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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 section 6503(c) of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Public Law 117-81.

(U) The Departments of Justice and State refer to and incorporate by reference their initial joint report, submitted in August 2022, their second joint report, submitted in April 2023, and their third joint report, submitted in December 2023, under this statute. Since the submission of the most recent report, the Departments have not observed a change in pattern or degree with regard to misuse and attempted misuse of INTERPOL systems. The assessments in our previous reports remain accurate. The Law Enforcement Sensitive annex has been updated (see Annex 1).

(U) The Administration shares Congress' serious concerns regarding transnational repression (TNR), which broadly describes actions undertaken by governments to silence and/or exact reprisals against individuals outside of their sovereign territories, including reprisals against human rights defenders, civil society activists, critics, journalists, and political opponents. Since the most recent report was submitted in December 2023, the United States has continued to heighten

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domestic and international awareness of, build opposition to, and take effective measures against TNR in all its forms, including, as appropriate, the misuse and attempted misuse of INTERPOL systems and processes, the particular subject of this report. During INTERPOL's 91st General Assembly, held in Vienna in late November and early December 2023, the United States supported several amendments to INTERPOL's legal texts designed to improve good governance, including the establishment of rules of conduct. Domestically, members of the interagency, including the State Department and FBI, have met with members of diaspora communities and civil society groups that have been targets of TNR to listen to their concerns and apprise them of available resources to protect them. Multilaterally, the State Department co-hosted a Human Rights Council 55th Session Side Event, "Transnational Repression: Global Implications & Collaborative Solutions," attended by approximately 110 people from 22 countries. The event fostered a comprehensive presentation of the TNR threat, exploring its manifestations, consequences, and potential strategies for mitigation. The State Department continues to document cases of TNR in its annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* and engage with countries bilaterally and multilaterally on specific incidents.

(U) As explained in the previous joint reports, 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 supports neutrality by prohibiting any INTERPOL 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 TNR.

(U) Although instances of member countries misusing or attempting to misuse INTERPOL notices and diffusions still occur, this particular form of TNR 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

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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 further support these reforms.

(U) 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 Working Group on Governance, Notices Advisory Group, and Committee for Processing Data.

(U) The U.S. Government remains committed to combating TNR 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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