

LOCAL NEWS

Interpol deletes Red Notice against TCI attorney

By Alexis Martin

Interpol has deleted the Red Notice it had issued against Turks and Caicos islands attorney, Anthony D'Aniello and cleared him of all accusations. Argentina had requested the Red Notice accusing Mr. D'Aniello of money laundering.

This is the latest in a series of Red Notices issued by countries around the world, many of which have been unfounded. The Red Notice is an alert issued by Interpol that a person is wanted for arrest and extradition. But Interpol does little vetting and as a result, the system is frequently abused.

According to Bob Kaarls, who represented Mr. D'Aniello: "Argentina cannot demonstrate with any degree of plausibility that Mr. D'Aniello was involved in any specific criminal activity and/or behavior at all. There is no beginning of a reasonable suspicion."

The Helsinki Commission, an independent US government commission, says it receives many credible reports from human rights activists and members of the business community who have been subject to Red Notice abuse.

The Red Notice, which functions effectively as an extradition request, can be based on trumped-up criminal charges and used to detain, harass, threaten,

intimidate or otherwise persecute individuals for their activism or refusal to acquiesce to corrupt schemes.

"It is worrying that an Interpol alert could have been issued so easily and frivolously by Argentina in contravention of the Interpol rules. Mr. D'Aniello has suffered considerable (reputational) damages as a result, both privately and professionally. International reporting of possible involvement in such fraud suspicions and international arrest warrants are harmful, hurtful and intimidating. Mr. D'Aniello very much hopes that his name can now be cleared," said Mr. Kaarls.

"This is absolutely the right decision by Interpol. Mr. D'Aniello should have never been involved in this criminal investigation. The Argentine judge and the prosecutor mishandled the investigation and did a careless and negligent job," said Andres Espina, Mr. D'Aniello's lawyer in Argentina. As a result of the Argentinian courts negligence, he said, Mr. D'Aniello "ended up with a red notice against him and still as of today having his good name, linked to a criminal case in Argentina that he has no involvement with."

"Mr. D'Aniello didn't commit any crimes and there is no wrongdoing as he wasn't even involved," Espina added.

Two senators from the

United States have recently introduced a bill that would counter abuse of Interpol in an effort to prevent cases like Mr. D'Aniello's. Known as the Transnational Repression Accountability and Prevention (TRAP) Act, the bill would establish US priorities for responding to Interpol abuse and promote reform within Interpol.

"Using the legal system and Interpol to harass political opponents is becoming far too common," said Congressman Steve Cohen at a conference to launch the bill. Cohen added that states, "frequently issue meritless Interpol requests that violate key provisions of Interpol's constitution, subjecting international travelers to unnecessary inconvenience."

Mr. D'Aniello was working temporarily in the UAE when the Red Notice was issued. After a thorough investigation the extradition request was rejected by the UAE authorities and the Red Notice removed by Interpol.

"In both instances, Argentina failed to provide even the most minimal of evidence connecting Mr. D'Aniello to this criminal investigation by Argentina and had contravened many key provisions of Interpol's constitution when issuing the red notice," said Kaarls.

Espina says the whole case was based on a failure of the Argentinian court.

"The deposition request from Argentina should have never been issued in connection with Mr. D'Aniello. It was illegal from the start. The Argentinian authorities failed to state the basis of any Red Notice or extradition request: which crime was supposedly committed by Mr. D'Aniello. And of course, as they did not have clear which crime Mr. D'Aniello did commit (as he committed none), it was impossible for them to describe what did Mr. D'Aniello do to commit that crime or the when, how, and where Mr. D'Aniello committed that "undescribed" crime. Therefore, justice is served by both the UAE and Interpol decisions to reject and clear Mr. D'Aniello of all accusations."

"The Argentine court system allows judges and prosecutors, without any proper grounds and without complying with the laws, to issue an arrest order (and the relevant Red Notice) and destroy people's lives around the world leaving it to the individual to try and untangle themselves from a mess that these judges and prosecutors create due to their incompetence and negligence. It is worth mentioning that neither the judge nor the prosecutor will be held accountable for their illegal acts and because of this will continue to do it over and over again," said Espina.

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Tour Guides
Life Guards
Dispatchers
Salespersons**

**Mechanics & Assistant Mechanics
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Electricians
Boat Captains
Deckhands**

**Bus Drivers with Public Service Licenses
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