created in [1923](#) to assist the member countries by international criminal police co-operation. INTERPOL, once merely the organizations telegraphic address was officially incorporated into the organization's new name adopted in [1956](#), prior to which it was known as the International Criminal Police Commission. Now it is known as 'ICPO-INTERPOL'² INTERPOL is the world's second largest [international organization](#), after the [United Nations](#); it currently has 195 member countries. It is financed by annual contributions of its member

² Official Website of INTERPOL, [http://www.INTERPOL.int/INTERPOL's distinctive signs.htm](http://www.INTERPOL.int/INTERPOL's%20distinctive%20signs.htm)

countries. As per the Annual Report of INTERPOL, 2021 the total income generated in 2021 was 137 million Eur, where 62 million Eur was the statutory contribution made by its member countries. The top donors in 2021 were United States of America, Germany, Canada, United Kingdom. The Organization is headquartered in [Lyon, France](#) after moving from [Saint Cloud](#), a town located in the vicinity of [Paris](#). The currently serving president of INTERPOL is Ahmed Naser Al Raisi of the United Arab Emirates. The current Secretary General is Jurgen Stock of Germany who was appointed by the 83rd General Assembly session in Monaco in November 2014. He was reappointed in 2019 to serve a second five-year term by the 88th General Assembly in Chile.

Because of the politically neutral role INTERPOL must play, its Constitution forbids any involvement in crimes that do not overlap several member countries, or any political, military, religious, or racial crimes. Its work focuses primarily on public safety and [terrorism](#), [organized crime](#), [illicit drug production](#) and [drug trafficking](#), [weapons smuggling](#), [trafficking in human beings](#), [money laundering](#), [child pornography](#), financial and high-tech crime, and [corruption](#).

In October [2001](#), the INTERPOL General Secretariat employed a staff of 384, representing 54 different countries. That same month, INTERPOL began to change from a 9 to 5 agency to a 24-hour agency. In [2001](#), some 1,400 people were arrested or located as a result of INTERPOL notices.

HISTORY OF INTERPOL

INTERPOL was founded in [Austria](#) in [1923](#) as the International Criminal Police Commission. The organization came under control of [Nazi Germany](#) when Germany declared the [Anschluss](#) (political union between Germany and Austria). The staff and facilities of INTERPOL were utilized as an information gathering unit for the [Gestapo](#), until the Nazi regime fell to [Allied forces](#). Senior military officials from [Belgium](#), [France](#), [Scandinavia](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) reorganized INTERPOL into today's organization.³

³ Official Website of INTERPOL, <http://www.INTERPOL.int/History.htm>

The Emblem:

The emblem, in use since 1950, comprises the following elements:



- a) A representation of the globe to indicate that INTERPOL's activities are worldwide
- b) Olive branches either side of the globe to symbolize peace
- c) The name 'INTERPOL' below the globe in the centre of the olive branches
- d) A vertical sword behind the globe, representing police action
- e) The abbreviations 'OIPC' and 'ICPO' above the globe either side of the sword
- f) The scales below the olive branches symbolize justice

METHODOLOGY

Each member country maintains a [National Central Bureau](#) (NCB) staffed by national [law enforcement](#) officers. The NCB is the designated contact point for the INTERPOL General Secretariat, regional bureaus and other member countries requiring assistance with overseas investigations and the location and apprehension of fugitives. This is especially important in countries which have many law-enforcement agencies; this central bureau is a unique point of contact for foreign entities, which may not understand the complexity of the law-enforcement system of the country they attempt to contact. For instance, the NCB for the [United States of America](#) is housed at the [United States Department of Justice](#) (DOJ). The NCB will then ensure the proper transmission of information to the correct agency.

INTERPOL maintains a large database charting unsolved crimes and both convicted and alleged criminals. At any time, a member nation has access to specific sections of the database and its police forces are encouraged to check information held by INTERPOL whenever a major crime is committed. The rationale behind this is that [drugs traffickers](#) and similar criminals have international ties, and so it is likely that crimes will extend beyond political boundaries.

Since [2002](#), INTERPOL has also been maintaining a database of lost and stolen identification and travel documents allowing member countries to validate whether a document issued by another

country has been invalidated by the issuing authority due to its being reported missing or stolen. Passport fraud for example is often committed by altering a stolen passport, thus several countries are working on integrating online queries to this database into their standard border control procedures to help identify fraudulent passports from foreign countries when those passports are presented to immigration officials at airports and border checkpoints. As of early 2006, the database contained over ten million identification items reported lost or stolen and is expected to grow even more as more countries join the list of those reporting into the database.

A member nation's police force can contact one or more member nations by sending a message relayed through INTERPOL. Contrary to what has been featured in some works of fiction, INTERPOL officers do not directly conduct inquiries in member countries.

