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INTERPOL

General Secretariat
Secrétariat général
Secretaría General
الأمانة العامة

13 January 2010

Sent by e-mail

Our ref:

LA/36581-2/5.2./JOMA/vp

Subject:

Your e-mail dated 6 January 2010

Dear Mr Jamal,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail dated 6 January 2010 and ask you to please find below copy of the statement that was issued by INTERPOL on 30 December 2009 with regards to the issue that you raise:

“While it would be inappropriate to comment on the details of any individual’s case, the allegations made in relation to INTERPOL’s independence and integrity in relation to the publication of a number of Red Notices at the request of Iran need to be addressed in the interests of fairness and clarity.

Red notices are one of the ways in which INTERPOL informs its member countries that an arrest warrant has been issued for an individual by a judicial authority. It is not an international warrant, nor can INTERPOL demand that any member country arrest the subject of a Red Notice.

The individuals concerned are wanted by the national jurisdictions (or International Criminal Tribunals, where appropriate) and INTERPOL’s role is to assist national police forces in identifying or locating those individuals with a view to their arrest and extradition. It is not INTERPOL’s role to assess the evidence in a case or a request for a Red Notice.

.../...

Red Notices are only issued to INTERPOL member countries if the requesting NCB has provided all the information required by the General Secretariat, including details of a valid arrest warrant for the country in question.

Any member country or individual subject of a Red Notice may challenge its validity if they believe that the notice contravenes INTERPOL's Constitution, rules and regulations. Article 3 of INTERPOL's Constitution states that it is "strictly forbidden for the organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character". These principles are taken extremely seriously by INTERPOL.

When any individual has a problem with information published on INTERPOL's website, we always advise them to contact the INTERPOL General Secretariat in order to ensure that we are made aware of any issues, and can work to resolve them. Cases involving challenges to or disputes around the issuance of Red Notices are the rare exception, not the rule.

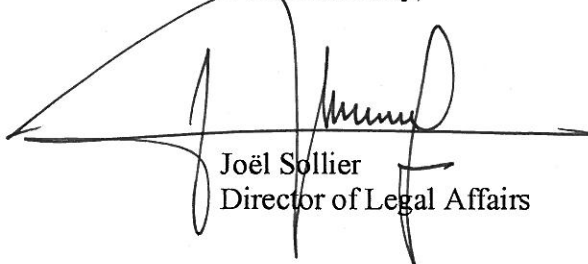
Whenever an Article 3 issue is raised, the request is examined carefully and undergoes a thorough review by INTERPOL's Office of Legal Affairs. Additional information from both parties may be required to either uphold or rescind the Red Notice.

These safeguards ensure a transparent and structured process to address and resolve such issues.

Cases highlighted through the media often lead to unfounded accusations being made against INTERPOL.

INTERPOL is a completely democratic institution with 188 member countries which operates on a one country, one vote basis with every country afforded equal status. In these days where international co-operation is more important than ever, it is vital that INTERPOL's independent and unbiased role at the centre of the global law enforcement community is understood and recognized."

Yours sincerely,



Joël Sollier
Director of Legal Affairs

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