

Comunicado de prensa de INTERPOL

15 de mayo de 2008

INTERPOL publica el informe forense sobre los ordenadores y equipos informáticos decomisados a las FARC solicitado por Colombia

BOGOTÁ (Colombia) - INTERPOL ha presentado hoy [los resultados del análisis forense](#) de ocho pruebas instrumentales, consistentes en otros tantos ordenadores y equipos informáticos decomisados a las FARC, que ha realizado después de que Colombia, uno de sus [186 países miembros](#), le hiciera llegar una petición de ayuda el pasado mes de marzo.

El Secretario General de esta organización internacional, Ronald Noble, ha comunicado a los altos mandos policiales de Colombia que el equipo de INTERPOL de especialistas en investigación informática forense no descubrió “evidencias de modificación, alteración, añadidos o supresión” en los archivos de usuario de los tres ordenadores portátiles, las tres llaves USB y los dos discos duros externos decomisados con ocasión de una operación antiterrorista y antidroga efectuada por Colombia en un campamento de las FARC el 1 de marzo de 2008.

"Tras el pormenorizado y exhaustivo análisis forense que hemos realizado de cada una de las ocho pruebas instrumentales de carácter informático decomisadas a las FARC, y tras el estudio de todas las evidencias examinadas por nuestros especialistas, INTERPOL concluye que no se produjo ninguna falsificación ni alteración de los datos contenidos en dichas pruebas instrumentales tras su decomiso por las autoridades colombianas, practicado el 1 de marzo de 2008", declaró el Sr. Noble.

En otras conclusiones importantes del informe se confirma que los especialistas en investigación informática forense de la policía judicial de Colombia respetaron los principios reconocidos internacionalmente para el manejo de pruebas electrónicas desde el momento en que, el 3 de marzo de 2008, recibieron las pruebas instrumentales. Sin embargo, al acceder directamente a las pruebas para visualizar y descargar su contenido entre el 1 y el 3 de marzo, los funcionarios de la unidad antiterrorista colombiana que primero intervinieron en el lugar de los hechos no respetaron los principios de esta índole aplicables en circunstancias ordinarias. Los especialistas de INTERPOL verificaron que ese acceso directo y esa descarga no afectaron al contenido de ninguno de los archivos de usuario de las ocho pruebas instrumentales de carácter informático decomisadas.

"En las operaciones policiales que se efectúan en todo el mundo es corriente que las primeras unidades policiales que llegan al lugar de los hechos accedan directamente a las pruebas electrónicas decomisadas en lugar de hacerles copias protegidas contra la escritura. En particular, las unidades antiterroristas consideran que hay que obtener y analizar las pruebas inmediatamente para evitar el próximo atentado. En una de sus tres recomendaciones INTERPOL propone que la policía dedique más tiempo y más recursos a la formación de los funcionarios que primero intervienen en el lugar de los hechos para limitar ese tipo de situaciones, por ejemplo cuando dichos funcionarios deben decidir entre acceder directamente a las pruebas decomisadas o arriesgarse a que se produzca un nuevo atentado", añadió el Sr. Noble.

En el informe de INTERPOL también se resalta que el cometido de su peritaje técnico no es en absoluto evaluar la exactitud o las fuentes del contenido de las pruebas instrumentales.

Los especialistas de INTERPOL, sirviéndose de avanzadas herramientas de investigación forense, han determinado que las ocho pruebas instrumentales de carácter informático decomisadas contienen más de 600 gigabytes de datos, entre los que hay 37.872 documentos escritos, 452 hojas de cálculo, 210.888 imágenes, 22.481 páginas web, 7.989 direcciones electrónicas, 10.537 archivos multimedia (de sonido y vídeos) y 983 ficheros cifrados.

En palabras sencillas, se puede decir que este volumen de datos corresponde a 39,5 millones de páginas de Microsoft Word y, si todos los datos incautados estuviesen en formato Word, a un ritmo de 100 páginas por día, se tardaría más de 1.000 años en leerlos. Para descifrar los 983 archivos cifrados los especialistas de INTERPOL conectaron diez ordenadores entre sí y los hicieron funcionar todos a la vez permanentemente durante dos semanas.

“Se solicitó a INTERPOL asistencia técnica en esta investigación porque, al ser la mayor organización policial del mundo, se encuentra en una situación única para proporcionar a cualquiera de sus 186 países miembros un análisis independiente, objetivo y especializado, lo que ha quedado claramente demostrado con la presente investigación”, indicó el Sr. Noble.

“La participación de INTERPOL a petición expresa de uno de sus países miembros ha dejado patente que puede conseguir los mejores recursos y conocimientos especializados del mundo para satisfacer las necesidades, tanto nacionales como internacionales, de los organismos encargados de la aplicación de la ley”.

