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Abuse of INTERPOL Red Notices The Cases of Russia and China

INTERPOL, the world's largest international police organization, facilitates cooperation among member states to combat transnational crime. One of its main tools, the Red Notice, is intended to help locate and detain fugitives, informing local police enforcement with key details and possible whereabouts. However, following the Cold War, concerns emerged about the political misuse of this mechanism by certain member states. Russia and China have been accused of using Red Notices to target political figures, journalists, and asylum seekers. These actions undermine INTERPOL, violate human rights, weaken trust in international policing systems, and result in an obstacle for other real and useful Red Notices.

Ongoing efforts by INTERPOL aim to improve and implement oversight and accountability in the issuance of Red Notices. Effective reform requires collaboration among member states, stricter verification standards, increased transparency in data handling, as well as increased accountability for states that fail to comply with INTERPOL's standards for Red Notices. International cooperation is essential to address systemic abuse and to preserve the integrity of international law enforcement and protect fundamental human rights.