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**(U) Biannual Assessment of INTERPOL Member Country Abuse of  
INTERPOL Red Notices, Diffusions, and Other INTERPOL Communications for  
Political Motives and Other Unlawful Purposes**

(U) This biannual report is submitted jointly by the Departments of Justice and State in accordance with the section 6503(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 117-81 (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022.

(U) The Departments of Justice and State refer to and incorporate their initial joint report, submitted in August 2022 and attached as Annex 2. Since the submission of that report, overall the Departments have not observed a change in pattern with regard to misuse and attempted misuse of INTERPOL systems. The assessment in our previous report stands.

(U) The Administration shares the serious concerns of the Congress regarding transnational repression, which are actions undertaken by governments to silence and/or exact reprisals against individuals outside of their sovereign territory, including human rights defenders, civil society activists, critics, journalists, and political opponents. Since the prior report was submitted, the United States has continued to heighten domestic and international awareness of, build opposition to, and take effective measures against transnational repression in all its forms, including as appropriate the misuse and attempted misuse of INTERPOL systems and processes, the particular subject of this report. For example, the Departments of State and Justice participated on October 6 in a panel discussion on transnational repression as part of the Counter Foreign Interference Conference, which includes 16 countries plus the European Union. During the U.S.-Republic of Korea Democracy and Governance Consultations on October 14, the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland Security briefed the Republic of Korea on efforts to counter transnational repression and discussed avenues for expanded coordination to that end. The Departments of State and Homeland Security also led briefings to the United Kingdom, Germany, and the European Union in December. Domestically, members of the interagency, including the State Department and FBI have met with targeted diaspora community members

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and civil society groups to listen to their concerns and apprise them of available resources to protect them, including whom to inform in the event they suspect they are being subjected to transnational repression.

(U) As explained in the initial joint report, the fundamental principles of neutrality, nondiscrimination, and respect for human rights are memorialized in the INTERPOL Constitution. Specifically, Article 2 of the Constitution invokes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 3 prohibits any activities of a political, military, religious, or racial character. These provisions are the foundation for INTERPOL's and its member countries' efforts to prevent the misuse and attempted misuse of INTERPOL systems and processes as a means of transnational repression.

(U) Although instances of member countries misusing or attempting to misuse INTERPOL notices and diffusions still occur, this particular form of transnational repression seems to have receded since INTERPOL implemented reforms in 2016 and 2017. Those reforms created INTERPOL's Notices and Diffusions Task Force (NDTF), which now reviews all requests for red notices prior to their publication, and all wanted persons diffusions prior to their being recorded in INTERPOL's database. The reforms also involved the implementation of new rules for the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF), INTERPOL's independent access and redress body for private individuals, giving it binding decision-making authority over the activities of INTERPOL and the ability to provide effective remedies for petitioners. The United States continues to believe that the most effective strategy for addressing the concern of misuse of INTERPOL notices and diffusions is to support the reforms of 2016 and 2017.

(U) Since the Departments of Justice and State submitted their initial report, INTERPOL held its annual General Assembly in New Delhi, India. At the General Assembly, the United States voiced its strong support for the work of the CCF and urged Member countries to vote in favor of increasing its resources—a measure which was overwhelmingly approved. The United States also continues to remain engaged in promoting good governance within INTERPOL through the active participation of U.S. officials in elected positions on the Executive Committee and CCF, and in various groups, including the Governance Working Group, Notices Advisory Group, and Committee for Processing Data.

(U) The U.S. Government remains committed to combating transnational repression in all its forms, and will continue to support and strengthen INTERPOL reforms in order to prevent the misuse of INTERPOL systems.

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