

**Houston Area
Model United Nations
Standard Committee**



INTERPOL

**Chair | Zach Englehart
Standard Committee Background Guide
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Hello Interpol Committee,

I am your chair for our discussion on corruption *in* and demilitarization *of* the police.

My name is Zach Engelhart. I am a sophomore at Texas A&M University, studying Accounting.

I am an active member of both Model UN and Model Arab League, attending conferences for 5 years now. I love Model UN; I love buying into a fictional world, and stressing over passing a document that will end up on someone's Google Drive. I am also interested in sports, math, and politics.

I'm excited to hear a spirited discussion on police corruption and demilitarization. I want you all to be open and understanding of each other, considering the currency of this issue. Collaborate with your fellow delegates, stay in character, and think globally.

I can't wait to see you at the University of Houston. Good Luck!



INTERPOL

Brief History of the International

Criminal Police Organization

What is now INTERPOL started in 1914 with 24 lawyers and policemen. They set out on a mission to craft guidelines for a more cooperative, global police (1). These “12 Wishes” included an international communication service, systems for identifying the “biological features” of criminals, and standardized records (2). The “12 Wishes” are still the foundation for the committee, and should lead as the model for drafted resolutions.

For over 100 years, INTERPOL has met to anticipate and combat crime. Murder, theft, organized crime are usual topics, usually revolving around locating and extraditing fugitives. Even as crime has moved to cyber spaces, INTERPOL has remained steadfast in their mission, upholding the wishes, while advancing their systems to the modern era (1).

In addition to resolutions, INTERPOL takes decisions through the issuance of notices. There are eight notices, most notably a Red Notice to arrest a wanted person, and a Yellow Notice to locate a missing person (3). The remaining six are listed below.

“Blue Notice: To collect additional information about a person’s identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.

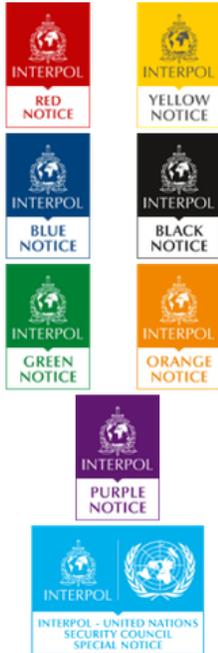
Black Notice: To seek information on unidentified bodies.

Green Notice: To provide warning about a person’s criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.

Orange Notice: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.

Purple Notice: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.”



INTERPOL also plays a role in police training, a topic that should be discussed ad nauseum in our committee. INTERPOL spends significant time playing an operational role in National Central Bureaus, centering around their biennial Police Training Symposium. The symposium focuses on new ways to optimize resources, and best practices for new technology.

INTERPOL prides itself on its adaptivity to modernity (4).



Executive Summary

A long-standing global concern, the discussion over corruption *in* and militarization *of* the police seemed to come to a head in the summer of 2020. On May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, A police officer, attempting to apprehend a black male using counterfeit bills, suffocated and killed said man after kneeling on his neck for 8 minutes. What followed was months of global protests, police conflict, and heavy criticism of not just the officer, but the institution of law

enforcement as a whole. Police armed with deadly weapons and riot gear patrolled the streets, leading to more lethal encounters with citizens. An acquittal of another police officer, one who shot and killed an innocent woman in her sleep, continued the unrest, adding the element of police union corruption to the dialogue (5).

In recent years, police weaponry has become more deadly, forces more violent, departments more exploitative. Not just in the United States, but everywhere, especially in less developed countries, and especially against discriminated minorities. One can't simply talk about police abuse without talking about race, gender, class, or sexual orientation (6).

Critics of the recent police demilitarization movement will claim that lethal force is a necessary evil. They look at the advancement of firearms, and hotbeds of crime in urban areas to argue that police must have heavy artillery to protect effectively (7).

