

Will INTERPOL Issue a Red Notice Against an Innocent Person?

By Michelle A. Estlund on June 06, 2011

"But I'm innocent!" Clients who are the subjects of Red Notices frequently and understandably feel a sense of outrage over the fact that a Red Notice has been issued against them when they are in fact innocent of the charges in the underlying arrest warrant.

Does INTERPOL withdraw a Red Notice based on innocence? No. In fact, INTERPOL clearly states that the persons who are subjects of Red Notices are to be [presumed innocent until proven guilty](#). INTERPOL is not a trier of fact. It acts as a communicator of information between law enforcement agencies, and aids in bringing the subjects of Red Notices before the proper authority for trial or sentencing.

So when a person offers only innocence as a challenge to a Red Notice, INTERPOL's response will be the same as Tommy Lee Jones' U.S. Marshall character in the movie, *The Fugitive*, when a sentenced fugitive tells him, "I didn't kill my wife!" Just as INTERPOL does not determine innocence or guilt, neither does the U.S. Marshall. Of course, his response is: "[I don't care.](#)"

As always, thoughts and comments are welcomed.