WANTED BY INTERPOL:
GLOBAL FUGITIVE INVESTIGATIONS
NEWS COLUMNS

Wanted by INTERPOL: global fugitive investigations

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I am pleased to welcome Police Chiefs to the third edition of The Globe, the INTERPOL publication produced specifically for law enforcement leaders in all continents. We have enjoyed your feedback over the past year and we look forward to receiving more editorial ideas and contributions so we can continue to make your INTERPOL magazine useful and informative.

This edition focusses on how countries use INTERPOL capabilities to address the global security threat posed by fugitives. I would like to thank the Police Chiefs of Brazil, Cyprus, Jordan, Nepal and Rwanda for their powerful testimonials, each highlighting different ways in which INTERPOL-supported fugitive investigations have boosted their national security.

Sharing information about fugitives and bringing them back to face justice in the country where they committed the crime has been a core function of INTERPOL since its creation early last century. INTERPOL’s iconic Red Notice is one of the organization’s most powerful, and most used, policing capabilities for tracking and identifying fugitives globally.

It is even more important today in a world where fugitives are mobile, often travelling between countries on stolen or fraudulent travel documents and frequently financing their continued flight from the law through further criminal activities.

This is why we constantly seek your unique insight into the current criminal landscape to help us counter threats through innovation and forward-looking global strategies. It was based on your feedback, for example, that we are now working on a project to develop a cutting-edge biometric hub to facilitate multiple biometric database searches and boost the way your police forces use forensic data to detect itinerant criminals.

INTERPOL provides proactive assistance to ensure your police officers have the tools and services they need to locate and arrest fugitives. The INTERPOL fugitive investigations unit is staffed by officers seconded by police forces from many different countries and remains at your disposal 24h/day to support your investigations. Police Chiefs are invited to boost our global policing activities by seconding officers to the INTERPOL General Secretariat to fill the vacancies listed on page 22.

I look forward to meeting with Police Chiefs attending the forthcoming INTERPOL General Assembly in Santiago de Chile so that we can continue on this path of communication which permits INTERPOL to always mold its services to the specific needs of the men and women who make up your police forces.

Jürgen Stock
Secretary General
For decades, Brazil was considered an easy fugitive hideaway. With Brazil occupying half of South America, we have the world’s third longest sea and land borders to control. We are the fifth largest country in the world, and our multi ethnic population makes it easy to blend in no matter where you come from. In the past, it would have been natural to presume it is easy to hide here. This is a very wrong assumption to make today.

Brazil has radically changed its legislation to tirelessly target fugitives and leave no stone unturned in hunting down each one. The main tool our law uses to achieve this is INTERPOL’s global Red Notice alert system.

The INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) in Brasilia is our international fugitive investigations fast tracker. Today, nationwide Federal Police investigators systematically go through the NCB to locate or arrest Red Notice subjects. The NCB often enables them to do both within 24 hours of a fugitive’s arrival on Brazilian territory.

The consequences are substantial for national security. We produce twice as many Red Notices today than we did before the creation of a dedicated NCB fugitives unit in 2015. We made 210 Red Notice arrests between 2014 and 2018 - 68% more than between 2009 and 2013.

Brazilian fugitive investigations: full steam ahead
INTERPOL capabilities, particularly its Red Notice, are a standard feature on Brazil’s nationwide Police Academy training syllabus. This means that Federal Police officers instinctively know to turn to INTERPOL for investigations requiring police cooperation beyond Brazilian borders. This is key to successful fugitive investigations.

INTERPOL provides NCBs with a secure global police network that permits investigators across the globe to put together the pieces of fugitive investigation puzzles and sketch collaborative counter strategies. NCB Brasilia is central to Brazilian national security in this regard.

Today, Brazil is still in the news headlines because of fugitives who hide here. But the reason is different now: it is because we arrest them. Some are famous household names, others are infamous murderers, fraudsters, criminals who have been on the run for decades or for barely 24 hours.

Each one makes the mistake of thinking it is still possible to hide in Brazil. Instead, they get little more than a direct ‘go to jail’ card dealt through NCB Brasilia using the INTERPOL Red Notice system. Brazil is no longer the safe haven for fugitives that popular television used to make it out to be.

Brazil’s Federal Police arrests a 52-year old INTERPOL Red Notice subject wanted by Portugal for a 2009 murder. The fugitive had been living for years in isolation in the depths of the Amazon with little contact with the outside world. NCB Brasilia’s specialized fugitives unit played a key role in locating the fugitive and bringing him to justice.

