

INTERPOL Secretary General emphasises importance of sharing terrorism data internationally

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Press statement by INTERPOL Secretary General [Ronald K. Noble](#)

Mr. Minister, the Honourable Rehman Malik,
Director General of the Federal Investigative Agency, Mr. Tariq Parvez,
Deputy Head of the INTERPOL National Central in Pakistan, Asif Syed,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Minister, let me thank you for your agreement to work through INTERPOL to help [INTERPOL's member countries](#) identify any suspected [terrorists](#), including those involved in the [recent deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai](#), India, from 26-29 November 2008. I also appreciate your sharing with INTERPOL Pakistan's police information about human traffickers. Finally, on behalf of the INTERPOL [General Secretariat](#) staff located at our headquarters in Lyon, France, we look forward to your agreement to visit and deliver an address to staff about Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism and all serious forms of international crime. We will all benefit from your years of experience.

Pakistan has suffered more deeply from cowardly acts of terrorism than most countries. Terrorism has touched all of you and every segment of your society, from the innocent families struck while taking part in ordinary day-to-day activities, to the private security guards who died in the spectacular truck bombing attack on the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad last September, to the members of your police services who are frequently the primary or secondary targets, and finally to your highest-ranking elected official, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated almost one year ago today.

In terms of sheer numbers of people murdered by terrorists, just over the last 16 months, suicide and other terrorist attacks have taken more than 1,500 lives, which must make us consider Pakistan a country that has been a victim of terrorism, just as much as the world community considers Pakistan a country that has an essential role to play in the global effort to prevent, investigate and fight terrorists wherever they might be. It is my view as Secretary General of INTERPOL that any country that has suffered as much at the hands of terrorists as Pakistan is in need of international support, not international condemnation, at such a critical time in the world's anti-terrorist struggle.

This afternoon I have completed my three-day visit to Pakistan, and I have asked for an opportunity to share with you important details of my visit and about the way that Pakistan has co-operated and continues to co-operate with INTERPOL and its 187 member countries' police services through Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency and its fine Director General, Tariq Parvez, and Deputy Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Pakistan, Asif Syed, with whom I am seated here today.

The information I will share is based on the facts and on my experience as having served as INTERPOL Secretary General over the last eight years and as having visited 120 of [INTERPOL's 187 member countries](#).

Pakistan is among the most active contributors worldwide to [INTERPOL's database](#) of suspected terrorists and to our primary anti-terrorism initiative known as the Fusion Task Force. There is no category of police agency in the world that co-operates more actively or more closely with INTERPOL than Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency.

There are only a handful of heads of national police agencies like Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency Director General Tariq Parvez who have sacrificed their time in order to participate in INTERPOL anti-terrorist meetings worldwide to educate others about Pakistan's experience with regard to the threat of terrorism and to learn from others in order to share what has been learned with his colleagues back home.

There is no other country in the world that has shared with INTERPOL and all of its member countries as much significant and detailed information about fugitive suicide bombers as Pakistan.

Pakistan has provided to INTERPOL and all of its member countries the highly sensitive contents of the "Red Book" – profiles containing identity information, aliases and photos of 169 of the country's most wanted suicide terrorists belonging to Al Qaeda and its affiliates.

The approach of Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency to fighting terrorism permits other INTERPOL member countries to keep their citizens and visitors safer than they otherwise would be. For example, if I return to the example of the contents of the FIA's Red Book of fugitive terrorists who support suicide bombings, so far there have been 19 recorded positive matches in five INTERPOL member countries worldwide.

Why is this important? Think about it. Police and anti-terrorist units have scarce resources and it is often difficult to determine on whom to focus one's energy. Imagine that a police officer in your country does a name search on someone of criminal interest to the police and he or she receives a positive match indicating that the person is wanted by Pakistan for their involvement in suicide terrorist attacks. What would you expect that police officer to do? To immediately move anyone connected to that fugitive terrorist to the top of the list and to immediately contact Pakistan's FIA and INTERPOL's [Public Security and Terrorism](#) Sub-Directorate.

We should have learned from the [September 11 terrorist attacks](#) that the only way to fight terrorism effectively is by sharing information nationally and internationally so as to disrupt and prevent as many planned terrorist attacks as possible. Pakistan's sharing of sensitive terrorist-related information with INTERPOL gives all of INTERPOL's 187 member countries a better chance of identifying suspected terrorists before they might strike.