A principios de marzo el Secretario General de la Organización se ofreció asimismo a entrevistarse con los mandos policiales de Ecuador y Venezuela para tratar este asunto, y reiteró este ofrecimiento en el mes de abril cuando se reunió con los jefes de las Oficinas Centrales Nacionales de INTERPOL de Bogotá, Quito y Caracas, que de hecho fue la

primera reunión en la que participaban representantes de las fuerzas del orden de estos tres países desde que se decomisaron los ordenadores y equipos informáticos de las FARC.

“En ningún momento ha tenido INTERPOL ningún interés personal en el resultado de las conclusiones, salvo determinar la verdad y darla a conocer. Como consta claramente en el informe publicado hoy, la realización de la investigación informática forense se ha hecho con el respaldo de la Organización de Estados Americanos y ninguno de sus 186 países miembros se ha opuesto a ello”, declaró el Sr. Noble.

Además de seguir avanzando en sus iniciativas mundiales contra el terrorismo y los delitos transnacionales clásicos, INTERPOL ha recibido frecuentes peticiones de ayuda para suministrar conocimientos especializados en otras investigaciones delicadas, entre otras el escándalo en torno al programa de la ONU “Petróleo por Alimentos” y la investigación en curso sobre el asesinato del ex primer ministro libanés Rafik Hariri, perpetrado en 2005.



Informe
[Informe forense de INTERPOL sobre los ordenadores y equipos informáticos decomisados a las FARC solicitado por Colombia](#)



El Secretario General entrega oficialmente el informe forense de INTERPOL al Brigadier General Óscar Adolfo Naranjo Trujillo, Director General de la Policía Nacional de Colombia



Entrega a las autoridades colombianas de la parte confidencial del informe forense de INTERPOL



María del Pilar Hurtado Afanador, Directora del Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad de Colombia (DAS), y el Brigadier General Óscar Adolfo Naranjo Trujillo (izquierda), Director General de la Policía Nacional colombiana, reciben oficialmente el informe forense de INTERPOL presentado por el Secretario General, Sr. Noble (derecha)



Pruebas instrumentales decomisadas por las autoridades colombianas y analizadas por INTERPOL (nota: la prueba instrumental n o 29 no es un dispositivo de almacenamiento de datos, por lo que no ha sido incluida en el análisis informático forense realizado por INTERPOL)



Fotografías del campamento de las FARC atacado por las autoridades colombianas el 1 de marzo de 2008



Fotografía de Luis Edgar Devia Silva, alias Raúl Reyes, trabajando con un ordenador portátil, extraída de las pruebas instrumentales de carácter informático decomisadas a las FARC



Imagen extraída de una de las pruebas instrumentales de carácter informático decomisadas a las FARC

Véase también

[Press statement](#) by INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble

INTERPOL's Forensic Report on FARC computers and hardware seized by Colombia

Bogota, Colombia – 15 May 2008

Press statement by [Ronald K. Noble](#), INTERPOL Secretary General

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Members of the press,

No person, no country, and not even INTERPOL, the world's largest international police organization, can fully understand the extent to which the terrorist group FARC has prevented the Colombian people from leading their lives as freely as possible without fear of deadly attack, kidnapping, extortion or other crimes.

Only in the last 10 years, FARC has perpetrated 16,500 terrorist attacks; murdered 7,500 people; injured another 9,500; and kidnapped more than 12,000.

The father of your President was just one of the many victims murdered by the FARC. Several presidential candidates have been kidnapped by the FARC. Elected officials, civil servants, police officers and ordinary citizens – all of them have suffered at the hand of the FARC. Seated to next to me is the Head of your *Departamento*

Administrativo de Seguridad, Ms Hurtado Afanador, who herself was seriously injured in a FARC terrorist bombing.

Although the world has focused its attention on efforts to liberate Ingrid Betancourt, which INTERPOL strongly endorses, we all know that there are many others being held hostage by the FARC. Among them, Pablo Emilio Moncayo, who has been held hostage by the FARC since 21 December 1997 and whose loved ones long for his return.

This, and many other personal tragedies, explains why the Head of your National Police, General Naranjo, seated at my other side, and other police officers like him have dedicated their lives and careers to combating the FARC for more than 40 years.

So INTERPOL does not need to state the obvious by telling you why it is important that the FARC be investigated thoroughly and intensively, with full respect for the rule of law.

The reason for INTERPOL's presence here today is because we were asked by Colombia's Director of DAS and Head of the National Police to independently examine the contents of eight seized computer exhibits -- evidence recovered following a raid on a FARC terrorist camp on the Ecuadorian side of its border with Colombia on 1 March 2008.