INTERPOL BRASILIA: THE END OF THE ROAD FOR FUGITIVES
Mr Mauricio Valeixo Leite, Director General, Brazilian Federal Police

Mauricio Valeixo Leite was appointed Director General of the Brazilian Federal Police (FP) in January 2019. With a 23-year police career under his belt, and previously Director of the FP Intelligence Unit and then Organized Crime Unit, Mr Valeixo Leite was Federal Police attaché in Washington until called to his new responsibilities as the Head of Brazil’s most prestigious federal law enforcement agency.
INTERPOL Brasilia arrests Italy’s ‘most wanted’ fugitive

After 30 years on the run, Pasquale Scotti, Italy’s former Camorra leader wanted for multiple murders of notorious brutality was arrested in Brazil by Federal Police INTERPOL staff.

The publication of a Red Notice by Italian authorities in 1990 ultimately permitted the arrest of this dangerous fugitive the year the Brazilian NCB created its dedicated fugitives unit, in May 2015.

Fingerprint comparisons via INTERPOL had enabled NCB Brasilia to identify Scotti beyond the fake identity he was using to pass himself off as a Brazilian businessman living in the coastal town of Recife with his new wife and children.

Since 1985, Scotti had been on the Italian Ministry of the Interior “most wanted list”. In January 2005, he received a life sentence in absentia for 26 killings.

Scotti was detained by NCB Brasilia staff while taking his children to school and extradited to Italy where he is now serving his sentence.

Like many criminals after him, Scotti discovered in 2015 that INTERPOL’s international Red Notice tripwire deprives fugitives of anywhere to hide from INTERPOL’s global detection radar, no matter how long they go undetected.

EL PACCTO: Europe Latin America Assistance Program against Transnational Organized Crime.

Targeting Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, EL PACCTO is an EU-funded three year project developing a permanent, dedicated region-wide fugitive investigations network to identify, prioritize and target high-risk criminals.

EL PACCTO boosts data exchange associated with high-risk criminals through the use of INTERPOL Red and Blue Notices and diffusions.
As Police Chiefs, we understand that genocide is not only the gravest crime against humanity but also a threat to regional and global security. It is a profoundly violent crime that law enforcement leaders must address collectively.

Pursuing the masterminds of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi ethnic group is crucial to Rwanda’s peaceful healing process. We are thankful to those countries that have arrested and extradited genocide fugitives, as this has been a fundamental step in bringing justice to the people of Rwanda.

Locating, arresting and prosecuting the remaining genocide masterminds remains Rwanda’s top priority today, and one in which INTERPOL plays a critical role as it enables Rwanda to go beyond its own borders in tracking them.

Rwanda’s national Genocide Fugitive Tracking Unit works closely with INTERPOL’s Fugitive Investigative Support (FIS) unit in tracking genocide fugitives across the world. Red or Blue Notices and diffusions are powerful INTERPOL tools which have enabled us to locate a considerable number of fugitives and coordinate their return to the Rwandan people to face justice.

Although several genocide suspects have been located, arrested and prosecuted worldwide and brought back to Rwanda for trial over the years, there is still a sizeable number of high profile masterminds at large.

FROM VIOLENCE TO PEACE: BRINGING GENOCIDE FUGITIVES TO JUSTICE
Dan Munyuza, Inspector General of Rwanda National Police

Extradition from Malawi of Vincent MUREKEZI, one of the 1994 Tutsi genocide masterminds

Together, Rwandan law enforcement agencies, FIS and INTERPOL member countries have coordinated the arrest of nine genocide fugitives wanted by the UN’s former International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) that was set up specifically to try the ringleaders of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi ethnic group.
Global tripwire

INTERPOL’s FIS unit manages a global project called ‘Basic’ (Broadening Analysis on Serious International Crimes), which systematically reviews incoming cases on all forms of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Part of Project Basic is dedicated to fugitives linked to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Since 2016, dozens of Tutsi genocide fugitives targeted by INTERPOL’s ‘Basic’ project have been located or arrested. This is a considerable step in Rwanda’s healing process.

Last December, Danish authorities extradited INTERPOL Red Notice subject Wenceslas Twagirayezu, suspected of commandeering the massacre of thousands of Rwandan people during the genocide.

Similarly Boniface Uzaribara was arrested last year in the Congo for genocide and crimes against humanity, as was Vincent Murekezi, extradited from Malawi last January.

The three men were amongst Rwanda’s most wanted, and arrested as a result of police cooperation between Rwanda, INTERPOL and the countries which helped locate and arrest them, based on INTERPOL’s Notices and diffusions system.

Galvanizing global efforts for restorative justice

The scale and brutality of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi shocked the world. More than a million men, women, children and babies were killed by their neighbours and friends across the country in 100 days. Parents disowned and slaughtered their own children because of Tutsi ancestry. Sexual violence was widespread. More than 400,000 orphans were left to roam the empty streets because, after three months of bloodshed, 40% of the population had either been murdered or fled.