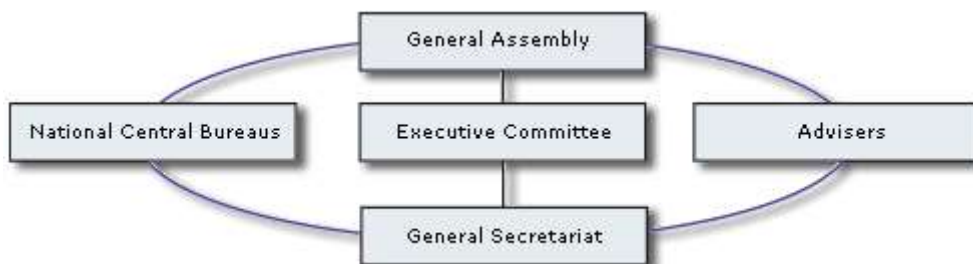
The INTERPOL aims to facilitate International police co-operation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries. Action is taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [INTERPOL's constitution](#) prohibits 'any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.

NEED FOR INTERPOL

As we all know that each country in the world has a power of sovereignty over its territory and any person present in its territory enjoys the fruits of sovereignty according to his legal status. In every country, there are two types of people, firstly its own citizens (as per the law of citizenship) and secondly those who have temporarily been permitted to stay in that country. Such temporary citizens also enjoy some territorial rights and it is not easy to get them. Therefore, INTERPOL acts as a co-coordinating agency between the countries to secure the guilty person and help the course of law to justice.⁴

⁴ Sri Vinay Ranjan Ray I.P.S. at http://www.cidap.gov.in/documents/INTERPOL_1.pdf

STRUCTURE OF INTERPOL



As defined in [Article 5](#) of its Constitution, INTERPOL (whose correct full name is 'The International Criminal Police Organization – INTERPOL') comprises the following:

1. General Assembly
2. Executive Committee
3. General Secretariat
4. National Central Bureaus
5. Advisers

1. General Assembly: The General Assembly (GA) is the supreme governing body of INTERPOL. It formulates general policies and takes all decisions regarding resources needed for international cooperation, working methods, finances and program of activities. The GA meets only once a year.

2. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee (EC) consisting of 13 members elected by member countries in GA ensures that GA decisions are implemented. It supervises the management of the General Secretariat.

3. General Secretariat: The General Secretariat (GS) is the permanent administrative and technical body through which INTERPOL operates. GS is located in Lyon, France; the General Secretariat operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is run by the Secretary General. Officials from more than 80 countries work side-by-side in any of the organization's four official languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The Secretariat has six regional offices, and a liaison office at the United Nations in New York. The GS performs following tasks, which are useful for our purposes:

- (a) It directs and co-ordinates actions designed to combat International crimes.
- (b) It centralizes information on crime and Criminals.
- (c) It maintains contact with national and International authorities.

4. National Central Bureaus (NCB): Each INTERPOL member country maintains a National Central Bureau staffed by national law enforcement officers. The NCB is the designated contact point for the General Secretariat, regional offices and other member countries requiring assistance with overseas investigations and the location and apprehension of fugitives. Thus, The NCBs are national bodies, which are responsible for liaison between the member countries and with the General Secretariat. In India CBI is designated as NCB.

5. Advisers: these are experts in a purely advisory capacity who may be appointed by the Executive Committee and confirmed by the General Assembly.⁵

INTERPOL LIAISON OFFICERS (ILOs)

The NCB-CBI has asked the Home Department of each State in India to earmark a small Cell in particular police organization exclusively to deal with matters related to INTERPOL. In each State, normally the Crime Investigation Department has been asked to create the INTERPOL Cell and nominate an officer in the rank of S.P/D.I.G/I.G.P to co-ordinate the matters of INTERPOL interest between the State and the NCB. Therefore, the channel of communication to be followed is:

1. State C.I.D
2. N.C.B: C.B.I
3. INTERPOL
4. Local Police Units

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERPOL

INTERPOL has primarily taken responsibility in three areas, in directing and co-coordinating the actions designed to combat International crimes. They are-

1. Locating a fugitive wanted criminals if he has left the country;
2. Locating missing persons, property, unidentified dead bodies etc.;
3. Getting him back to the country where he is wanted for investigation and trial.⁶

⁵ Official Website of INTERPOL, [http://www.INTERPOL.int/About INTERPOL.htm](http://www.INTERPOL.int/About%20INTERPOL.htm)

⁶ Supra note 3

INSTRUMENTS OF INTERPOL

International notices are the main instruments of International police co-operation. These notices are usually published by the General Secretariat of the ICPO-INTERPOL at the request of a National Central Bureau. The General Secretariat may however, publish blue or green notices on its own initiative. After publication, these notices are circulated to all the NCBs. The purpose of these notices is to supply to the police services of member countries, through their NCBs, certain information about persons or objects. The different types of notices and their objectives are:

- **Red Notice**

To seek the arrest or provisional arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition.

