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## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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21 January 2004

**VNM42372.E**

Vietnam: The nature of the relationship between the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the national/local police

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

INTERPOL's mandate is to promote international police co-operation among its member countries in solving international crime (INTERPOL n.d.a). This is done through the exchange of criminal intelligence with its member states (ibid.). The mission of the Asia and South Pacific Sub-Directorate of INTERPOL is "to support ... crime fighting activities by providing quality operational and administrative services on a daily basis through a regionally based geopolitical structure" (ibid. n.d.b). The Sub-Directorate's Goals include the following:

- To address regional crime issues;
- To provide adequate support on regional and national levels;
- To make relevant regionally-based information available;
- To increase relevant information exchange with regions; [and]
- To increase the flow and exchange of information related to the specialized crime areas (ibid.).

Vietnam has been a member of the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) since November 1991 (*Vietnam News Briefs* 9 June 2003; *Xinhua* 9 June 2003; *Viet Nam News* 5 Nov. 2002). The co-operation and collaboration between Vietnam and INTERPOL since 1991 was described in late 2002 as "efficient and practical," involving the exchange of over 20,000 pieces of information "related to individual criminals and organised gangs involved in drugs, smuggling and other crimes" (ibid.).

Additional information on the nature of the relationship between INTERPOL and the national/local police in Vietnam could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

### References

International Police Organization (INTERPOL). n.d.a. "Fact Sheets: Interpol - An Overview."  
<<http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/FactSheets/FS200101.asp>> [Accessed 20 Jan. 2004]

\_\_\_\_\_. n.d.b. "Regional Activities: Asia and South Pacific."  
<<http://www.interpol.int/Public/Region/Asia/Default.asp>> [Accessed 19 Jan. 2004]

*Viet Nam News* [Hanoi]. 5 November 2002. "Local Police Hunt Down Global Criminals."  
<<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/2002-11/04/Stories/10.htm>> [Accessed 20 Jan. 2004]

*Vietnam News Briefs*. 9 June 2003. "Culture & Society: Vietnam Hosts INTERPOL Meeting to Prevent Drug and People Trafficking." (Dialog)

Xinhua News Agency. 9 June 2003. "Vietnam Joins Efforts to Combat Transnational Crime." (Dialog)

Additional Sources Consulted

Amnesty International, in Ottawa, did not respond to a letter requesting information within time constraints.

Human Rights Watch, in New York, did not respond to a letter requesting information within time constraints.

The International Police Organization (INTERPOL), in Lyon, France, did not respond to a letter requesting information within time constraints.

WNC/Dialog

**Internet sites, including:**

Amnesty International

Asia News Network

*Asia Observer*

*Asia Times*

BBC

EurasiaNet.org

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

Vietnam News Agency

*Vietnam Panorama*

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