



# INTERPOL

## FACT SHEET

### *Fugitives*

A fugitive is someone who is attempting to evade justice. An individual can become a fugitive under various circumstances: they could have been charged with a violation of the law but not been arrested; they could have been released on bail and then fled to avoid prosecution; or they could have escaped from prison. Fugitives pose a serious threat to public safety worldwide. They are mobile, travelling between countries (sometimes using stolen or fraudulent travel documents), and opportunistic, often financing their continued flight from the law through further criminal activities.

Locating fugitives requires a high level of cooperation between governments, police authorities and international organizations. Through its global police network and technical tools, INTERPOL provides systematic and proactive assistance to member countries in order to locate and arrest fugitives.

In this respect, INTERPOL aims to reduce the number of fugitives, especially dangerous fugitives who move freely across national boundaries, and to deter others from attempting to flee internationally to avoid prosecution.

#### ► OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

INTERPOL provides support to investigators in member countries – in particular their specialized fugitive units – international courts and tribunals, and other international organizations to assist with the international aspects of fugitive investigations.

This is done through operations targeting international fugitives; focused projects; initiatives to enhance the use of INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices for individuals subject to UN sanctions; operational working groups; conferences; developing best practices in fugitive investigations; training; and creating a global network of specialist fugitive investigators.

In addition, INTERPOL provides international support to searches for individuals wanted for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

**Operation Infra** (International Fugitives Round Up and Arrest) is a global INTERPOL initiative to locate and arrest serious international fugitives who are on the run. These criminals have committed crimes such as murder, child sexual abuse, drug trafficking, organized crime, people smuggling, human trafficking and money laundering, and are subject to INTERPOL Red Notices, or international wanted persons alerts. Since 2009, INTERPOL has conducted annual Infra operations, focusing on either a particular region or type of crime each year.

- Operation Infra-Red – 2009
- Operation Infra-Red – 2010
- Operation Infra-South America – 2011
- Operation Infra-Red – 2012
- Operation Infra-Southeast Asia – 2012
- Operation Infra-Americas – 2013
- Operation Infra-Terra – 2014
- Operation Infra-Hydra – 2016
- Operation Infra Asia and South Pacific (ASP) - 2017

## *Fugitives*

The Fugitive Investigative Support (FIS) unit is running a new project funded by the European Union: the INTERPOL Support to **EL PACCTO project** (Europa-Latinoamérica Programa de asistencia contra el crimen transnacional organizado: por el Estado de Derecho y la Seguridad ciudadana). It aims to establish a permanent mechanism to strengthen the policing capabilities in six Latin American countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. The purpose is to enhance three key areas of interregional cooperation in fugitive operations: investigation, cooperation and modernization.

In the framework of **Project Basic** (Broadening Analysis on Serious International Crimes), INTERPOL cooperates with national authorities and international institutions to locate, arrest and develop information concerning individuals wanted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity worldwide.

### ► INTERPOL RED NOTICES

One of our most powerful tools in tracking international fugitives is the INTERPOL Red Notice. This seeks the provisional arrest of a wanted person with a view to extradition and is circulated to police in all our member countries. Red Notices contain identification details and judicial information about the wanted person and the charges they face.



INTERPOL

#### ► 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

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