Every Police Chief will understand that pursuing the perpetrators is crucial for a healing community. Some genocide masterminds are still on the run. Tracking and arresting them is not only a sign of solidarity to genocide survivors, Rwandan society and humanity at large, but also one of the preventive strategies against the occurrence of another genocide anywhere in the world.
INTERPOL helps nab illegal fishing vessel

July 2019: A cargo ship suspected of illegal fishing was apprehended in Indonesian waters after being tracked by INTERPOL. The crew of the vessel was suspected of conducting illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica. INTERPOL followed the boat’s movements, sending daily reports to relevant countries, and providing hourly updates to national authorities as it approached Indonesian waters. An INTERPOL team of experts was also deployed to assist Indonesian authorities with inspecting the vessel and collecting evidence.

Boosting INTERPOL’s operational support services

April 2019: Heads of INTERPOL National Central Bureaus gathered for their annual conference, calling for INTERPOL capabilities like databases to be brought closer to frontline officers. Member countries also called for a boost in global cyber operational capabilities through the creation of dedicated cybercrime units at a national level.

Operation Simba: Terrorist mobility exposed

April 2019: More than four million checks in just 10 days against INTERPOL databases were conducted at land and air border points during this operation in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The operation aimed at identifying and disrupting terrorist movements saw 827 database ‘hits’, including for suspects subject to INTERPOL Red, Blue, Green and UN Notices — exposing the extent of criminals’ movements in the region.
New database to track drug traffickers

April 2019: The Czech Republic donated a high-tech database, called ‘Relief’, to INTERPOL which will allow countries all over the world to identify the origin and routes of drug shipments. The database was handed over by the Czech Police President during a ceremony at the General Secretariat in Lyon.

The database makes automated comparative analyses of the tool-marks, logos and chemical compositions of drug packages. The database can be accessed in every member country via our secure global communications network, I-24/7.

157 children among victims rescued from human traffickers in West Africa

April 2019: INTERPOL coordinated Operation Epervier II in Benin and Nigeria, resulting in the arrest of 47 suspects and rescue of 220 human trafficking victims. The victims, including 157 minors, had been exploited in various ways, including forced labour, forced prostitution, and beatings and psychological abuse. The operation was preceded by INTERPOL training exercises to enhance officers’ investigative techniques, and victim and offender interview skills.

Trafficking victims and gold uncovered in border operation

July 2019: Authorities in 13 West African countries identified and rescued more than 100 potential human trafficking victims during the week-long Operation Adwenpa IV. Officers conducted around 270,000 checks, with many using innovative, hand-held INTERPOL tablets that allow screening against INTERPOL criminal databases.

Czech Police President Colonel Svejdar officially hands over the Relief database to Secretary General Jürgen Stock.
Preventing fugitive mobility

There are hundreds of suspects wanted by Middle Eastern countries for serious crime – for the most part human trafficking, drug trafficking and terrorism – that we would not be able to trace, detect or locate without INTERPOL.

Circulated via INTERPOL’s secure I-24/7 network, the Red Notice serves as a global alert warning the world’s police community about people who are a real security risk.

The Red Notice is one of INTERPOL’s most powerful tools for tracking fugitives globally. Criminals can flee to another country to evade justice, but a Red Notice will always alert local police to the fact that a person is on the loose and represents a real threat to national security.

Jordan is one of six countries taking part in INTERPOL’s Project Sharaka to help regional police detect members of terrorist networks, particularly fugitives, through the provision of technology, capacity building and police operations.

Although many people consider Jordan to be one of the safest countries in the Middle East, we still have significant security challenges. Surrounded by conflict zones and located at the heart of a humanitarian crisis, Jordan’s INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) in Amman has a critical role to play in making sure our country does not attract associated transnational criminal networks and terrorist fugitives.

INTERPOL Amman works hard to apprehend foreign fugitives believed to be in Jordan, and engages daily in tracking fugitives in INTERPOL member countries wanted for prosecution in Jordan.

With stolen travel documents used by fugitive terrorists, particularly foreign terrorist fighters returning from conflict zones, it is particularly important that border security officers have direct access to INTERPOL’s database of stolen and lost travel documents. In this way, countries can identify the working patterns of terrorist criminal networks, detect emerging threats, and send early warnings across the region.
To prevent cross border movement of fugitive terrorists, INTERPOL has connected our airport, seaport and border police to its secure global police communications network - I-24/7.

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Through this direct access in key strategic locations to data on fugitives, suspected criminals, stolen and lost travel documents, stolen motor vehicles and forensic profiles, including fingerprints and photographs, Jordan’s frontline officers can now instantaneously detect if a person is a security risk.

Countries in the Middle East have been heavily impacted by organized crime and terrorism over the past decade. By making INTERPOL first-line screening tools available in our regional hotspots, and helping us coordinate counter-terrorism operations at the borders most likely to be used by foreign terrorist fighters traveling to or from conflict zones, INTERPOL helps Jordan makes it difficult for fugitives to travel undetected in our country.

Project SHARAKA organised a specialized border management training course for Jordanian law enforcement officers in Amman from 21 to 29 July 2019.