- **Yellow Notice**

To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.

- **Blue Notice**

To collect additional information about a person's identity or activities in relation to a crime.

- **Black**

To seek information on unidentified bodies.

Notice

- **Green**

To provide warnings and Criminal intelligence about persons who have committed Criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.

Notice

- **Orange Notice**

To warn police, public entities and other International organizations about potential threats from disguised weapons, parcel bombs and other dangerous materials.

- **INTERPOL - United Nations Special Notice**

Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN sanctions against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Another useful tool in the apprehension of fugitives is the 'diffusion', a wanted person's message sent by NCBs through I-24/7. Unlike the more formal notice, diffusion can be sent immediately by an NCB to some or all INTERPOL member countries. For all these notices, there is a fixed proforma, designed and prescribed by INTERPOL. If the notices are sent in this Proforma, then

only it will be accepted and further disseminated to other member countries through their co-ordinating agencies. Let us know more about some of these notices and their applicability:⁷

A SERIES – RED CORNER NOTICES (RCS)

These notices are also known as ‘wanted notices’ for the offenders are wanted at the international level. The publication of A Series notice should only be requested if all the following conditions are fulfilled-

1. The person against whom the notice is to be published has committed an offence under ordinary criminal law.
2. The offence is an ‘extraditable offence’ under the Indian Extradition Act, 1962.
3. A warrant of arrest has been issued for his/her arrest.
4. Extradition will be requested on his apprehension.

If any of these conditions are not satisfied, a B Series Notice should probably be requested.

If a person whether an Indian or a foreigner has committed an offence in India and is subsequently believed to have absconded to a foreign Country, a request can be made by the concerned police authorities etc. to the INTERPOL Wing of the CBI for publication of an ‘A’ series (red) notice against that person provided all the conditions are satisfied. At the time of making such a request, effort should be taken to furnish maximum information as mentioned under-

- a) Complete personal particular of the person wanted i.e. full name, date and place of birth, parentage, family status, name of spouse, occupation, nationality, complete passport details, aliases and nicknames, address/ addresses, etc.;
- b) Descriptive particulars i.e. height, color of eyes, color of hair, beard, forehead, nose, chin, ears, face (shape), distinguishing identification marks (tattoos, scars, amputations, etc.);
- c) Three copies of photograph and fingerprints. Since photograph and fingerprints cannot be reproduced satisfactorily unless they are of high resolution, original photograph and fingerprints should be sent wherever possible. These can be returned on request;
- d) Languages spoken;
- e) Previous convictions, if any;
- f) A short account of the circumstances of the case in which he/she is wanted including full details of the charge(s);
- g) The name of the court that issued the warrant, date and number of the warrant of arrest;

⁷ Official Website of INTERPOL, <http://www.INTERPOL.int/Notices.htm>

h) An assurance that extradition will be requested (if arrested anywhere in the world or at least in certain countries);

i) The names of the countries from which extradition will be requested.

If the wanted person is found and/or arrested in India or if the extradition has taken place, the INTERPOL Wing should be immediately informed so that the General Secretariat can be requested to publish a cancellation notice, if the person is no longer wanted by the judicial authorities.

B SERIES - BLUE NOTICES

B Series notices are also called 'Enquiry Notices' and may be issued in order to have some one identified, verified or obtain particulars of a person's criminal record or locate some identified or unidentified international criminal, whose extradition may be requested. If it is considered necessary to make a request for publication of a 'B' series (blue) notice against any person for any of the reasons mentioned above, the requesting authorities should furnish the detailed information. If the notice is required to be published in respect of a missing person, the detailed account of disappearance of that person should also be mentioned. Once the notice is considered to be no longer valid, INTERPOL Wing, CBI should be notified for issue of a cancellation notice.

C SERIES - GREEN NOTICES

The purpose of C Series notice is to give information about persons who have committed or are likely to commit offences affecting countries. This notice is sent to member countries to verify whether such offenders are present in their territory. For INTERPOL purposes, an international criminal is some one who is known in his country as a habitual offender and operating in different countries or operating in at least two other countries. So, the request for publication of a C Series notice should be made only about important international criminals and not about any other criminal. The degree of gravity of their convictions and the nature of offences committed by them should be assessed. It should also be considered whether the criminal is or may be a member of a gang of international criminals. Green notices are not cancelled except in special circumstances or when the person concerned dies.

D SERIES - BLACK NOTICES

The D Series notices are used to circulate information about unidentified dead bodies or deceased persons who were probably using false identities and are not identifiable with available records.

