

## Answers to questions about INTERPOL: for Red Notice Subjects

By Michelle A. Estlund on October 31, 2011

For people who find themselves the subject of Red Notices, it seems that the more questions they ask, the more confused they become. Part of this phenomenon is due to the nature of INTERPOL: it can be difficult to digest the verbiage used by INTERPOL, and the organization's processes and rules are not exactly intuitive.

A few of the questions that may arise for Red Notice subjects are:

***How can INTERPOL issue a Red Notice against me when it's obvious that the charges are false?*** INTERPOL allows its member countries to request or issue Red Notices if certain application criteria are met. Those criteria do not include proof of guilt (although a record of a conviction is acceptable to INTERPOL as well.) INTERPOL acts as an information conduit, not as a court which determines guilt or innocence. This question is addressed in more detail in a previous post, [here](#).

***Can a lawyer help me?*** It depends. If your case was processed properly and all of the relevant rules, laws, and texts were followed, then no. Your Red Notice was validly issued and you likely would have no claim for relief. On the other hand, if the information regarding you was processed in violation of any of the applicable rules, laws, or texts, then you may have a valid claim for relief with INTERPOL and a competent lawyer can assist you with that claim.

***How long will INTERPOL take to respond to an application for relief?*** Again, it depends. Many variables will determine the length of time it will take to receive a response. Those variables include: the timing of your claim in relation to the next scheduled meeting wherein such claims will be considered; the complexity of your claim; and the need for INTERPOL to seek information from the relevant country's National Central Bureau (NCB) regarding the matters raised in your claim. It is not at all unusual for Red Notice disputes to take months or years to be fully resolved. Therefore, if you have a Red Notice issue, waiting to address it only adds more time to the final resolution of the matter.

As always, thoughts and comments are welcomed.