Whatever side, people want police to protect and serve, not just the innocent, but the people they arrest. They want officers to keep them safe. Our committee will convene to address these desires.

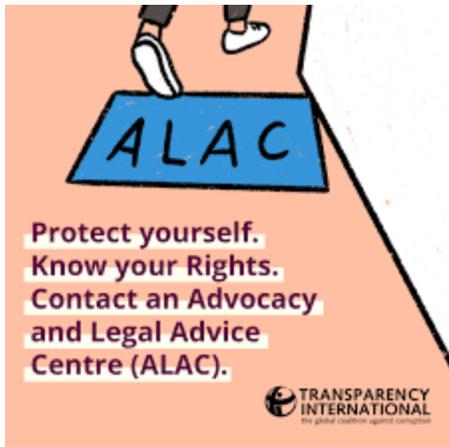
Corruption

Police corruption is a plague, spanning every country, and ravaging its most vulnerable citizens. Misconduct represented through extortion, or brutality, creates public distrust. Corruption in departments create bloated institutions draining the financial resources from the cities they serve. This issue is ancient, stemming from the creation of Police enforcing the Code of Hammurabi, and persists today (8).

Because many governments don't publish data, or feel the need to conduct research, there is no way to quantify how corrupt a police department actually is. We have to look at misconduct, brutality, and public opinion to estimate the existing illegality.

Brutality

The best way to identify if a police department is especially brutal is through their number of killings. In some cases, such as self-defense, ***it is*** legal for a police officer to kill someone (though, many countries still don't have comprehensive laws on the use of lethal force), but countries topping the police violence statistics must be questioned. In 2019, Police in Brazil killed 5,804 people, police in Venezuela killed 1,713, and officers in the U.S. killed 1,536. The Philippines and Syria follow (9). There is no concrete way to know how many of these killings were legal, but these numbers give us an indication of the fatality of police.



Misconduct (Extortion, and Bribery)

There is a long standing history of police theft, usually through means of force. This has been a growing concern since the COVID-19 pandemic started. With stricter social regulations, and higher police presence, individuals are reporting more instances of police abuse. Through the

Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres throughout the world, we can identify spikes of misconduct since March 2020. In Zimbabwe, Kenya, Madagascar, and Venezuela, ALAC reports police officers demanding bribes at roadblocks, especially from sick people driving to the hospital. Police have exploited rules about essential workers and curfews by robbing those not deemed essential, or people out past a certain time. Police in Congo have requested bribes from citizens outside after 8pm. Venezuelan citizens are also being detained in cramped, resource-needy city centers (6).

Discrimination

Police corruption is tightly connected to discrimination, usually under the umbrella of race, gender, sexual orientation, and class. International human rights law prohibits all forms of discrimination, but countries have systemized discriminatory profiling into their enforcement repertoire (9).

Race

Race based police brutality and misconduct have been the global discussion since the 1700s. More recently, though, people of color experience the brunt of police corruption worldwide. Not just the death of black men in the United States, but globally, black and brown individuals are experiencing more violence, and encounters of the police (9). In the United Kingdom, for example, a racially biased database known as the Gangs Matrix unjustly targeted black men. Suspects were placed in the database for a series of nonsensical reasons, such as the music they listen to, or the way they dressed. Individuals in the matrix would be apprehended and searched, ruining the reputations of these men, and possibly hindering their future employment.

In France, young black men are 20 times more likely to be spot checked by the police. Also, following the 2015 terrorist attack, police were asked to conduct discriminatory raids of mosques, and Muslim homes. All throughout the world, and in France especially, there are countless people of color unjustly killed by police with no repercussions (9).

Gender and Sexual Orientation

In 2017, Officers in Chechnya launched wide-scale attacks on individuals labeled as gay or lesbian. Over 50 gay men were tortured, killed, and/or locked in secret detention facilities. Sex workers in the Dominican Republic, many identifying as transgender, are regularly raped, beaten, and abused by authorities (9).