A request for D Series notices must be accompanied with-

1. Three copies of photographs of the entire body;
2. If possible, finger prints;
3. Date, Place and circumstances of recovery of the body;
4. Description of distinguishing features such as tattoos, dental chart etc.;
5. Description of clothes, objects worn or carried by the victim.

If the deceased person is identified or if the identification is no longer necessary, cancellation of the notice should be requested.

E SERIES - STOLEN PROPERTY NOTICES

These notices are published with a view to circulate information about the stolen properties or about objects found in circumstances, which suggest that these may have been acquired illegally. Such objects may include cultural properties such as – Idols, antiquities, paintings etc. Publication of this notice be requested only if the stolen property has considerable cultural or commercial value and it can be satisfactorily identified from a description or a photograph or identification number or identification markings. The request must contain maximum of the following information-

1. Date and place (address) of theft;
2. Place of theft: (museum, temple, church, palace, private house, art gallery, etc.);
3. Type of security system protecting the building and the stolen object. Was the system rendered inoperative by the thief?;
4. Modus operandi (during the day, at night, by climbing, by using duplicate keys, by breaking and entering, by using violence or weapons, theft by trickery or using forged documents, etc.);
5. Other information concerning the case including any information which may assist in identifying the offenders;
6. Nature of the stolen object (painting, sculpture, drawing, statue, engraving, gold/silver objects, books and manuscript, etc.);

7. Detailed and accurate description of the object. Any diagram or photograph and particulars of the dimensions of the stolen object should be sent so that the information contained in the notice may be as comprehensive as possible;

As soon as a stolen object is recovered, the fact of recovery should be reported so that the General Secretariat of the ICPO-INTERPOL can be asked to cancel the relevant notice or portion of a notice.

F SERIES - YELLOW NOTICE

This notice is used to identify missing persons who are supposedly alive, but they are unable to identify herself/himself. It means that persons who are to be located through this notice are either insane or in all likelihood might have lost their memory. In this circumstance, it becomes very essential to furnish as much information as prescribed in the Proforma to avoid any kind of mis-identification.

G SERIES - MODUS OPERANDI SHEETS

This is a notice which is circulated by IPOL from compiled data from various countries. The purpose of modus operandi notices is to notify the NCBs and through them, their police forces and law enforcement agencies, of certain modus operandi procedures and hiding places used by criminals and to centralize information at the General Secretariat about similar methods used in different parts of the world and then circulate this information to the NCBs. The police departments and other law enforcement agencies should inform the INTERPOL Wing of any interesting methods used by criminals that comes to their notice during their investigations. The modus operandi should be completely described and photographs should be sent if they are useful. A copy of each notice prototype is available at INTERPOL Global Communications System 24/7 installed at INTERPOL Wing, CBI.⁸

INTERPOL - UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICES

In 2005, upon the request of the United Nations Security Council, an INTERPOL-United Nations Special Notice was created to support the United Nations Security Council in the fight against

⁸ Official Website of CBI (INTERPOL India) at http://cbi.nic.in/INTERPOL/INTERPOL_NOTICES.htm

terrorism. The Security Council adopted several resolutions relating to this fight; [1267](#) (1999), [1333](#) (2000), [1390](#) (2002) and [1455](#) (2003).

The [United Nations Security Council](#) requested through the adoption of [Resolution 1617](#) on 29 July 2005 that the United Nations Secretary General take the necessary steps to increase co-operation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide the Committee established pursuant to [Resolution 1267](#) (1999) with better tools to fulfill its mandate more effectively.

The General Assembly of INTERPOL welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 1617 through the passage of Resolution [AG-2005-RES-05](#) and approved that INTERPOL's General Secretariat devise ways to increase co-operation with the United Nations in the fight against terrorist acts by Al Qaeda and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and that for that purpose the INTERPOL General Secretariat created a special notice.

The INTERPOL-United Nations Special Notice is issued for groups and individuals associated with Al Qaeda and the Taliban listed by the 1267 Committee's ([1267's Committee list](#)) of the United Nations Security Council and subject to sanctions through the freezing of assets, travel bans and arms embargoes. It has two functions. First, it alerts law enforcement officers at the operational level of those who are the subject of UN's anti-terrorism sanctions. Second, it constitutes a request to each law enforcement authority to co-operate with INTERPOL and the UN by undertaking the actions specified in the notice against the person concerned. Details of individuals on the UN Al Qaeda/Taliban Committee list and subject to anti-terrorism sanctions will be circulated to police around the globe via the new notice.