What does it practically mean when a country calls on INTERPOL for help? Most of you know the name INTERPOL from movies or books. Thanks to the imagination of writers, the name INTERPOL has become larger than life. The reality is different, yet no less extraordinary.

INTERPOL has a rich history and celebrates this year its 85th anniversary. We currently have 186 member countries spanning the entire globe, which makes us the world's largest police organization.

And those few countries that had yet to join INTERPOL have begun to do so in recent years. In 2006, the world's oldest democracy (San Marino) and then newest democracy (Montenegro) joined the Organization. Just last week, we received strong indications that the State of Vatican City will seek to become INTERPOL's 187 th Member Country later this year.

This reflects how more and more countries are recognizing that in the 21 st Century, on any given day and time, any country may face a crisis and may need independent international police assistance to deal with the situation at hand. When this occurs, the institution to which they turn is INTERPOL.

INTERPOL is not something tangible. It is not simply a Headquarters located in France or in offices around the world, even though those dedicated INTERPOL officials work tirelessly and under constant pressure to honor the ideal of international police co-operation. They are the ones who made our independent examination possible. To produce this report, 64 different INTERPOL officials have worked over 4,000 hours since 4 March of this year.

INTERPOL is intangible and more than the sum of its parts. INTERPOL incarnates the belief of law enforcement in our member countries that we can assist them during a crisis situation; that, when needed, we can provide specialized expertise to conduct a particularly complex investigation or deal with a disaster; that we can serve as an independent

law enforcement body in international investigations; and, most importantly, that we will be there for them 24 hours a day/7 days a week

INTERPOL is the unique and combined strength of our 186 National Central Bureaus, our Sub-Regional Bureaus, our Liaison Offices and our member countries' law enforcement services around the world that ensure that at any time and anywhere, whenever a law enforcement officer calls for assistance, that call will be answered.

Currently, INTERPOL is assisting China with its preparations to ensure a safe and secure 2008 Beijing summer Olympics. A little more than a week ago, we were asked by Norway to help identify a child sex predator who had been photographed sexually abusing young boys in Southeast Asia. Thanks to the confidence that the public has in INTERPOL, we were successful: within 48 hours of INTERPOL's global appeal to the public, the prime suspect, Wayne Nelson Corliss, was located and arrested. Last year, INTERPOL coordinated a multi-country investigation into illegal gambling that led to the closures in seven jurisdictions of 472 illegal sports gambling dens which handled almost 700 million dollars annually in illegal bets.

Occasionally, INTERPOL is also called upon to help resolve factual disputes between INTERPOL member countries over how to interpret evidence. This was done when a person was arrested as an alleged terrorist suspected of the March 12, 2004 deadly Madrid terrorist subway bombings. This arrest had been made by one country based on one finger mark comparison. Spain did not agree with the conclusion reached by the other country that the finger mark matched. INTERPOL's independent expert opinion was sought, and our analysis supported Spain's conclusions. Eventually, it was determined the person was innocent and he was released.

On each occasion when INTERPOL's independent expertise is sought, we establish clear procedures tailored to the case in question, with one overarching goal in mind: to provide an independent, thorough and accurate set of findings that is within the scope of our remit and that is influenced only by the evidence before us. We have no personal stake in the outcome of our findings; we are indifferent as to whether it validates or invalidates a piece of evidence or whether it proves the guilt or innocence of any particular person. We just want our assessment to be above reproach and to be as professional, independent and comprehensive as possible.

In this current dispute, we did not ask to become involved, but when the call for assistance came from Colombia, we did not hesitate to say yes – even though we knew that we ran the risk of becoming the target of unfair attacks questioning our independence, integrity and professionalism.

INTERPOL took a number of steps to clearly safeguard its independence. On Friday, 7 March 2008, I personally explained to all of our 186 member countries what had been agreed with the Colombian authorities and I emphasized that INTERPOL's role was exclusively technical. We would provide Colombia with expert computer forensic assistance to examine the seized exhibits, but INTERPOL would not evaluate the accuracy or the source of the exhibits' content.

In addition, I expressed my willingness and availability to travel to any INTERPOL member country that requested a meeting to discuss this matter.

I made it clear that I would travel to Colombia with our Incident Response Team to ensure that there is no misunderstanding about the team's tasks and responsibilities; to ensure that the working conditions will permit them to function in an independent atmosphere; and to ensure that any last minute questions or issues can be efficiently dealt with and resolved.

On Saturday, 8 March 2008, while our Incident Response Team was making final preparations for its deployment the next day, I had a telephone conversation with Mr José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to advise him of the exclusively technical expertise to be provided by INTERPOL. Secretary General Insulza stated that he strongly and publicly supported INTERPOL's independent examination. We also met in Bogota and I briefed an OAS delegation on INTERPOL's role.

