



U.S. Department of Justice

INTERPOL - U.S. National Central Bureau

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Washington, D.C. 20530

## Executive Order 12425

### *Expanding INTERPOL's privileges and immunities in the United States*

On December 16, 2009, the President signed an *Executive Order* expanding INTERPOL's privileges and immunities in the United States. The President's order amends a 1983 *Executive Order* signed by President Reagan that designated INTERPOL as a public international organization in the United States pursuant to the International Organizations Immunities Act (IOIA). INTERPOL is one of over 80 international organizations so designated.

The 1983 order provided INTERPOL with certain privileges and immunities, including immunities from suit and legal process in the United States. INTERPOL did not have an office in the United States at that time, and the Order withheld some of the benefits normally given to a designated international organization with an office in the United States.

Because in recent years INTERPOL opened a United Nations liaison office in New York, the new order extends to INTERPOL the additional privileges and immunities that IOIA-designated international organizations with offices here normally enjoy. The new order does not enable or authorize INTERPOL or its officials to conduct searches or seizures, make arrests or take any other law enforcement actions in the United States.

The additional privileges and immunities accorded include:

- Immunity from search and confiscation of its property and archives;
- Exemption from customs duties and taxes related to the importation of baggage and household effects;
- Exemption from federal income tax and Social Security contributions;
- Exemption from federal property taxes.

As one of INTERPOL's most active members, the United States has a strong interest in the effective operation of INTERPOL including its several offices around the world. The United States and its law enforcement community rely on INTERPOL's ability to provide a secure means of communicating sensitive criminal investigative information among police officials in its 188 member countries. The privileges and immunities provided to the INTERPOL office in New York encourage confidence in the organization and benefit the American police who utilize INTERPOL's resources on a daily basis to investigate and prevent crime, and keep our borders safe.

This *Executive Order* does not apply to the Interpol-U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, its employees, and detailed agents, nor change their rights, responsibilities, or authority under U.S. law and the Constitution.