If any member of the public has any information about any groups or individuals who are the objects of the INTERPOL-United Nations Special Notice, they should not contact the General Secretariat directly but contact the police in the place where the individual or the group has been located or identified. This notice shall not be used to be prejudicial to the fundamental rights of the individuals and the rights of the groups. Any unauthorized alteration of any portion of INTERPOL-United Nations Special Notice is considered as a violation and subject to legal prosecution.⁹

⁹ Official Website of INTERPOL, <http://www.INTERPOL.int/INTERPOL - United Nations special Notices.htm>

CASES:

Purulia Case: Peter bleach ready to return to India

British arms dealer Peter Bleach, who spent eight years in a Kolkata jail in the Purulia arms dropping case, has said he was willing to go back to India to give evidence against the ringleader in the case, Kim Davy.

He told the Yorkshire Post: "All I know is that Kim Davy was the one who wanted the arms. The whole point was to find out who he wanted them for which is why I phoned the British government."

Following an agreement between India and Denmark on extradition terms, Kim Davy would be tried in India, but serve any jail sentence back in Denmark. Bleach, now 56, was arrested at Bombay Airport in 1995 over an attempt to parachute an arsenal of weapons in Purulia. He was jailed for life on gun-running charges along with the Latvian crew of his Russian Antonov transport aircraft but was pardoned in 2004. It followed a long running campaign for his release after confidential documents were released in media proving Bleach had tipped off the UK government about the drop and had even been interviewed about it before hand by Special Branch Officers at Scarborough Police station.

The Central Bureau of Investigation traced Kim Davy, who Bleach alleged was the front-man for the arms buyers, to Denmark six years ago. He was made a proclaimed offender by the Indian courts, allowing them to seize his assets and was also the subject of an INTERPOL alert, stating he should be arrested on sight.

But extradition has been delayed by the failure to agree on terms, particularly to allow him to serve any sentence in a Danish jail. India announced that Denmark was shortly to be informed that all the eight conditions set for the extradition of Kim Davy had been accepted.¹⁰

Nitish Katara case: Bharti Yadav to appear before Court on November 25, 2006

Bharti Yadav, one of the prime witnesses in the 2001 Nitish Katara murder case, on informed a trial court that she will appear before it on November 25 and depose. Earlier, a Delhi Court had granted her more time to appear before it. Bharti has been avoiding her deposition on one ground

¹⁰https://www.hindustantimes.com/india/bharti-yadav-returns-finally/story_SyiSOeB56pbpIRM8Q5E6XO.html

or the other for several months. Additional Sessions Judge Ravinder Kaur had directed Bharti in July to appear before her court by September 28, failing which she might be declared a proclaimed offender.

On September 22, Bharti's plea to depose before a court through video conferencing was dismissed by the Supreme Court. In her petition filed before the apex court in July, Bharti had expressed her desire to depose before a trial court through video conference. Prior to that request, a proclamation notice had been issued against Bharti by a trial court in July. A Red-Corner notice was also sent to INTERPOL to trace her whereabouts in Britain after she did not respond to the non-bailable warrants issued against her.

Bharti had sent a fax from London, where she is supposedly staying since July 2003, to the Patiala House Court on July 22, in which she expressed her willingness to issue a statement as evidence through a video conference. The case has been pending since then.¹¹

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS

Co-operation agreements with other international organizations

INTERPOL has established strong relationships with a wide variety of international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations acting in different fields of interest of the organization. In order to provide a clear legal basis for working together, INTERPOL has concluded a number of co-operation agreements with these day-to-day partners.

Police co-operation agreements

The development of a model police co-operation agreement is a concept which has quite naturally gained ground within INTERPOL. Indeed, it seems obvious that the Organization should provide its member countries with the legal tools they need to facilitate co-operation they initiate bilaterally. A model agreement has therefore been compiled on the basis of numerous studies, which reflects a wealth of experience in international police co-operation. In adopting this instrument, in particular for those member States which have not yet developed this form of co-operation to a large extent, the organization is fulfilling its role as set out in the [Constitution](#), namely 'to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police

¹¹ by ANI, Friday October 6, 05:44 PM, Yahoo! India News Stories

authorities and to establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes'.¹²

FUNCTIONS OF INTERPOL

INTERPOL's activities are all based on the following three core functions:

1) To secure global police communications services

The ability of police to exchange crucial data quickly and securely is a cornerstone of effective international law enforcement. This is why INTERPOL developed the [I-24/7](#) global police communications system. The system connects the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France, [National Central Bureaus](#) (NCBs) in member countries and regional offices, creating a global network for the exchange of police information and providing law enforcement authorities in member countries with instant access to the organization's databases and other services.

Member countries can also choose to grant consultative access to authorized law enforcement entities outside of NCBs such as border control units or customs officials.

