



U.S. Department of Justice
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INTERPOL's Role in Combatting Foreign Terrorist Fighters

As the largest international police organization, INTERPOL provides a global framework and resources for combatting transnational crime and terrorism through enhanced international law enforcement cooperation. These resources include an array of criminal intelligence and investigative tools and databases that are available to each of its 190 member countries. INTERPOL's secure, encrypted communications system ("I-24/7"), its criminal investigative and analytical databases, and its system of advisory notices enable the sharing of information and biometrics on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). Member countries, including the United States, have integrated INTERPOL's data into their respective border security and law enforcement lookout systems. Applied collectively, these resources and data provide an unparalleled mechanism for addressing the threat from foreign terrorist fighters by helping to monitor and deter their international movement, and interdict them at border points where possible.

INTERPOL provides a structural foundation around which National Central Bureaus (NCBs) representing more than 30 member countries have coalesced into a dedicated FTF program. This program currently supports: a working group and international symposia that serve as vehicles for sharing information and best practices on combating the threat posed by FTFs; a multinational fusion cell; and an analytical database populated with information contributed by and accessible to the participating member countries. The criminal intelligence information contained in the database includes detailed identity particulars that are especially valuable to law enforcement and border control authorities in making determinations of the terrorist threat posed by subjects located in, or attempting to enter, their respective jurisdictions.

INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB), is aggressively exploiting these resources in order to provide notification to other member countries and to communicate potential threats posed by individuals involved in terrorist activities. For example, the USNCB has strategically used INTERPOL Red Notices to target and apprehend terrorists for prosecution in U.S. courts and INTERPOL Blue Notices to trace and locate terrorists and others suspected of terrorism-related activity, including those not charged with a particular offense. Additionally, the USNCB is extensively utilizing INTERPOL Green Notices to publish information about hundreds of foreign nationals previously identified in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and involved in terrorist activities.

The broad scope of interest, multinational engagement, and work product contributed to INTERPOL's ongoing efforts to combat terrorist threats is evidenced by the composition of its FTF working group, which counts among its membership Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Enabled by the use of the I-24/7 system and professional fora that includes regional meetings, meetings of the Heads of National Central Bureaus, and the INTERPOL General Assembly, additional opportunities exist to engage member countries in bilateral discussions that can only further strengthen this endeavor. Finally, INTERPOL works closely with the United Nations, particularly the Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council, to publish Special Notices on individuals listed by the Sanctions Committee as belonging to or associated with al Qaeda and the Taliban.