I am happy to report that during my meetings with Pakistan's Minister of Interior, Mr. Rehman Malik, and the FIA's Director General, Tariq Parvez, Pakistan agreed to convert the 169 terrorists listed in the Red Book and wanted nationally by Pakistan into internationally wanted persons via INTERPOL Red Notices and worldwide diffusions, thereby improving the chances of finding and arresting these dangerous criminals. Let me also make clear that when Pakistan has received information permitting it to identify and locate dangerous fugitives, it has done so.

During our meetings over the last few days, the FIA has provided my team and me with a classified briefing and additional intelligence on the suspects charged with the 20 September 2008 Marriott Hotel terrorist suicide truck bombing that took the lives of more than 50 innocent people and that showed the world how difficult it is to prevent a suicide truck bombing.

Most of us remember the image of the truck burning for seven minutes and the tragic image of one especially brave security guard trying to extinguish the flames and reduce the threat to innocent people only to perish with others when the 600 kilos of explosives were detonated as part of a cold-blooded plan to kill and harm as many people as possible.

I am pleased to announce that the FIA's investigation has progressed to such a point that the names of the charged mastermind of that deadly attack and two of his co-conspirators were added to INTERPOL's databases, soon to be followed by photographs and other identifying information. In doing so, Pakistan continues its practice of making its most sensitive and valuable anti-terrorist information available to the world's police for their benefit and the benefit of their citizens.

It was also agreed during my meetings that INTERPOL would put in place its state-of-the-art technology at Pakistan's major international airports and border-control points to permit Pakistan to conduct direct, real-time checks of visitors' passports against INTERPOL's global database of more than 16 million stolen and lost travel documents submitted by 145 countries.

As the world's largest international police organization, with 187 member countries, INTERPOL knows that no one group, country or region holds a monopoly on the ill effects of terrorism – and that no one country can fight terrorism alone. International co-operation, especially police co-operation, is required.

This week I have traveled to two countries which have both been victims of deadly attacks and which have important roles to play in the world's efforts to combat terrorism. With regard to the most recent Mumbai terrorist attacks, a five-member INTERPOL [Incident Response Team](#) was deployed there by me until yesterday to collect information and intelligence about the terrorists in order to confirm their identities; to help the 14 or so countries linked in the media to these attacks determine whether what was reported in the media was true; and to help all of INTERPOL's member countries better protect their citizens from similar deadly attacks.

Despite media reports attributed to well-placed anonymous sources, to date, India's government has not authorised the entering of any police-related information in INTERPOL databases, nor has India asked INTERPOL to request assistance from any of our member countries relating to the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

All of the information that INTERPOL knows it has gathered from media reports and from other INTERPOL member countries whose citizens were either killed or held hostage during those attacks. INTERPOL's Incident Response Team deployed to Mumbai has provided India with the tools and services that would permit the country to enter information into INTERPOL's databases quickly and to seek specific assistance from any and all of INTERPOL's member countries.

The co-operation between India's Central Bureau of Investigation, the INTERPOL [National Central Bureau](#) in New Delhi, the Mumbai Police investigating the terrorist attacks and INTERPOL's Incident Response team was excellent. At the police-to-police level, everything is in place for the exchange of information to occur very quickly.

It is my hope as INTERPOL's Secretary General that India's government will quickly authorise the sharing of information with INTERPOL and its other 186 member countries, so that we can determine the identities of those involved by employing the same internationally accepted standards that we use in identifying the victims of disasters, such as [DNA](#), [fingerprints](#) and dental records, as well as complementary information that is gathered in the course of any police investigation concerning the identity of any criminal suspect. Police worldwide must be able to find out who these terrorists were; who trained, armed and financed them; how they perpetrated these attacks; and how we can bring all those responsible to justice, as well as prevent future similar terrorist attacks.

As I have said publicly on many occasions, both Pakistan and India are important and essential components of INTERPOL and of the world's anti-terrorist and anti-crime struggle. I am confident that INTERPOL and all of its member countries will continue to benefit from the close co-operation of both India and Pakistan under the umbrella of their organization – INTERPOL.

I commit once again the full support of INTERPOL's General Secretariat in Lyon and around the world to ensure that all of our member countries receive complete and timely information about terrorism and all other serious forms of international crime.

I will now take any questions that you might have.

Thank you for your attention.