



IGA

STUDY GUIDE

2025

INTERPOL General Assembly

Mandate

The INTERPOL General Assembly mandate aligns directly with its universal mandate. Delegates from the 196 member countries will each represent their respective National Central Bureaus. Delegates are encouraged to approach each unique issue faced by INTERPOL with solutions that are both feasible and realistic. INTERPOL's role in the global policing force is not to directly intervene, but to provide member countries access to its criminal database and extensive forensic, analytical, and investigative tools. On that note, delegates are expected to consider financial capacity and allocation when developing solutions.

Message from the Head Table

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the INTERPOL General Assembly for the 31st Session of Colombo Model United Nations. As a novel committee, the IGA provides a platform for enthusiasts of international crime, law, and policing to unite in the spirit of constructive debate. As the head table, we look for delegates who are well-equipped with a great balance between offensive and defensive strategies to rise to the top of the committee. We expect delegates to craft nuanced solutions, specifically taking different metrics of feasibility into account, including but not limited to financial capabilities and jurisdiction of the IGA.

We discourage the usage of over-offensive strategies or methods that step out of the IGA's jurisdiction and would take away from the spirit of debate. We look for well thought out and meticulously planned strategies in comm, especially from more senior delegates!

We look forward to an exciting conference and practice debates with delegates as enthusiastic about this committee as the head table!

Sineth, Preyan, and Abdullah

Practice Debate 1: The Usage of Red Notices and the Requirement of Updating Supporting Material Requirements

Overview

Red Notices, issued by INTERPOL, act as requests to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest individuals pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal actions. These notices are not arrest warrants but rather tools enabling member states to initiate domestic arrest warrants. This coordination is instrumental in combating transnational crimes and enhancing criminal justice collaboration globally.

Concerns and Misuse

The misuse of Red Notices has emerged as a pressing issue, with repeated allegations of political manipulation by authoritarian regimes. Examples include accusations unsupported by substantial evidence and the targeting of political dissidents, journalists, and activists. This misuse exacerbates repression, leading to unjust travel restrictions, reputational harm, and extended detention without trial.

Case Studies of Misuse

Turkey

Following the failed coup attempt in 2016, the Turkish government intensified its crackdown on critics of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Red Notices were frequently issued against journalists, academics, and activists, including NBA player Enes Kanter. These notices were criticized for lacking substantial evidence and appearing politically motivated.

Russia

Russia has been accused of weaponizing Red Notices against critics, such as Bill Browder, a financier and vocal opponent of President Vladimir Putin. INTERPOL rejected multiple notices requested by Russia, deeming them politically charged.

China

The misuse of Red Notices to target Uyghur activists like Dolkun Isa highlights China's strategy to suppress ethnic minorities and political dissent. Such instances have raised alarms about the integrity and fairness of the system.

Legal and Structural Challenges

INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data (RPD) include safeguards against misuse, such as mandatory pre-publication reviews for Red Notices. However, these measures face challenges:

1. **Inadequate Initial Scrutiny:** Legal reviews often struggle to verify the legitimacy of requests due to complex international legal systems and opaque domestic judicial practices.
2. **Diffusions:** Unlike Red Notices, diffusions are circulated directly between National Central Bureaus without mandatory oversight, making them susceptible to misuse.
3. **Legal Implications:** While Red Notices are administrative tools, their implementation can lead to significant legal consequences, including prolonged detentions.

Calls for Reform

The misuse of Red Notices demands a balanced reform approach. Key areas for improvement include:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** Ensure greater clarity in the issuance process and make misuse investigations accessible to international scrutiny.
2. **Strengthened Review Mechanisms:** Extend mandatory legal reviews to diffusions and enhance safeguards in the RPD to address politically motivated abuses.
3. **Role of the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF):** The CCF should have expanded powers to address appeals effectively, ensure compliance with its rulings, and foster a culture of accountability.

Role of International Treaties and Cooperation

Understanding extradition treaties and their intersection with Red Notices is essential. Instruments like the European Convention on Extradition and bilateral agreements with INTERPOL amplify the legal impact of Red Notices. Reform discussions must consider these frameworks to ensure consistent enforcement while safeguarding individual rights.

References

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Practice Debate 2: The Rise of Cross-Border Cybercrime

Cybercrime, defined as criminal activities conducted via the internet or digital means, has emerged as a global issue. Criminal organizations exploit cyberspace to commit identity theft, ransomware attacks, financial fraud, and theft of intellectual property. Unlike conventional crimes, cybercrime transcends geographical borders, challenging national law enforcement bodies.

The global nature of cybercrime has exposed vulnerabilities in both advanced and emerging nations. Criminals can target individuals, corporations, and governments across continents. The anonymity of the internet and the frequent lack of extradition agreements complicate efforts to apprehend offenders.