Class

The majority of countries reeling from the effects of police corruption are less developed. Nations without the governmental infrastructure to fully regulate police enable officers to act hostile and power-hungry. In these LDCs, come impoverished communities and people. Those without the resources to stand up for themselves are often targeted by corrupt officers. They are the most common victims of brutality, theft, and abuse (9).

Accountability

Police corruption arises from four main sources, 1) a lack of comprehensive legislation on use of lethal force, 2) impoverished nations, susceptible to corruption, 3) discriminatory policing, and 4) a lack of accountability for abusive officers and departments (9).

In the event of an unlawful killing, or unnecessary violence, officers rarely face punishment. In some cases, authorities will terrorize judges, witnesses, or victims to ensure they drop the charges. Other times, there are laws in place to protect corrupt officers, such as an immunity law in Brazil, or a pledge from the President of the Philippines to protect all officers from wrongdoing during their frequent drug raids (9).

Case Examples

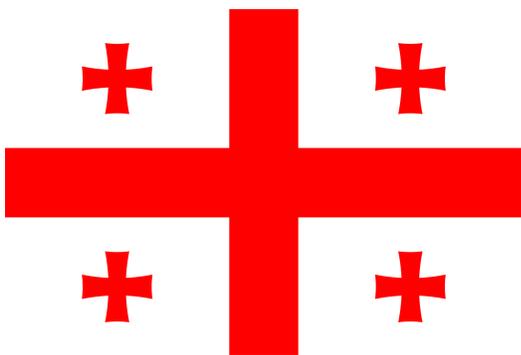
UN

In 2002, INTERPOL passed a resolution entitled “Global Standards to Combat Corruption in Police Forces”. This 13 page document details recommended hiring practices, training, and best practices for police forces internationally. “Global Standards” implored police departments to

have systems for open reporting of corruption, deterrents for accepting bribes, and honest, ethical training protocols (10).

This resolution proved to be rather ineffectual. As police violence, and killings increase, so do the pleas for a better, less corrupt police force. The situation, though, is incredibly complex as most police departments won't accept alterations to their budget, and countries won't adopt any universal legislation of lethal force. Corrupt countries look towards hostility, and violence as a means of controlling their people, and the bribes that officers themselves take is an unimportant detail (11).

Georgia



Before the revolution in 2003, Georgia's police force was a Soviet relic designed to extend the government's will. The officers extorted bribes from their drivers as corruption ran rampant in the department.

Following the 2004 election, though, a new government targeted some of the hotbeds of corruption, especially in the police force and military. The new president enacted mass dismissals of officials, eliminated agencies, and restructured police jurisdiction. His plan championed new training techniques, emphasizing human rights and law education. This blueprint effectively eliminated police corruption in Georgia.

However, despite its efficacy, weak accountability for high-level misconduct persists. The Ministry of the Interior remains as bloated, and powerful as ever, allowing for a possible police corruption renaissance. Without the necessary checks and balances, the problem will never fully go away (11).

Questions to Consider

What are the root causes of police corruption?

What solutions have worked/not worked in the past?

How does police corruption impact citizens?

Who does police corruption hurt the most?

How can we better report and track instances of police corruption?

Character List

China
Ukraine
France
Germany
India
Japan
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
United Kingdom
United States of America
Australia
Brazil
Canada
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Israel
Mexico
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
South Africa
Sweden
Syrian Arab Republic
Turkey

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Belgium
Cuba
Egypt
Ethiopia
Cambodia
Greece
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Malaysia
Sri Lanka
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Poland
Qatar
Spain
Switzerland
Sudan
Philippines

Appendix

1. <https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/Our-history>
2. <https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/Our-history/12-wishes-then-and-now>
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7. Global Insecurity: How Risk Theory Gave Rise to Global Police Militarization
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10. <https://policehumanrightsresources.org/interpol-global-standards-to-combat-corruption-in-police-forcesservices>
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