



## Firearms

A threat to the safety of citizens in any country, firearms also pose a wider threat to security, peace, stability and development. Firearms are easy to conceal and transport, and offer lucrative profits to criminals trafficking in illicit small arms and light weapons. No country is unaffected by firearms violence.

While each year, firearms are used in more than 245,000 homicides worldwide (excluding war-torn countries), this is only a small percentage of all crimes committed with firearms, which are widely used to threaten and support other criminal acts.

To support police officers responsible for investigating firearms-related crimes, INTERPOL offers three powerful tools which can help member countries obtain firearms intelligence - using the information on the outside of the firearm and the data that can be gleaned from inside the weapon - to prevent and solve crime.

### *INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table*

The INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) gives investigators the ability to properly identify a firearm used in a crime, thereby increasing the probability of successfully tracing the firearm's origin.

The IFRT is an easy-to-use, web-based system containing more than 250,000 firearms references and 57,000 high quality images. Using the IFRT, investigators can identify the make, model, calibre, serial number and country of origin or legal import of a firearm. This information is essential in using the related tool, the Firearms Trace Request, described below.

The IFRT was developed by INTERPOL using data supplied and updated annually by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and is available to authorized users through INTERPOL's global secure police communications system, known as I-24/7.

### *INTERPOL Firearms Trace Request*

The INTERPOL Firearms Trace Request is an international communications tool which allows an investigator to request a firearm's ownership history from the country of origin or legal import. It is available to all INTERPOL member countries through the I-24/7 network.

The Trace Request was created in recognition of the need to give police tools to combat firearms violence, as outlined in a United Nations 2005 protocol that called for an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

# INTERPOL



### ***INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network (IBIN)***

Every firearm leaves unique microscopic markings on the surface areas of fired bullets and cartridge cases; in other words a ballistic fingerprint. Current ballistics technology enables us to share and compare thousands of ballistic exhibits in a matter of hours.

INTERPOL's Ballistic Information Network (IBIN) is a platform for the large-scale international sharing and comparing of ballistics data. It connects those member countries or territories that have the Integrated Ballistic Identification System created by our partner in this project, Forensic Technology, with further countries or regional alliances set to acquire the system in the future.

Just as fingerprint data can link crimes and criminals across international borders, so too will the international sharing of ballistic data. IBIN will show connections between separate crimes that would otherwise have gone undetected. Over time, we anticipate that the analysis of the shared ballistic data will reveal illicit firearms trafficking routes and provide police with critical information about firearms traffickers and other violent criminals.



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