Jordanian border police now have direct access to INTERPOL’s criminal databases to be able to determine if travelers are fugitive criminals.
In today’s challenging and globalised crime landscape, traditional policing methods are no longer sufficient for keeping people safe. International police co-operation has never been more crucial to bringing fugitives to justice.

The ease with which people cross borders today combined with technological innovation have made tracking cybercrime and human trafficking fugitives a challenge for Nepal.

We have just established two new expert police units, one for cybercrime investigations and the other for human trafficking, to help us prevent both crime areas and track their perpetrators globally. The two bureaux are equipped with the international police cooperation tools that INTERPOL provides.

**Greater outreach, stronger borders, safer countries**

The INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) in Kathmandu is the crucial platform for tracking fugitives wanted by Nepal, linking our national police force with its fugitive investigations counterparts worldwide.

The NCB has expanded access to INTERPOL’s global I-24/7 network so that our counter-terrorism unit and immigration services at Kathmandu’s Tribhuvan International Airport can access INTERPOL’s criminal databases and quickly determine if a person is a potential fugitive and security threat.

Last year, using INTERPOL capabilities, NCB Nepal coordinated the arrest of 10 dangerous fugitives for serious crime ranging from gold smuggling and wildlife crime to murder, rape, human trafficking and fraud.

In addition to boosting national security, the arrest of these ‘most wanted’ criminals significantly boosted the reputation of the Nepalese Police at national level.

**Arrest: human trafficking mastermind**

Working hand in hand with NCB Bangkok, Nepal’s Human Trafficking Control Bureau recently secured the arrest of Parshu Ram Gurung, a man wanted by INTERPOL since 2015 and thought to be heading a regional human people trafficking network known to engage in extortion.

The suspect was arrested in Nepal after detection and deportation by Thai immigration in Nakhom Panom-Nyonyat on the Thai-Laos border. The fugitive’s arrest has triggered a series of global investigations, with further arrests foreseen in the weeks and months to come as NCBs continue to work together on the case.
Arrest: global gold smuggler

Joint fugitive investigations conducted between NCBs Kathmandu and Abu Dhabi recently resulted in the arrest of an INTERPOL Red Notice subject. The suspect, Benu Shrestha, is believed to be the founding member of an organized crime network engaged in gold smuggling from the United Arab Emirates to Nepal. He was also wanted for related cases of kidnapping, murder and extortion.

Through close collaboration between NCBs Kathmandu and Abu Dhabi, INTERPOL Red Notice subject Benu Shrestha was located and arrested in the UAE and deported to Nepal last October. The suspect is believed to be the founding member of an organized crime network engaged in gold smuggling and wanted for related cases of kidnapping, murder and extortion.

These are just two examples of how important INTERPOL’s fugitive investigations support tools and services are to bringing our criminals to justice no matter where they hide in the world.

In closing, I would like to thank the General Secretariat for this precious opportunity to share our experiences in INTERPOL’s Police Chiefs magazine. I am sure this publication will serve as a fundamental and meaningful forum for police leadership and cooperation, now and in the future.

Since Inspector General of Police Sarbendra Khanal took over Nepal’s national police in April 2018, 17 red notices have been issued against Nepali criminals operating beyond national borders. Eleven of them are wanted for gold scams, one for wildlife crime, and others for drug offences and human trafficking.

Since it became a member of INTERPOL in 1967, Nepal has issued 87 Red Notices and 72 diffusions against criminals wanted by Nepal, resulting in 21 arrests.

INTERPOL’s Fugitive Investigative Support unit

webfugitive@INTERPOL.INT
Nowhere to hide

Tracing, locating and arresting fugitives requires secure, fast, international police cooperation, which is why the Cypriot Criminal Investigations Department (CID) works tirelessly with INTERPOL's fugitive investigations unit in Lyon, via the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) in Nicosia.

NCB Nicosia cooperates with police forces around the world to locate fugitives wanted by Cyprus, arrest them and return them to our country to face justice. We also work almost daily with partners overseas to locate foreign national offenders in Cyprus and extradite them to the country pursuing them.

Working with INTERPOL's global network of law enforcement in nearly 200 countries is the way forward for Cypriot fugitive investigations. Frontline access to INTERPOL databases – particularly wanted people and stolen passports – is about to go live throughout the Cyprus Police so that field officers can detect quickly if a person is a potential security threat.

Also testimony to the importance we place on fugitive investigations is the secondment of one of my CID investigators to INTERPOL's Fugitive Investigations unit in Lyon.

Cyprus is a pilot country for INTERPOL's new digital witness project due to go live later this year. This means we are testing an INTERPOL technical platform to collect information from the public related to the investigation of serious crimes, including fugitives. The Cypriot seconded officer is leading this innovative global project.

In addition, Cyprus is an active participator in INTERPOL's regular international round-up and arrest of fugitives (INFRA) operations where hundreds of international fugitives wanted for offences ranging from murder, rape and child sexual abuse to kidnapping and drug trafficking, have been arrested in all parts of the world over the years.

