

**SUBJECT: The proof that Turkish Interpol intentionally enters false data
Into the SLTD database and abuses Interpol**



Weiveldlaan 41/D 1930, Zaventem / Belgium

Dear Chairperson and Members of the CCF,

August 2, 2021

It is known that Turkey has abused Interpol in recent years. Following the July 2016 military coup attempt, Turkey sent numerous Red Notice requests to the Interpol General Secretariat (IPSG) based on unfounded accusations for its political opponents. Turkey also repeatedly and knowingly made false entries into Interpol's SLTD database to leave its political opponents living abroad in a difficult position. One of the most well-known ways to abuse Interpol was to mark the passports of its political opponents as "lost" or "stolen" and upload them to the "Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database" (SLTD). Thanks to Interpol's scrutiny and/or CCF's meticulous work, the present Turkish Government has not been able to achieve its goals in this regard.

We, hereby, present a document proving the above-mentioned fact. The document attached to this message is an official letter sent to the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office by the Turkish Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of International Law and Foreign Relations.

The two-page letter (in Turkish) by the Ministry of Justice informs the Office of the Chief Public Prosecutor about the roadmap to be followed in relations with Interpol. In the letter, Interpol is criticized for rejecting Red Notice requests and restricting data entry from Turkey to Interpol databases, and it is stated that Interpol does not act as Turkey wishes. **However, the letter also reveals the real intention of the government; It is confessed that the purpose of adding a "lost" or "stolen" annotation to some people's passports is not to inform the member countries that the passports in question are actually lost or stolen, but to determine the whereabouts of passport holders during the border crossings.** The translation of the part marked in yellow in the original letter, revealing the Turkish government's intention, is as follows;

"Within the framework of Turkey's international efforts against the FETO terrorist organization's activities abroad, one of the most important elements of our struggle is the issuance of a red notice about the members of the organization and the prevention of their free movement in other countries...

As a requirement of international practices, all Interpol member countries can see the information about persons whose passport has lost/cancelled/stolen annotations in the database. Whereby, national authorities in countries where these people are located can contact our Ministry of Interior and request information on the individuals. This enables us to identify the whereabouts of individuals who are suspects/defendants/convicts of all terrorist crimes, in particular FETO. INTERPOL's decision to suspend our country's access to the database allows FETO members to freely move abroad."

Yavuz Selim Kiran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, stated in his speech on June 3, 2021, regarding the 89th Interpol General Assembly Meeting that will be held in Turkey; *"By hosting this meeting in Turkey, we will convey our approach in the fight against terrorist organizations, especially FETO, in detail. In this respect, this meeting will constitute an important opportunity."*¹

¹ <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/turkiye-interpolun-2021deki-genel-kurul-toplantisina-ev-sahipligi-yapacak/2262541>

The Head of NCB/Turkey, Lütü Çiçek, also said that the delegates who will attend the meeting in Turkey were invited with their families and social programs were prepared.²

Unable to ensure the extradition of its opponents by operating the international legislation, Turkey, as admitted above, deliberately makes inaccurate data entries into the Interpol system in order to locate these people and then abduct them to Turkey illegally by ignoring the international law. According to the statement of the Turkish Minister of Justice, 107 people have been taken to Turkey since 15 July 2016.³ Countries, where the said abductions took place, include Kosovo, Moldova, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Gabon, Bahrain, Ukraine, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Sudan, Myanmar, Iraq, and Albania.⁴ Most recently, there have been cases of forced abductions in Kenya and Kyrgyzstan.

Especially the case of Selahaddin Gülen, who was abducted by the Turkish National Intelligence Organization (MIT) in Kenya in May 2021 and taken to Turkey, is among the freshest examples of Turkey's disregard of international law and kidnapping. The event is briefly as follows;

Selahaddin Gülen, who is the nephew of Fethullah Gülen residing in the USA, was investigated for a crime he allegedly committed in 2008, and his case resulted in a decision of non-prosecution. After the "Corruption and Bribery" investigations targeting members of the government and the Erdogan family in 2013, he went to the USA when an investigation was reopened against him. Upon Turkey's request, a Red Notice was issued for him in 2018. Selahaddin Gülen went to Kenya from the USA on October 17, 2020. He was detained at the Kenya Airport due to the red notice about him, and extradition procedures to Turkey were initiated. The Kenyan Court released him on the condition that he signs on certain days and pays his bail. On May 3, 2021, he was abducted by unidentified people after he signed and left the relevant office. He was brought to Ankara by a private plane with tail number T7-RMH departing from Kenya on May 5, 2021. One day after he was brought to Turkey, on May 6, 2021, the Kenyan court rejected Gülen's extradition to Turkey.

On May 31, 2021, Turkey's official news agency Anadolu Agency announced that Selahaddin Gülen was captured by the MIT operation and brought to Turkey.⁵ The news agency also reported that Selahaddin Gülen was handed over to the police by the MIT on the same day. Selahaddin Gülen was arrested for leading an armed terrorist organization, and also for an ordinary crime allegedly he committed, which was closed in 2008. The pro-Erdogan press reported that Selahaddin Gülen became a confessor. It is known that lately many people have been subjected to pressure and torture to become "confessors".

As can be seen in the letter, Turkey's red notice requests for so-called "FETO" members and data entries into the SLTD database are purely political actions aiming at seizing the opponents.

Considering the facts above, I kindly request you to approach Turkey's unlawful demands consciously, before, during, and after the General Assembly Meeting to be held in Turkey.

Respectfully yours,

Nurullah ALBAYRAK

Vice-President of "Solidarity with Others" Association

Annex: Two-page official letter of the Turkish Ministry of Justice to the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. (In Turkish)

² <https://www.milliyet.com.tr/siyaset/773-fetocu-icin-kirmizi-bulten-talebi-reddedildi-6522659>

³ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/107-feto-fugitives-brought-back-to-turkey-so-far/1431325>

⁴ <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/turkish-spies-are-abducting-erdogans-political-opponents-abroad/>

⁵ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-intelligence-nabs-feto-terror-group-member-abroad-brings-back-home/2259183>