



INTERPOL

FACT SHEET

People smuggling

People smuggling is a low-risk, high-profit business that can occur by air, sea or land, often by complex routes which change rapidly and frequently.

People smugglers procure, usually for financial or material gain, the illegal entry of an individual into a country of which he is neither a citizen nor a permanent resident. Generally speaking, individuals work with a smuggler voluntarily and once payment is completed, the relationship between the illegal immigrant and the smuggler ends. Thousands of illegal immigrants die each year in transit to their destinations.

► A COMPLEX ISSUE

People smuggling takes place on all scales but INTERPOL's focus is on organized networks, due to their international dimension. The modus operandi of criminal organizations is increasingly sophisticated, with numerous other crimes linked to people smuggling, such as identity-related crimes, corruption, money laundering and violence.

► INTERPOL'S RESOURCES

At INTERPOL, we have developed additional tools which can facilitate the exchange of information among police in member countries and help coordinate action. The following tools are accessible to authorized users of I-24/7, INTERPOL's secure global police communications system:

- **MIND/FIND** technical solutions enable frontline law enforcement agencies dealing with people smuggling (border police, immigration) to receive instant responses for queries on stolen or lost travel documents;
- **The International Contact Directory for People Smuggling Issues** contains contact details for individuals responsible for people smuggling and illegal migration issues within INTERPOL National Central Bureaus around the world.

We also host a Global People Smuggling Conference where key stakeholders can contribute to a strategy to combat the complex web of people smuggling issues.

► DISMANTLING THE CRIMINAL NETWORKS

At INTERPOL, our unique position in the international law enforcement community enables us to assist in combating the criminal networks behind people smuggling.

A dedicated project, known as Smuggling Training & Operations Programme (STOP), supports our member countries in border management issues, particularly in detecting criminal networks that provide stolen or lost travel documents to illegal immigrants or individuals involved in organized crime. The Project provides police at strategic border points with direct access to our Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) Database, allowing them to instantly check travel documents against INTERPOL records.

- **Algeria:** Organized in April 2012 in coordination with the General Directorate of National Safety of Algeria and the National Central Bureau in Algiers, 80 participants including police, border control, Gendarmerie and customs learned to use the SLTD database and other techniques for detecting fraudulent documents. The training was followed by an operation at the Algiers airport.

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- **Operation Hammer:** Conducted in conjunction with Frontex, the European Union agency for external border security. Border police at the international airports of Rome Fiumicino and Milan Malpensa checked 8,000 travel documents from 2-5 November 2011, resulting in three positive matches.
- **Kenya:** Some 40 police officers received training in the use of INTERPOL's SLTD database, standard operational policy and procedures and techniques for passport verification. The operation itself took place at Nairobi airport in July 2011.
- **Benin:** This operation at the international airport in Cotonou was preceded by two days of training provided to 36 officers from Benin's Immigration Police, Customs and Gendarmerie from 31 May-3 June 2011.

STOP also delivers analytical training and operational support, to provide immediate benefits during tactical deployments and equip local officers with the necessary skills to effectively run their own future operations.

► CAPACITY BUILDING

The first session of the Capacity Building Programme on the Prevention of Migrant Smuggling and Illegal Migration in Southeast Asia was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March 2012. More than 20 participants from seven countries in the region discussed national and regional trends; the use of the I-24/7 communications system; best practices on migrant smuggling investigations; and the linkage between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. A "train the trainer" module will allow the participants to relay the information and skills learnt to their colleagues in their home countries.

► INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

INTERPOL works closely with key bodies whose common mission is to combat people smuggling, including Europol, Frontex, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the International Organization for Migration, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



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► CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact us via our web site. For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in your country.

► **Twitter:** @INTERPOL_HQ

► **YouTube:** INTERPOLHQ

► **WWW.INTERPOL.INT**

