

Strasbourg, 11 October 2017

Secretary General of Interpol Mr Jürgen Stock
Chairperson of the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files Mr Vitalie Pirlog
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As Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), we would like to applaud INTERPOL's efforts relating to the structural and policy reforms, launched in November 2016. We believe that they will contribute to the strengthening of INTERPOL's role as a body responsible for detention of criminals, and solve the issue of persistent violations of Article 3 of the INTERPOL's Constitution, which was used to legitimise politically motivated prosecution by authoritarian states in previous years.

The initial reforms were successfully carried out mainly due to the work of PACE which provided further recommendations relating to the reform¹; as well as the efforts of human rights organisations, such as the Open Dialog Foundation², in carrying out close monitoring of the reform process.

This letter aims to draw your attention to a number of cases which demonstrate the manner in which INTERPOL and its powers were misused for the attainment of political goals.

The misuse in the cases was committed by countries, such as: Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Moldova. Abusive Red Notices have been issued by Russia against **Yan Andreev**, the former head of the Russian Tutaev District, who opposed his dismissal from the post, initiated by the ruling party 'United Russia' due to the fact that he wasn't affiliated with the party and openly opposed it; and, by Kazakhstan, against former associates of the Kazakh dissident Mukhtar Ablyazov, such as: **Anatoliy Pogorelov. The Khrapunov's family** who refused to give false testimonies against Ablyazov also became victims of misuse of INTERPOL's mechanism. **Victor Khrapunov, Leila Khrapunova**, their son **Ilyas Khrapunov** and their relative **Aiyar Ilyassov** are in INTERPOL's wanted list on the request of Kazakhstan. Moreover, through illegal cooperation and initiation of fabricated criminal cases in Ukraine and Russia, Kazakhstani authorities seek the extradition of opponents, their relatives and critics of Nazarbayev's regime in different countries.

We would also like to inform INTERPOL about the cases of individuals who *may* be placed on the wanted list in the near future on the basis of politically motivated charges. Those individuals include the opponents of Moldovan authorities and Vlad Plahotniuc: a lawyer and human rights defender, **Ana Ursachi**,³ and a businessman and an activist, **Alexandru Machedon**⁴. Kazakhstan, in turn, may

¹<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-DocDetails-EN.asp?FileID=23714&lang=EN>

²<http://en.odfoundation.eu/a/8201.the-report-the-reform-of-interpol-don-t-let-it-be-stopped-halfway>

³ More details can be found in ODF's Report:

<http://en.odfoundation.eu/a/8180.the-captured-state-persecution-of-oppositionists-media-representatives-and-human-rights-defenders-in-moldova>

persecute, through INTERPOL, exiled relatives of political prisoner Muratkhan Tokmadi⁵, who fell victim of the politically motivated persecution of Mukhtar Ablyazov and was sentenced to three years in prison on fabricated charges. These persons are: **Mr Tokmadi's sons** and his wife **Mrs Dzhamilya Aimbetova-Tokmadi**.

Therefore, we hereby highlight the political nature of the prosecution of Yan Andreev, the Khrapunov's family, Anatoliy Pogorelov, and we wish to draw INTERPOL's attention to the fact that Mr Pogorelov is currently in an unsafe State and cannot count on full protection of his human rights. Therefore, we hereby urge INTERPOL to address the UAE with a request that Mr Pogorelov be provided with freedom of movement and, hence, an opportunity to leave the State. Furthermore, it is imperative that other victims in the present case, namely: Ana Ursachi, Alexandru Machedon and the Tokmadi's family, be prevented from being placed on the wanted list.

By this letter, we welcome INTERPOL's reform process and willingness to cooperate with international bodies and the civil society, and we hope that our joint efforts will prevent further persecution through the INTERPOL system.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the PACE

Ms Petra De SUTTER, a member of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (Belgium)

Ms Gabriela HEINRICH, a member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (Germany)

Ms Alice-Mary HIGGINS, a member of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities (Ireland)

Mr Andrej HUNKO, a member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (Germany)

Mr Pieter OMTZIGT, a member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (Netherlands)

Ms Ulla SANDBÆK, a member of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and Sub-Committee on Co-operation with non European countries of origin and transit (Denmark)

⁴ According to Mrs Ana Ursachi, Moldovan authorities are preparing a criminal case against Mr Machedon on charges relating to economic crimes

⁵ More details can be found in ODF's Report:

<http://en.odfoundation.eu/a/8275.the-report-the-case-of-muratkhan-tokmadi>