Sitting on a crossroads between Europe, Africa and Asia, Cyprus is Europe's easternmost state. This geostrategic location makes it attractive to itinerant people, including criminals, seeking access to a wide range of other countries and regions to hide.

Every month, we intercept hundreds of irregular migrants crossing our borders in an attempt to reach the European Union. With three million tourists a year – a 300% increase to our natural population – it would be easy to presume that it is simple to mingle anonymously in Cyprus without raising suspicion.

INTERPOL helps us ensure this is not the case. To keep Cyprus safe despite this intense movement of people across our borders, the police needs to know exactly who is on the island at all times. The swift exchange of criminal data across the globe via INTERPOL helps Cyprus determine if a person is a legitimate traveller or a criminal fugitive so that we can prevent them from engaging in further crime on our island.
Bringing fugitives to justice is a fundamental part of international law enforcement cooperation. Through NCB Nicosia, the Cyprus Police has access to the global intelligence required to locate even the most difficult and dangerous fugitives, wherever they are hiding in the world.

No matter the difficulty, no matter the specific geopolitical situation of a given country, INTERPOL is there to assist with fugitive investigations services tailored to each country’s specific needs.

Testimony to the importance Cyprus places on fugitive investigations is the secondment to INTERPOL of one of its senior CID investigators, Marios Anastasi.

Operation INFRA: International Fugitive Round-up and Arrest

Focusing on serious crime including murder, child sexual abuse, people smuggling, fraud, corruption, drug trafficking, environmental crimes and money laundering, INFRA operations bring together law enforcement officers from around the world to locate and arrest criminals who have fled their national jurisdiction. The principles of teamwork and international cooperation that underpin the concept of INFRA contribute greatly to its success. Since INFRA launched in 2009, its annual operations have resulted in some 1,000 fugitives being located or arrested.

NCB Nicosia cooperates with police forces around the world to locate fugitives, have them arrested and returned to the requesting country to face justice.

Tracing, locating and arresting fugitives requires secure, fast, international police cooperation, which is why the Cypriot Criminal Investigations Department (CID) works tirelessly with INTERPOL’s fugitive investigations unit in Lyon, via the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) in Nicosia.
Fugitives are high-risk criminals who pose a serious threat to public safety. It is vital to national security that police officers have the best tools to quickly and accurately detect people with a history of committing crime.

INTERPOL strives constantly to find technological solutions to help police forces address this kind of challenge and enhance their capacity to monitor and track people about whom we have concerns.

One such service is INTERPOL’s facial recognition system (IFRS). Operational since 2016, IFRS analyses key facial features, generates a mathematical representation of them and then compares them against a database of known faces to determine possible matches.

IFRS led to more than 60 matches in 2017 and 280 in 2018. So far this year, member countries made more than 200 potential matches in just eight months.

**How do I get IFRS in my country?**
Police chiefs need only instruct their NCB to work with the General Secretariat to make IFRS available to their police forces. INTERPOL experts will help countries explore the options open to them in linking into the global IFRS system.

**High-tech fugitive investigations**
Biometrics can play a vital role in identifying fugitives, no matter how old the crime is. IFRS can be used to identify people in photos, video or in real-time, and greatly enhances law enforcement capabilities and protect public safety.

The use of this technology contributes to the modernization of operational border management and the evolution towards intelligence police management. It also makes possible the objective of facilitating and speeding up border crossings. This technology does not replace officers but allows them instead to address new challenges and save time.

Facial recognition technology provides high levels of human identification accuracy, adding a new dimension to border control security by making it easier to identify quickly a potential fugitive.

Most countries already have the data needed to take part in IFRS. Passports, driving licenses, formal documents all involve some form of centralized photograph pool. INTERPOL can work with countries to integrate that data into a common global exchange structure.

All face images in Notice and Diffusion requests from member countries are searched and stored in the face recognition system, providing they meet the strict quality criteria needed for recognition. The more countries share and search biometric data, the greater is our collective chance of identifying and arresting fugitives.

**How it works:** with IFRS, police forces can forward digital images of a person (for example, at border control) and compare them against INTERPOL’s database of pictures of terror suspects, international criminals and fugitives.

Contact the IFRS team:
facial.recognition@interpol.int
June 2019: More than 180 suspects were identified during Operation Blizzard, targeting the illegal reptile trade in 22 countries. 4,400 live animals were saved from being turned into boots, bags, belts and pets thanks to intelligence gathered and shared via INTERPOL National Central Bureaus.

