

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

My name is Markus Hu and I have the privilege of welcoming you to BUSUN 2010 and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) committee in my role as the Chair.

To tell you a little bit about me, I am a junior studying applied mathematics and economics but thinking of going to law school. I am a transfer student from UC Berkeley and originally from Canada. I have done parliamentary debate for most of my high school years and I have been doing Model UN at a college level for two years now.

Please take the time to read through this background guide as it will have useful information about the INTERPOL committee as well as a brief overview of each potential topic of discussion. At the same time, keep in mind that this guide is meant to give ideas for further research and I urge you to do your own research using this guide as a starting point.

If you have any questions or concerns you can email me at INTERPOL@busun.net. I wish you the best of luck in your preparation and look forward to meeting you all in INTERPOL this fall!

A Background of INTERPOL

The origins of INTERPOL trace back to the International Criminal Police Congress (ICPC), which was first held in Monaco in 1914. It was a union of fourteen countries, with headquarters in Vienna, Austria, which created networks to make information exchange on fugitives easier and more accessible. A common journal was sent around to the countries with wanted

person notices as well as a radio network was launched in 1935 to facilitate the exchange of information on fugitives. Separate departments were also set up to deal with specific criminal activities such as: currency counterfeiting, criminal records, and passport forgery.

However, in 1938, the ICPC's primary operations were forced to cease after the Nazis came to power in Germany, disposed the appointed Secretary General at the time, and assumed complete control of the organization. After the war, Belgium took the lead in 1946 to rebuild the organization. New headquarters were created in Paris and the organization was named INTERPOL. It would perform the same duties the ICPC was responsible for before the war, mainly facilitating the exchange of information across police departments of different countries. In 1949, the United Nations granted INTERPOL an NGO status and in 1971, INTERPOL was officially recognized as an international organization by the United Nations.

In the last 20 years, INTERPOL has not stopped developing. Following the introduction of the internet, INTERPOL has expanded to this new realm; exemplified by the International Criminal Information System that was launched in 1998, allowing countries to retrieve information quickly online. In 2002, a 24/7 web based communication system was launched, improving accessibility to other countries' criminal databases even further.

Topic 1: Financial and High-Tech Crimes

In the internet age, crimes involving technology are becoming more rampant. These crimes can be divided into three broad categories: financial fraud, information technology crime, and intellectual property crime.

Financial fraud has originated for decades in the

form of currency counterfeiting, money laundering, and fraud. With the increasing prevalence of technology, incidents of such fraud have been on the rise. INTERPOL has set up a special task force: the Counterfeits and Security Documents Branch (CSDB) to combat counterfeiting. The CSDB's primary purpose is to provide information between law enforcement agencies, international organizations, and central banks of the 188 member countries of INTERPOL.

Money laundering delivers cash into the hands of illegitimate organizations. INTERPOL has held several international informational conferences on the threat of illicit cash couriers, most recently in 2009. At the latest conference, the organization urged countries to improve information exchange by making domestic cash courier reports and information on domestic seizures available to the international police community.

Financial fraud is a problem for individuals as well as organizations. The internet means frauds, such as confidence tricks, insurance fraud, pyramid schemes, and credit card fraud, can be initiated en masse to an unsuspecting audience of web users. The infamous Nigerian prince email is just one example. INTERPOL is fighting this with a private sector initiative, teaming up with technology firms like Microsoft and Yahoo to educate the public about the dangers of these frauds and also encouraging the private sector and law enforcement agencies to correspond with each other and share information.

Information technology crime is a field that has rapidly expanded due to current IT trends. As wireless networks pop up all around countries and 3G technology allow people to be connected to the Internet 24/7, steps need to be taken to protect people's private information. Wireless networks allow skilled

hackers to access not only personal files but also corporate information. 3G networks may lead to attacks on smartphones to capture sensitive data stored on the phone or transmitted by the phone. While smartphone user may think of additional security for their home computer, they might not suspect an attack on a smartphone.

