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INTERPOL

General Secretariat  
Secrétariat général  
Secretaría General  
الأمانة العامة

6 July 2010

Our Ref.:

LA/35010-233/5.2/EVH/lb/DCS 40322

Subject:

Your petition to the ICPO-INTERPOL General Secretariat  
and the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files dd. 24 June 2010

Mssrs Alcalay, Arria, Usón and Ms Urruticoechea,

I acknowledge the receipt of your petition on 24 June 2010, addressed to the Secretary General of ICPO-INTERPOL and to the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (the Commission), concerning Venezuelan requests to arrest certain individuals. From the part of the General Secretariat I wish to provide you the following clarifications.

First of all, I wish to thank you for the detailed information which you have brought to the General Secretariat's attention. I also wish to assure you that INTERPOL is firmly committed to ensuring that information contained in its databases is recorded and maintained in accordance with its rules, which in turn are based on international standards of police cooperation and fundamental human rights. With this in mind, information is reviewed by the General Secretariat before an after it is recorded in INTERPOL's databases. In conducting such reviews, the General Secretariat takes note of all information in its possession.

Accordingly, I wish to assure you that the General Secretariat will most carefully consider the serious concerns raised in your letter and arguments in support thereof.

However, I also wish to note that INTERPOL's rules do not authorize it to pass judgments on the strengths and weaknesses of a certain criminal case, but it is only when a competent international or national jurisdiction issues a judgment or makes an authoritative determination that may have consequences on the processing of INTERPOL's information, when the Organization has to take those rulings into account. INTERPOL also takes into account relevant international conventions and other documents or statements made by authoritative institutions.

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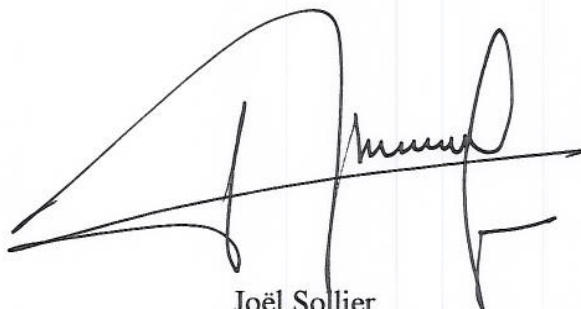
In this regard, where it concerns the case of Mssrs Zuloaga, I may confirm you that as soon as the General Secretariat became aware of the statement of Mr. Frank La Rue, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, appropriate action was taken in order to ensure the compliance of the processing of information with INTERPOL's rules and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In addition, as you may know, the Commission, an independent expert body, is competent to make its own determination about whether the information has been recorded and retained in compliance with the Organization's rules. The information may be destroyed if for example the Commission finds that an item of information registered in the Organization's databases is not in compliance with the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

You surely understand that I may not comment in detail any individual case, including that of Mssrs Zuloaga, but I wish to assure you that the matter is given full attention both by the General Secretariat and the Commission.

I sincerely hope that the above has provided an explanation of the principles being applied by INTERPOL, and is of satisfactory assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joël Sollier', written over a horizontal line.

Joël Sollier  
General Counsel

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