May 2019: A two-year operation coordinated by INTERPOL led to the arrest and prosecution of nine child sex offenders in three countries. 50 children were saved from further abuse thanks to cooperation between police in Australia, Bulgaria, New Zealand, Thailand and the United States through INTERPOL. Operation Blackwrist was initiated after INTERPOL’s Crimes Against Children unit discovered material depicting the abuse of 11 boys, all aged under 13. The discovery was made during darkweb monitoring carried out routinely by the INTERPOL team. Secretary General Jürgen Stock said the operation sends a clear message to child abusers and those sharing child sexual exploitation materials online: “We see you, and you will be brought to justice.”

March 2019: On 7 March, people around the world paused to honour those who’ve paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty on INTERPOL’s first International Day of Remembrance for Fallen Police Officers. During a ceremony at INTERPOL’s General Secretariat in Lyon, Secretary General Jürgen Stock hailed the courage of officers:

“By placing public service above their own safety, the actions of these brave police officers are a permanent reminder that there is no greater calling we can answer than to make the world safe for future generations.”

Nine sex offenders arrested, 50 children rescued in Operation Blackwrist

Arrests and seizures in operation against illegal reptile traders
TERROR IN SRI LANKA

Incident Response Team deployed in wake of Sri Lanka attacks
April 2019: An INTERPOL Incident Response Team (IRT) was the first international team to arrive in Colombo, Sri Lanka after the terrorist attacks on churches and hotels that left 259 people dead, and hundreds more injured. The IRT included counter-terrorism, explosives, analysis and disaster victim identification experts. The team remained in place for one month.

Sri Lanka bombings suspect arrested after Red Notice issued
June 2019: One of the alleged ringleaders of the attacks was arrested and extradited to Sri Lanka from the Middle East after a Red Notice was published. 29-year-old Ahamed Milhan Hayathu Mohamed was wanted on terrorism and murder charges after the attacks on 21 April in Colombo.

Almost 750,000 potentially dangerous consumer items seized in Americas and Caribbean
April 2019: INTERPOL-led Operation Maya III took hundreds of thousands of potentially dangerous goods out of circulation – worth an estimated USD 3.5 million. Police and customs raided markets and shops, and conducted checks at borders in nine countries – with INTERPOL coordinating communication between the countries involved. Fake goods like these can have a devastating impact on a country’s economy, as well as on public safety. Contraband alcohol, counterfeit toothpaste and contraceptive pills were among the items taken out of circulation during Maya III.

Arrest of two of South America’s most wanted
April 2019: The El PacCTO project assisted in connecting countries to arrest two Latin American fugitives, both subjects of Red Notices. Gilmar José Bassegio, the Brazilian head of an international drug trafficking ring wanted for killing a police officer, was arrested in Bolivia some 17 years after he fled Brazil. Jose Ramiro González Jaramillo was arrested in Peru after being on the run since 2013. González Jaramillo, the former Ecuadorian Minister of Industries and Productivity, was wanted on corruption charges relating to his time as president of the Board of Directors of the Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security.
WORKING WITH YOU, WORKING FOR YOU

PUBLIC APPEAL TO TRACK ENVIRONMENTAL FUGITIVES

June 2019: INTERPOL launched a public appeal to track down seven fugitives wanted for environmental crimes, to coincide with World Environment Day. The appeal page on the INTERPOL website has been viewed more than 30,000 times, and members of the public are still encouraged to pass on any tips to INTERPOL. Environmental crime is closely linked with other forms of transnational crime like corruption and the smuggling of drugs, weapons and people – any tipoff is precious.

Wildlife crime hit hard in 109-country operation

June 2019: Operation Thunderball, jointly coordinated by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, saw thousands of seizures including 23 live primates, 30 big cats, more than 4,300 birds and almost 10,000 marine wildlife items like seahorses and dolphins. A team of customs and police officers coordinated the Thunderball from an Operations Coordination Centre set up at INTERPOL’s Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore. Almost 600 suspects were identified during the month-long operation, with investigations launched worldwide.

Handbook for online counter-terrorism investigations

June 2019: One of the alleged ringleaders of the Sri Lanka attacks was arrested and extradited from the Middle East after a Red Notice was published. 29-year-old Ahamed Milhan Hayathu Mohamed was wanted on terrorism and murder charges after the attacks on 21 April in Colombo.
Colossal amounts of fake food and drink seized in five-month operation

June 2019: Operation Opson VIII saw 672 people arrested, and more than USD 117 million worth of expired and unsanitary food and drink seized, from drinks laced with the active ingredient in erectile dysfunction medication, to an illicit vodka production site, chicken with altered expiry dates, and tonnes of apples being transported with forged documentation. The Opson series of operations has been run for almost a decade, with 78 countries taking part in this year’s operation – highlighting the impact that ongoing international cooperation can have on organized crime.

More border points connected to INTERPOL databases

August 2019: Officers at seven key Southeast Asian border crossings have been connected to INTERPOL’s I-24/7 global police network after the installation of new equipment and reliable Internet access. The border points in Laos now have instant access to INTERPOL databases, boosting the security of the entire region at these strategic locations. The connection was made as part of INTERPOL’s I-Twin Japan-Laos I-24/7 extension project, funded by Japan.