INTERPOL's responsibility to enhance international police cooperation makes it a vital entity in combating cross-border cybercrime. However, disparities in resources and differing cybersecurity strategies among nations present challenges to a unified response. Delegates are expected to assess the nature of cybercrime, identify deficiencies in existing international frameworks, and propose solutions that balance national sovereignty with international collaboration.

Case Studies

WannaCry Ransomware Attack

The WannaCry ransomware incident affected over 200,000 computers in 150 countries. Exploiting vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows, hackers encrypted files and demanded Bitcoin payments. The attack disrupted hospitals, companies, and public institutions, especially in nations with outdated systems. INTERPOL played a key role in knowledge sharing and response coordination. However, the incident exposed inequalities in cybersecurity readiness, particularly in developing nations.

Operation Pacifier

This global investigation, led by the FBI with INTERPOL's support, dismantled a child exploitation network on the dark web. The operation involved advanced investigative methods, including hacking servers in foreign territories. While effective, these tactics sparked debates about privacy and legal boundaries. Delegates must consider the trade-offs between investigative needs and the protection of civil liberties.

COVID-19 Pandemic Scams

During the COVID-19 pandemic, cybercriminals exploited fear and confusion through phishing campaigns, fraudulent websites, and fake vaccine sales. INTERPOL coordinated operations across member states to identify and shut down criminal networks involved in these activities. These cases highlighted the need for rapid information sharing and collaboration across borders.

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2. <https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>
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Conference Topic: Enhancing Capacities to Tackle Transnational Organized Crime

Organized crime poses a significant threat to societies worldwide. Operating across borders, criminal networks generate billions of dollars by exploiting legislative, corporate, and humanitarian systems. Tackling transnational organized crime requires a nuanced understanding of geopolitical and socio-economic factors.

INTERPOL operates by empowering its member nations' overall ability to combat organized crime, *in accordance with its global strategy*. Using its vast information sharing and data collection abilities, INTERPOL is able to specialise in everything from training to capacity building to innovation to data support. This means that responses to organized crime can be customized depending on the needs of the national police. However, it is important to note that the organization acts as a facilitator rather than a direct enforcer, emphasizing collaboration and development. ***It is not a law enforcement agency.***

When building consensus, nations must define transnational crime and establish guidelines for prosecuting criminals in alignment with foreign policy *and international criminal law*. No nation should perceive “favour” in the prosecution of persons of interest.

Key considerations

1. Interpol's handling, transparency, and security of its widespread informational infrastructure, inclusive of documentation and international information sharing
2. Financial implications and significant changes to the budget must be clarified under the General Assembly. The brunt funding of for operations is typically handled by host nations.
3. The broad scope of transnational crime encompasses areas such as cybercrime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, environmental crime, weapons trafficking, and smuggling of cultural artefacts.
4. Discussing how to expedite the international prosecution process and overall bias, keeping in mind global policy and international criminal law.
5. Development of innovations across domestic and international policing

Case Studies

'Ndrangheta

'Ndrangheta is a criminal organization that originated in Italy's Calabria region. One of the most extensive and powerful criminal enterprises in the world, expansive of over 32 nations within mainly Europe and Latin America. Although pushed by Italy via initial funding, a multitude of nations including the USA, France, Germany, Spain, Brazil, and Uruguay have taken the initiative under Interpol. The 2020-2024 development and deployment of Interpol's I-CAN have allowed for the collection of data along with the development of real-time police updates across 'Ndrangheta targeted countries. Though Interpol's joint investigations with national law enforcement have led to the capture of high-ranking 'Ndrangheta members, the power and presence of the mafia syndicate have seen minimal reduction.

Russian Bratva

The Russian Bratva refers to large, organized crime groups that originated in Russia and Eastern Europe, with activities spanning drug trafficking, arms dealing, cybercrime, and financial fraud. These groups, which rose to prominence in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union, have since expanded their operations into Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Their rise has had a profound impact, undermining the rule of law in several countries and corrupting key institutions. In response, INTERPOL has launched ongoing operations to disrupt these criminal networks, though the resilience of the Russian Mafia continues to pose significant challenges.

Mediterranean Trafficking

Routes between Africa and Europe allow for the illicit trafficking of drugs and persons exceeding 320 billion dollars annually. Crime rings around West/Northwest Africa have devised both land and naval corridors for their activities. Shutting down these crime rings remains difficult due to the usage of illicit financial systems such as Hawala, the high levels of national level corruption, and poor information sharing between regions. Regardless, Interpol prides itself in saving hundreds of victims under trafficking with Operative Weka II.

References

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