

Notices

Essential information

One of INTERPOL's most important functions is to help police in its member countries share critical crime-related information using the organization's system of international notices. The information concerns individuals wanted for serious crimes, missing persons, unidentified bodies, possible threats and criminals' modus operandi.

In addition, notices are used by the United Nations to alert police of individuals subject to UN sanctions against Al Qaeda and the Taliban; and by the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda to seek persons wanted for serious violations of international human rights laws.

Types of notices



Red Notice - To seek the provisional arrest of a wanted person with a view to extradition based on an arrest warrant or court decision.



Blue Notice - To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or illegal activities in relation to a criminal matter.



Green Notice - To provide warnings or criminal intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.



Yellow Notice - To help locate missing persons, especially minors, or to help identify persons who are not able to identify themselves.



Black Notice - To seek information about unidentified bodies.



INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice - To alert police of groups and individuals who are the targets of UN sanctions against Al Qaeda and the Taliban.



Orange Notice - To warn police, public entities and other international organizations of dangerous materials, criminal acts or events that pose a potential threat to public safety.

Notices contain two main types of information:

- Identity particulars - comprehensive identity details, physical description, photograph, fingerprints and other relevant information such as occupation, languages spoken, identity document numbers, etc.
- Judicial information - for example, offence with which the person is charged; references to the laws under which the charge is made or conviction was obtained; the maximum penalty which has been or can be imposed and, in the case of the Red Notice, references to the arrest warrant or sentence imposed by a court; and details about the countries from which the requesting country will seek the fugitive's extradition.

Notice publication process

The General Secretariat publishes notices either on its own initiative, or based on requests from National Central Bureaus (NCBs) or international organizations and entities with whom INTERPOL has special agreements. Notices are published in all of the organization's working languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.



All notices are published on INTERPOL's secure website for authorised law enforcement users. In addition, extracts of notices may also be published on the Organization's public website if the requesting entity agrees. Public knowledge of an arrest warrant is often of great value to law enforcement agencies in their efforts to obtain important police information.

In accordance with INTERPOL's rules, the General Secretariat can only publish a notice if it is satisfied that all the conditions for processing the information have been fulfilled. For example, a notice will not be published if it violates Article 3 of the Constitution, which forbids the Organization from undertaking any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character. In addition, the General Secretariat retains the right to refuse to publish a notice that it considers unadvisable, or a risk to international police co-operation, the Organization, its staff, or its member countries.

Key figures

The General Secretariat published 4,596 notices in 2008:

Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Black	INTERPOL-UN	Orange
3,126	304	664	385	91	26	7

Another frequently used tool is a 'diffusion', a message sent by an NCB to some or all member countries through INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police communications system requesting the arrest or location of an individual or additional information in relation to a police investigation. In 2008, 13,339 diffusions were registered in INTERPOL's nominal database.

There were 23,898 notices and 41,460 diffusions in circulation at the end of 2008. The number of people arrested on the basis of a notice or diffusion since the year 2000 reached 27,630.

The INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice

The INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice was created in 2005 in response to UN Security Council Resolution 1617, to provide better tools to help the UN Security Council's 1267 Committee carry out its mandate regarding the freezing of assets, travel bans and arms embargos aimed at individuals and entities associated or belonging to Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

The Red Notice

The legal basis for a Red Notice is an arrest warrant or court order issued by the judicial authorities in the country concerned. Many of INTERPOL's member countries consider a Red Notice to be a valid request for provisional arrest. Furthermore, INTERPOL is recognized as an official channel for transmitting requests for provisional arrest in a number of bilateral and multilateral extradition treaties, including the European Convention on Extradition, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Extradition and the United Nations Model Treaty on Extradition.



Contact information

E-mail: info@interpol.int

For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the Interpol National Central Bureau in your country.