INTERPOL continues to develop new services and training programs to ensure that users are able to make full use of the I-24/7 system. In December 2005, 178 countries and 24 additional sites, including INTERPOL Sub-Regional Bureaus in Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Kenya, Thailand and Zimbabwe and the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, were connected. For countries unable to connect because of technical or financial limitations, a sophisticated, cost-efficient satellite system is in place to enable all member countries to be active participants of the International law enforcement community.¹³

INTERPOL's global police communications system: I-24/7: One of INTERPOL's core functions is to enable the world's police to exchange information securely and rapidly. The organization's I-24/7 global police communications system connects law enforcement officials in all the [member countries](#) and provides them with the means to share crucial information on Criminals and Criminal activities.

¹² Official Website of INTERPOL, <http://www.INTERPOL.int>/Legal Materials - Co-operation Agreements.htm

¹³ INTERPOL Radio Network, International Criminal Police Review, August/September 1956, p.215

As the criminals and criminal organizations are typically involved in multiple activities, I-24/7 can fundamentally change the way law enforcement authorities around the world work together. Pieces of seemingly unrelated information can help create a picture and solve a trans-national Criminal investigation. Using I-24/7, NCBs can search and cross-check data in a matter of seconds, with direct access to databases containing information on suspected terrorists, wanted persons, fingerprints, DNA profiles, lost or stolen travel documents, stolen motor vehicles, stolen works of art, etc. These multiple resources provide police with instant access to potentially important information facilitating Criminal investigations.

I-24/7 system also enables member countries to access each others' national databases using a business-to-business (B2B) connection. Member countries manage and maintain their own national Criminal data. They also have the option to make it accessible to the International law enforcement community through I-24/7. Although I-24/7 is initially installed in NCBs, INTERPOL is encouraging member countries to extend their connections to national law enforcement entities such as border police, customs and immigration, etc. NCBs control the level of access other authorized users have to INTERPOL services and can request to be informed of enquiries made to their national databases by other countries.¹⁴

2) To operate data services and databases for police

To fight international crime, police need access to information which can assist investigations or help prevent crime. INTERPOL manages several databases accessible to the INTERPOL bureaus in all member countries through its [I-24/7](#) communications system, which contain critical information about the criminals and criminality. These include-

- a) Suspected [terrorists](#)
- b) Nominal data on Criminals (names, photos)
- c) [Fingerprints](#)
- d) [DNA profiles](#)
- e) Lost or stolen travel documents
- f) Child sexual abuse images
- g) [Stolen works of art](#)
- g) [Stolen motor vehicles](#)¹⁵

¹⁴ Official Website of INTERPOL, [http://www.INTERPOL.int/INTERPOL's global police communications system.htm](http://www.INTERPOL.int/INTERPOL's%20global%20police%20communications%20system.htm)

¹⁵ Official Website of INTERPOL, [http://www.INTERPOL.int/Core functions - Databases and services.htm](http://www.INTERPOL.int/Core%20functions%20-%20Databases%20and%20services.htm)

3) To operate police support services

INTERPOL seeks to enhance the role of NCBs and regional offices and increase the General Secretariat's responsiveness to their needs. This includes the development of emergency support and operational activities centered on the organization's priority crime areas: [fugitives](#), [public safety and terrorism](#), [drugs and organized crime](#), [trafficking in human beings](#) and [financial and high-tech crime](#).

The [Command and Co-ordination Centre](#) (CCC) operates round the clock in all of INTERPOL's four official languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) and serves as the first point of contact for any member Country faced with a crisis situation. The CCC staff monitors news channels and INTERPOL messages exchanged between member countries to ensure the full resources of the organization are ready and available whenever and wherever they may be needed. If a terrorist attack or natural disaster does occur, the CCC and the Crisis Support Group mobilize to offer and co-ordinate the organization's response. All messages and requests for information and assistance from the affected member countries are treated with the highest priority.

In addition, [Incident Response Teams](#) or [Disaster Victim Identification](#) teams composed of officers from the General Secretariat and member countries can be dispatched to the scene within hours of an event. The CCC can also assume a co-ordination role if an attack or disaster involves several member countries or if a member Country's own ability to do so has been compromised. Another component of this core function is the INTERPOL notice system, which serves to alert police of fugitives, suspected terrorists, dangerous Criminals, missing persons or weapons threats. There are currently six color coded notices – [Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, Black and Orange](#) and the [INTERPOL-United Nations Special Notice](#) issued for groups or individuals who are the targets of UN sanctions against Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

The [Criminal Analysis Unit](#) contributes to investigations by assisting officers working at the General Secretariat and in member countries with research and analysis on crime trends. The unit also provides training courses in criminal analysis techniques for [member countries](#). INTERPOL initiates and coordinates many police training programs covering different priority crime areas, and aimed at enhancing the capacity of member States to combat international crime. The courses are open to Law Enforcement Agencies.¹⁶

¹⁶ Official Website of INTERPOL, <http://www.INTERPOL.int/Core functions - Operational police support.htm>

THE COMMAND AND CO-ORDINATION CENTRE (C.C.C.)

