



Rebecca HARMS

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Mr Jürgen Stock
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Dear Mr Stock,

I write about the startling abuse of Interpol's channels by Russia against Mr William Browder, the head of the global Magnitsky Justice movement.

Yesterday morning Mr Browder was arrested in Spain on a politically-motivated Russian warrant sent via Interpol channels. I understand that Mr Browder was shortly thereafter released, but only after the Russian warrant was deleted *post factum*.

This is now the **seventh** abuse of Interpol's systems by the Russian authorities in Mr Browder's case.

In May 2013, Interpol found Russian proceedings regarding Mr Browder to be predominantly political and the use of Interpol's channels regarding him contrary to Interpol's Constitution, and accordingly rejected the Russian request.

Despite this decision by Interpol, Russia sent two more requests to Interpol in 2013 alone, which were again rejected by Interpol.

This did not stop the Russian authorities. In 2014, they sent a fourth request regarding Mr Browder to Interpol. This fourth request was also rejected by Interpol.

Notwithstanding four previous rejections, in 2017 Russian authorities successfully distributed via Interpol's channels two more warrants for Mr Browder, with Interpol not being able to preventatively block them. Interpol took measures to delete these Russian warrants, but only post factum after they had been entered into its systems and causing them to possibly still be retained on national police databases of its member states.



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Most importantly, none of the previous five instances of attempted circulation of Russian against Mr Browder despite Interpol's decision that it would be contrary to Interpol's Constitution, were met with any sanction or consequence.

The Interpol's powers to address repeated abuse of its systems are set out under Article 123, part 4 of "Interpol's Rules on the Processing Data" which state that the General Secretariat has the power to terminate access of non-compliant national Interpol bureaus:

"The General Secretariat shall be empowered either to ask the National Central Bureau to apply corrective measures to a national entity, or to terminate access to the INTERPOL Information System if the said entity has repeatedly processed data in a non-compliant manner, if no evaluations have been carried out by the National Central Bureau concerned, or if any such evaluations have been inadequate."

Given the latest notices circulated in respect of Mr Browder by the Russian national bureau of Interpol unilaterally, in contravention of Interpol's finding that those notices were non-compliant with Interpol's Constitution, I ask that the General Secretariat enacts Article 123, Part 4 of its Rules to immediately suspend Russian bureau's access to Interpol's systems until the Russian NCB commits to cease circulating notices for Mr Browder.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Harms
Member of the European Parliament