



GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

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The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520

February 24, 2015

Dear Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kerry:

As organizations that promote tax transparency and accountability, both domestically and internationally, we have become increasingly concerned about the way in which the United States government cooperates with the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPO-Interpol) in response to its Red Notices. It is our understanding that the US is prepared to honor Red Notices relating to alleged whistleblower offenses, even when the activity in question involves the disclosure of information relating to crimes against the US government, such as tax evasion and financial fraud.

We recognize that the Interpol Red List is needed to coordinate law enforcement efforts across borders, a function that is increasingly important in an era of globalization and crime that transcends national boundaries. Nonetheless, the application of this process to whistleblowers who expose techniques used to confound national tax authorities is inappropriate.

The practice is especially misguided when the whistleblower's disclosures expose potentially illegal practices that deprive the US government of tax revenue. It appears that, through this cooperation with the arrest and extradition of whistleblowers, the US government very possibly contributes to efforts to defraud – the US government itself. Here in the United States, we have long experience working with whistleblowers, and we can assure you that unjust and punitive treatment in one case results in the silencing of many, many more who would come forward if protection were available and effective. This is a situation with a clear remedy. We request that the Departments of State and Homeland Security publically refuse to honor Red Notices relating to whistleblowers. Unquestioning cooperation with Interpol's Red Notice procedures in the pursuit of whistleblowers in general, and finance sector whistleblowers in particular, is clearly contrary to our national interest.

Our coalition is willing to assist in addressing this issue by providing all appropriate information and any technical cooperation requested.

We look forward to your response.

The undersigned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beatrice Edwards".

Beatrice Edwards
Executive Director
Government Accountability Project

New Rules for Global Finance

Center for Effective Government

Tax Justice Network

Tax Justice USA

Plateforme Internationale de Protection des Lanceurs d'Alerte