The Command and Co-ordination Centre links the INTERPOL General Secretariat, National Central Bureaus in all its [member countries](#) and regional offices. It operates round the clock in all of INTERPOL's four official languages and serves as the first point of contact for any member Country faced with a crisis situation.¹⁷

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS (C.I.A.)

Criminal Intelligence Analysis (sometimes called Crime Analysis) has been recognized by law enforcement as a useful support tool successfully used within the International community. Within the last decade, the role and position of Criminal Intelligence Analysis in the global law enforcement community has fundamentally changed. Whereas previously there were a few key countries acting as forerunners and promoters of the discipline, more and more countries have implemented analytical techniques within their police forces. International organizations, such as INTERPOL, Europol and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), all have Criminal Intelligence Analysts among their personnel. The techniques are also widely used within private sector organizations.¹⁸

There are many definitions of Criminal Intelligence Analysis in use throughout the world. The one definition agreed in June 1992 by an International group of twelve European INTERPOL member countries and subsequently adopted by other countries is: "The identification of and provision of insight into the relationship between crime data and other potentially relevant data with a view to police and judicial practice".

The central task of Analysis is to help officials - law enforcers, policy makers, and decision makers deal more effectively with uncertainty, to provide timely warning of threats, and to support operational activity by analyzing crime.

¹⁷ Official Website of INTERPOL, <http://www.INTERPOL.int/INTERPOLeCCC.htm>

¹⁸ <https://www.INTERPOL.int/en/How-we-work/Criminal-intelligence-analysis2>

INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS

In the aftermath of a terrorist act or natural disaster and in order to maximize the assistance which can be provided by INTERPOL, member countries are requested to send information about the incident to the General Secretariat. Member countries are also requested to report any pertinent developments to INTERPOL and concerned member countries. Member countries may also request the assistance of INTERPOL incident response teams which consist of personnel who can provide a range of investigative and analytical support at the incident site in co-ordination with the General Secretariat, such as-

- a) Issuing International notices for fugitive terrorists whose arrests are required by the member countries;
- b) Database queries of fingerprints to quickly identify the suspects;
- c) Access to the database of fake or stolen travel documents;
- d) Money laundering expertise;
- e) Co-ordination of response to disaster victim identification through a wide network of International experts and laboratories.¹⁹

INTERPOL'S NCB REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Following are the activities which are carried out by the N.C.B. of the INTERPOL-

1) NCB Services & I-24/7 development directorates

The detailed description of activities carried out by the Directorate, are;

- a) To ensure that the INTERPOL maintains and enhances its leadership in global police communications and meets the International police cooperation expectations of its member countries by working in close collaboration with NCBs;
- b) To supervise the co-ordination of all organizational activities related to the maintenance and support of the I-24/7 global communications system;
- c) To help promote based on the requirements identified by member countries, the use of databases and data services by undertaking the appropriate measures;

¹⁹ Official Website of INTERPOL, [http://www.INTERPOL.int/Incident response teams.htm](http://www.INTERPOL.int/Incident%20response%20teams.htm)

- d) To continuously assess the levels of data management at NCBs and recommend initiatives and steps needed to expand them; assess the resources available and needed, as well as the training required for optimizing the use of databases and data services;
- e) To increase the level of automated data management;
- f) To maintain and develop NCB service standards;
- g) To promote best practice in all areas of police activities;
- h) To be involved in crime programs and crime support programs by tasking its staff to participate in project activities under these programs;
- i) To determine the content of regional conferences in close co-operation with the concerned components at the General Secretariat and member countries;
- j) To inform crime program managers on training requirements in their areas;
- k) To support the activities of the Command and Co-ordination Centre when requested on a case-by-case basis, by liaising with member countries.

2) Exchange of good practice between NCBS

After the 17 service standards were laid down at the 63rd General Assembly in 1994 in Rome, member countries suggested a mechanism for the implementation of the service. The European region adopted a peer evaluation mechanism in 1999 in order to implement the service standards. The evaluation yielded a number of positive results, ranging from the enhancement of the status of NCBs to the allocation of additional resources. Discussions with member countries in many INTERPOL forums on the European mechanism have generated strong support. It is against this backdrop that the exchange of good practice between NCBs would be extended to other regions based on different processes to be adopted for each region. The process for each region will have to be agreed on by the region concerned. The process will commence with a pilot scheme, in which requests for volunteer NCBs to participate in the exchange of good practice will be made. In addition, the 74rd General Assembly in Cancun adopted a revised version of the service standards. The new 24 service standards will constitute the basis for this project.

