

## On the Move: Blue Notices by INTERPOL

By Michelle A. Estlund on November 10, 2011

Until now, there hasn't been much occasion to address Blue Notices since they were the topic of several posts [here](#) in May of this year.

This week, however, a [Blue Notice has been issued](#) in the name of Ramona Bautista, who is under investigation for activity thought to be related to her brother's murder. Ms. Bautista is a member of a politically connected family in the Philippines. Another of Ms. Bautista's brothers has been charged in the murder.

Ms. Bautista has not been charged with a crime as yet. The government of the Philippines requested the Blue Notice after she left the country. A Red Notice was not requested, at least as yet, because of the fact that no charging document or conviction exists against Ms. Bautista.

The point of a Blue Notice is to track a person's movements when the person is believed to be a witness or a suspect to a crime. The Blue Notice differs from a Red Notice in that a Red Notice is often treated as an international arrest warrant that frequently results in detention, at least temporarily.

Despite the difference in purpose, a Blue Notice is still subject to the same INTERPOL rules as Red Notices, and INTERPOL can refuse to issue Blue Notices if its rules would be violated by granting a certain request for a Blue Notice.

Next time: why INTERPOL might refuse a request for a Blue Notice.

As always, thoughts and comments are welcomed.