INTERPOL has four working groups to combat IT crime that are looking for regional solutions in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. They meet regularly to discuss IT security issues and a list of their achievements and goals can be found

here:
<http://www.interpol.int/Public/TechnologyCrime/WorkingParties/Default.asp#europa>

When people think of intellectual property (IP) crime, they normally expect to see a tech-savvy kid downloading songs with bittorrent. However, IP crime can be much more serious than that; trademark counterfeiting includes consumer products of drugs (Genetech products in 2001), baby formula drugs (2001), among others. In fact, the level of intellectual property counterfeiting has grown to about 5 and 7 percent of world trade, summing up to approximately 371 billion dollars. INTERPOL has put together the Intellectual Property Action Group in 2001 consisting of representatives from national law enforcement and customs authorities, intergovernmental organizations, private sector bodies, and patent protection entities.

Questions to consider:

1. How much jurisdiction should INTERPOL have in fighting financial crimes without infringing upon the privacy and rights of corporations/nations?
2. How can INTERPOL better work with corporations to address financial/IP crimes?

Topic 2: Corruption

Corruption drains the resources of a country,

putting valuable resources in the hands of criminal and possibly terrorist organizations. There has also been a link found between corruption and poverty, as corruption deters foreign investment, which hampers economic growth, leading to a country not being able to pull itself out of poverty.

Over the last 15 years, there have been several conventions held on corruption. The first conventions started out addressing regions: Inter-American Convention against Corruption (1997), OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (1999), Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (2002). In 2003, a general UN Convention against corruption was held; it tackled corruption in four ways: prevention, criminalization, international cooperation, and asset recovery.

Corruption is largely a domestic issue and the convention urges countries to establish anticorruption bodies and enhance transparency in public finance. Also, the convention calls for public servants to be subject to codes of conduct, requirements for financial disclosures and appropriate disciplinary measures.

The convention also requires that countries establish criminal offenses for corrupt behavior both in the public sector and also in the private sector.

There have been 140 signatories to the Convention and 98 ratifications as of 2007.

INTERPOL has set up a branch, the INTERPOL Group of Experts on Corruption (IGEC) to develop and implement anti-corruption initiative to allow law enforcement agencies to better fight corruption. The IGEC provides information to INTERPOL regarding corruption and gives input at all anti-corruption meetings. The IGEC also conducts anti-corruption workshops and hosts conferences on the issue.

In addition to that, IGEC has produced several documents addressing corruption, including a draft on 'Global Standards to Combat Corruption in Police Forces/Services' as well as a guide to aid investigators in corruption cases. In this draft proposal are suggestions of actions for countries to follow in order to reduce corruption in their police forces, such as having and maintaining effective systems for the recruitment of police officers, putting in place deterrents to bribery, etc. The full list of proposals can be found here: <http://www.interpol.int/Public/corruption/standard/Default.asp>.

Questions to Consider:

1. What assistance can INTERPOL provide to governments to fight public corruption?
2. How can the role of IGEC be expanded?
3. How can the IGEC and INTERPOL encourage countries to adopt the Global Standards to Combat Corruption in Police Forces/Services?

Topic 3: Fugitives

Putting out alerts for fugitives is a critical function of INTERPOL since its creation. At the request of its member countries, INTERPOL circulates electronic notices containing identification details and judicial information about wanted criminals. This greatly helps domestic law enforcement agencies seeing that borders become more transparent and fugitives often cross national borders.

INTERPOL puts out a series of notices to its member countries with different objectives for each notice. There are notices seeking the arrest of individuals (red), locating missing persons (yellow), collecting information about crimes (blue), seeking information on unidentified bodies (black), providing warnings about persons who have committed criminal offenses (green), and issuing warnings about

dangerous materials (orange). The notices are issued in multiple languages and are used by the International Criminal Tribunal and the International Criminal Court to seek people.

INTERPOL also has an investigative service called the Fugitive Investigative Service (FIS). It provides support to member countries to locate and arrest wanted persons, coordinates international cooperation, distributes knowledge on fugitive apprehension, and conducts research on fugitive related issues.

However, INTERPOL is not a police force. INTERPOL agents are not authorized to make arrests and there is no INTERPOL jail. INTERPOL simply acts as the liaison to disseminate information on fugitives to various countries' law enforcement agencies.

Questions to Consider:

1. Should INTERPOL be more than simply a liaison and take on policing duties?
2. In the growing Euro zone where movement of people is easy, how can INTERPOL develop in order to better track fugitives across fluid borders?

Links for Further Research:

<http://www.interpol.int>

<http://www.interpol.int/Public/Notices/default.asp>

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/convention-highlights.html>

<http://www.interpol.int/Public/corruption/conventions/Provisions.asp>

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