Most wanted Red Notice subject arrested

August 2019: A Red Notice and coordination led by INTERPOL’s Fugitive Investigative Support unit saw the arrest of one of Israel’s most wanted after 18 years on the run. INTERPOL facilitated communication between authorities in Israel, Mexico and the US to identify the fugitive’s known contacts and location. He was deported from Mexico to Israel, where he will serve out the rest of his sentence for attempted murder and forgery.

ARRESTED: Erez Akrishevski
INTERPOL hosted its annual South American Police Chiefs summit in Brazil last May to boost regional efforts to tackle local organized crime and terrorism from a global perspective. The three-day meeting concluded with a call to strengthen regional police performance through INTERPOL in the areas of corruption, terrorism, drug and firearms trafficking, and their inherent link with more effective fugitive investigations. This spotlight feature highlights some of the comments and statements made by the region’s Police Chiefs during talks.

Police Chief Argentina
Nestor Roncaglia
Argentina’s Chief Of Police Néstor Roncaglia, who also serves as INTERPOL Vice President for the Americas, said that by holding this meeting in a strategic tri-border area where Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil meet, police chiefs had sent a strong message to regional crime groups that South American police forces were using the world’s largest police organization to hunt them down. “Fugitive’s days of freedom are numbered,” stated the Police Chief during the talks.

Police Chief Bolivia
Vladimir Yuri Calderon Mariscal
South America’s biggest security threats are international in nature, and as regional police leaders we must coordinate the corresponding operational response as one, with INTERPOL. Bringing South America’s Police Chiefs together under one roof is a powerful way to tackle serious regional crime at strategic level, and this week’s summit has proved highly rewarding in that regard.

Fighting serious crime strategically is also about sharing information proactively on dangerous criminals on the run with a view to bringing them to justice, one of INTERPOL’s core functions and one which continues to serve Bolivia well. Just recently, for example, a Brazilian fugitive wanted for killing a police officer was arrested in Bolivia some 17 years after fleeing the country. INTERPOL’s Fugitive Investigative Support unit facilitated coordination between the police forces and NCBs in Brazil and Bolivia leading to the suspect’s location and arrest in Bolivia following extensive surveillance.
Maurício Valeixo highlighted the importance of INTERPOL’s annual South American Police Chiefs meeting in shaping regional police cooperation, stating that “only by addressing regional crime through a global lens can South American police leaders tackle contemporary security challenges coherently and effectively.”

South American police chiefs are brothers in arms when it comes to regional security. This summit meeting gives us insight on how security problems in neighbouring countries are managed, how they affect us and how we can help each other tackle them. Police leadership meetings of this kind enable us to achieve consensus about how best to work together, clearly illustrating how essential our collective leadership with INTERPOL is to South American security. Importantly, this year’s meeting allowed us to get a better grasp of INTERPOL’s border management tools and how, when used in combination with Notices, they boost our efforts to track and arrest fugitives to keep our countries safe.

We adopted some tough measures this week to tackle South American transnational crime, making a strong call to address terrorism more proactively using INTERPOL capabilities, especially its counter terrorism criminal analysis file. With terrorism investigations inextricably linked to financial crime, we asked the General Secretariat to organize training on financial crime, money laundering and terrorist financing before the end of the year. As a result of this week’s summit, INTERPOL’s Regional Bureau for South America—headed by a senior Chilean officer—will provide permanent monitoring, support, coordination, specialized analysis and regional assessments as it relates to the South American terrorism threat and corresponding fugitives trying to hide in our region.

For South American Police Chiefs, INTERPOL is a unique window on the global criminal landscape, a place for police leaders to converse in their common language of justice and social peace. Chile seconds five officers to the INTERPOL offices in Buenos Aires to also benefit from this global window.
Public corruption was a transversal topic of discussion at this summit, and one that we unanimously agreed has to be addressed at this level of police responsibility and mandate. We collectively agreed that INTERPOL would establish a regional corruption working group to explore best practices adopted by INTERPOL member countries in their fight against corruption. We will also ensure corruption is high on the agenda of INTERPOL’s 25th Americas Regional Conference in Canada next year. It is important for South American police leaders to come together in this way under the INTERPOL flag, because when good regional leadership is in place, it resonates throughout our region with a stronger sense of security and trust by the people we serve.

INTERPOL’s South American police chiefs meeting this year revolved mainly around how to strengthen cooperation between police forces in addressing our security related challenges, and the importance of regional and global connectivity for effective law enforcement. We devoted the meeting to discussing issues specific to Paraguay and its surrounding region, and the appropriate action that we should be taking for a collective response through INTERPOL. The expansion of criminal organizations and gangs and the consequent increase in homicides and violent crime in the region resulted in a collective call for an INTERPOL initiative to locate fugitives wanted for homicides and femicides committed in South America.