Principle objective:

- a) To observe the minimum service standards those are required for their effective operation;
- b) To Enhance the status of NCBs; and
- c) To obtain additional resources for NCBs.

The organization has a number of databases in place which are made available to NCBs. Member countries will be encouraged to proactively use the existing and new databases that INTERPOL provides or will provide and to regularly enter information into the databases. One of the major activities to be done is to determine the current use of INTERPOL databases by NCBs and Sub-Regional Bureaus (192 entities).

3) Promoting the use of INTERPOL databases

The organization has a number of databases in place which are made available to NCBs. Member countries will be encouraged to proactively use the existing and new databases that INTERPOL provides or will provide and to regularly enter information into the databases. One of the major activities to be done is to determine the current use of INTERPOL databases by NCBs and Sub-Regional Bureaus.

Principle objective:

- a) The objective is to have all NCBs input and search for data from existing specialized INTERPOL databases (stolen motor vehicles, stolen travel documents, etc.);
- b) In order to achieve this, data available internally at the General Secretariat will be regularly analysed. The pattern of the exchange of messages through I-24/7 and the use of ASF databases should reveal the most active and least active users of INTERPOL services;
- c) A further study of data available at NCBs will be made through the exchange of best practice between NCBs to identify obstacles that exist which prevent the maximum use of INTERPOL services by some NCBs.

4) To have contact between General Secretariat and NCBS

INTERPOL's third core function is operational police support services. As a primary point of contact between the General Secretariat and NCBs, member countries will receive responses to their requests for specialized knowledge of and expertise in crime issues including the provision of information on high-profile regional and global crime threats. Training and investigative support will be provided to NCBs; they will also be kept in contact with the persons responsible for specialized crime projects and the Command and Co-ordination Centre.

Principal objective:

- a) To respond as quickly as possible to inquiries from NCBs addressed to the General Secretariat;

- b) To intervene on behalf of an NCB when it is having difficulty receiving a response from another NCB;
- c) To serve as a link between NCBs and persons responsible for programs and projects at the General Secretariat.

5) To train the NCB staff

Periodic training for NCB staff was interrupted during the implementation of I-24/7 to devote specific training on the new system. There is a need to re-start this training in order to enhance the knowledge of INTERPOL policies and the process of International police co-operation to NCB staff.

Principal objective:

The principal objective is to identify needs and to assist in the implementation of NCB training programs, and co-ordinate the training needs of member countries.

Outcome:

To make sure new and existing NCB staffs are well informed and fully aware of-

- a) The role and function of NCBs;
- b) INTERPOL policy in relation to International police co-operation.²⁰

INTERPOL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CORRUPTION (IGEC)

INTERPOL first became actively involved in initiatives to curb corruption in April 1998, when its General Secretariat hosted the First International Conference on Corruption-Related Crimes in Lyon, France. During this Conference it was recommended to establish an INTERPOL Group of Experts on Corruption (IGEC), mandated to develop and implement an anti-corruption strategy, with the objective of not only raising awareness of the major issues, but primarily to improve law enforcement's ability and effectiveness in the fight against corruption. This proposal was unanimously endorsed and adopted by the participants of this Conference. Corruption is any course of action or failure to act by individuals or organizations, public or private, in violation of law or trust of profit or gain. The mission statement of Interpol Group of Experts on Corruption

²⁰ Official Website of INTERPOL, [http://www.INTERPOL.int/Regional activities.htm](http://www.INTERPOL.int/Regional%20activities.htm)

is- 'We believe in a free and just society. To be truly just, society must embrace high standards of integrity and openly resist corruption. To this end we join with the community to ensure such standards and accept responsibility to fight all forms of corruption through education, prevention, and effective law enforcement.'²¹

CONCLUSION

INTERPOL has since its constitution showcased extraordinary commitment to bring change in the criminal system of its member countries. It has brought in new rules to protect the refugees and has brought in a robust complain mechanism. Moreover, its constitution mandates that it shall not engage in political cases and it shall respect the principles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The INTERPOL enjoys the status of efficiently managing and controlling international crimes and criminals. Over the past few decades, it has grown structurally and functionally and reaffirmed its position in the field of transnational policing. At present, the legal framework of INTERPOL includes-

- Constitution of ICPO-INTERPOL
- Financial and General Regulations
- Rules of processing of Data
- Rules of Executive Committee
- Rules of General Assembly
- Statute CCF

²¹ Official Website of INTERPOL, [http://www.INTERPOL.int/Mission statement of the INTERPOL Group of Experts on Corruption \(IGEC\).htm](http://www.INTERPOL.int/Mission%20statement%20of%20the%20INTERPOL%20Group%20of%20Experts%20on%20Corruption%20(IGEC).htm)