Bearing in mind that the Colombian police academy was bombed this year, and with terrorism high on the agenda this year, we are grateful for the global perspective on regional terrorism INTERPOL provides us in effectively tackling this tragically violent crime. Every police chief knows the crime challenges our own countries face, but by bringing us together under one roof this way, INTERPOL enables us to identify what we can do to unite our efforts in tackling specific and emerging threats in a wide range of crime areas. For the Colombian government, INTERPOL is a permanent ally in tackling organized transnational crime, supporting us with the tactics and capabilities we need to meet regional and global threats to keep our people safe.

Trafficking in human beings and people smuggling remains a security threat for both Suriname specifically and South America at large. With this in mind, regional leaders saw this week how INTERPOL’s multi-dimensional intelligence-driven operational capabilities, involving data collection, analysis and reporting through a dedicated criminal analytical file, help our police forces to address the crime area effectively. Crime is changing and so are citizens’ needs and expectations of police. With regional summit meetings like this INTERPOL enables us to constantly adapt and reform to keep our people safe.
CALL FOR POLICE SECONDMENT

INTERPOL is your organization. Its General Secretariat workforce has to include law enforcement officers with a firm grasp of national and regional policing to permit it to meet your needs. Police Chiefs are invited to consider seconding officers to the INTERPOL General Secretariat to fill the following vacancies:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE FOR POLICE SERVICES
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AND ANALYSIS

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Intelligence Officer</td>
<td>Assists investigators worldwide for international aspects of their fugitive investigations through operational support, focused projects, operational working groups, conferences and training initiatives. The officer will serve as focal point of contact for international fugitive investigations between the General Secretariat, member country specialized units, International Courts and Tribunals, and other international organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based in Lyon, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Intelligence Analyst, INTERPOL Border Management Programme (IBMP)</td>
<td>Performs intelligence analysis, both strategic and operational, on matters relating to border management, border security, migration management, irregular migration and/or cross-border crime, in support of INTERPOL operational activities or senior managerial decision making processes, contributing also to the development of criminal intelligence analysis as a vital policing capability.</td>
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<td>Based in Lyon, France</td>
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ORGANIZED AND EMERGING CRIME

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<tr>
<td>Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Child Exploitation Specialist</td>
<td>The post holder will be responsible for the team’s work on Baseline, access blocking of child sexual exploitation material, ICCAM, investigations into reported sites, cooperation with member countries for co-evaluation, improving global outreach to third parties and setting up initiatives to reinforce the prevention aspects of fighting sexual crimes against children.</td>
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<td>Based in Lyon, France</td>
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COUNTER -TERRORISM

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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Specialized Officer, Terrorist Networks, Regional Counter-Terrorism Node (RCTN) for South America</td>
<td>The post holder is responsible for supporting South American member countries in their counter-terrorism effort through the provision of investigative support (regional CT, weapons intelligence, raw data collection, biometric and digital forensics), strengthening border management action (cross-border screening operations) and capacity building.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Based in Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
INNOVATION IN POLICING

Digital Forensic Analyst
Based in Singapore

The Innovation Centre aspires to become an entity that all law enforcement agencies around the world look to for strategic futures planning and technical innovation. We are looking for an officer to support the specialized daily activities in the Digital Forensics Lab area of our Applied Innovation unit, working closely with the Cyberspace and New Technologies Lab and Strategic Innovation unit.

Regional Digital Forensics Focal Point – South America Regional Counter-Terrorism Node (CT/TN)
Based in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Seconded for operational and management to the CT/TN designated team leader, the post holder is responsible for the extraction and collection of digital forensics in South America to be included in INTERPOL’s central repositories. The officer will also be responsible for capacity building in their field of expertise.

INTERPOL is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes the applications of all qualified candidates who are nationals of INTERPOL member countries, irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin, opinions or beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, health or disabilities.

INTERPOL embraces diversity and is committed to inclusion within its workforce. As part of efforts to increase gender and geographic diversity at INTERPOL, the General Secretariat is implementing a new global action plan to boost talent, outreach and diversity. Qualified applicants from under-represented member countries and women are strongly encouraged to apply.

To give Police Chiefs a wide range of options for seconding their officers to the General Secretariat, new secondment options now include:

- Regular secondment
- Developmental secondment
- Special conditions secondment
- Rotation secondment
- paid secondment for projects
- Short-term secondment

For more information on these options, please contact us at recruitment@interpol.int. Please note that to enable us to consider applications, we require written confirmation of Police Chief support and acceptance of the conditions of secondment. The listed vacancies are also published on our website at: https://www.interpol.int/Recruitment
The INTERPOL General Secretariat welcomes your feedback about the value of The INTERPOL Globe. How can we make it more useful for police chiefs? Would you like to contribute to a forthcoming edition? The INTERPOL Communications Office looks forward to hearing from you at: Com-planner@interpol.int.