In addition, during INTERPOL's 4th Heads of National Central Bureaus meeting held in Lyon, France, from 2 to 4 April 2008, I met with the heads of delegation from Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela to explain the nature of INTERPOL's assistance to Colombia. During that meeting, I reiterated my offer to travel to any INTERPOL member country that had concerns about INTERPOL's deployment of the Incident Response Team.

I followed this up with separate letters to the national police commissioners of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela and to the Director of Colombia's *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad*.

Colombia was the only INTERPOL member country that asked to meet with INTERPOL's Secretary General, and no country objected to INTERPOL's computer forensic examination of the eight seized FARC computer exhibits.

Our Incident Response Team included two forensic experts from Australia and Singapore who were selected by their national police administrations, not by INTERPOL Headquarters. The experts came from outside of the region and did not speak Spanish, which helped to eliminate the possibility that they might be influenced by the content of any data they were examining. They were given complete discretion in determining how to conduct their examination. They were simply told to examine the seized evidence and present their findings. They divided the eight seized FARC computer exhibits equally between them and each of them examined four exhibits. They created their own key-word

index without understanding Spanish. And, they produced what must be recognized as a comprehensive, independent and extraordinarily detailed classified report.

Using sophisticated forensic tools, INTERPOL's experts determined that the eight seized computer exhibits contained more than 600 gigabytes of data, including:

37,872 written documents,

452 spreadsheets,

210,888 images,

22,481 web pages,

7,989 email addresses,

10,537 multimedia files (sound and video), and

983 encrypted files.

In non-technical terms, this volume of data would correspond to 39.5 million filled pages in Microsoft Word and, if all of the seized data were in Word format, it would take more than 1,000 years to read at a rate of 100 pages per day.

A lot of effort went into breaking the 983 encrypted files; to do so, INTERPOL's experts linked and ran 10 computers simultaneously 24 hours a day / 7 days a week for two weeks.

I cannot thank or compliment INTERPOL's two experts enough. They devoted more than a 1,000 hours to analyse the seized FARC computer exhibits. I cannot say enough good things about my staff at INTERPOL Headquarters who helped to produce these reports in Spanish and English – including the classified report. I pushed them like no boss should ever push his staff, but they responded in an extraordinary fashion to make sure that Colombia and the world learns what INTERPOL's experts found.

Let me highlight the key findings in lay person's terms:

INTERPOL's team of forensic experts discovered “no evidence of modification, alteration, addition or deletion” in the user files of any of the three laptop computers, three USB thumb drives and two external hard disks seized during a Colombian anti-narcotics and anti-terrorist operation on a FARC camp on 1 March 2008.

Based on INTERPOL's careful and comprehensive forensic examination of each of the eight seized FARC computer exhibits and on consideration of all the evidence reviewed by our experts, INTERPOL concludes that there was no tampering with any data on the computer exhibits following their seizure on 1 March 2008 by Colombian authorities.

From INTERPOL's perspective this finding is central to our work and should be central to the Colombian people. Your police acted professionally, honourably and effectively.

I am currently in my second term as INTERPOL's Secretary General and, during my tenure, have visited 116 countries and met with their Police Chiefs. So, when I say that the people of Colombia have reason to be proud of the manner in which their police handled the evidence seized from the FARC camp on 1 March 2008, my statement is based on significant experience of police practices around the world.

Let me turn to the other key findings:

INTERPOL confirmed that the Colombian Judicial Police computer forensic experts followed internationally recognized principles in the handling of electronic evidence from the time they received the exhibits on 3 March 2008.

INTERPOL did note, however, that between 1 and 3 March, direct access to the seized computer exhibits by Colombia's first responder anti-terrorist unit in order to view and download their contents did not follow internationally recognized principles in the handling of electronic evidence under ordinary circumstances.

INTERPOL's experts verified that this direct access and downloading had no effect on the content of any of the user files on the eight seized computer exhibits.

Let me focus on this point for just a moment. It is all too common in law enforcement operations worldwide for first responder police units to directly access seized electronic evidence rather than make write-protected copies. Anti-terrorist units in particular think about analyzing the evidence right away to prevent that next attack. This is especially true after the September 11 terrorist attacks, when anti-terrorist units are now focusing more on disruption and prevention than on just gathering evidence to bring a prosecution. We really need to do more as a world police community to help our first-responders – especially in anti-terrorist operations.

Therefore, one of INTERPOL's three recommendations proposes that police devote more time and resources to training first responders in order to limit those situations when first responders are faced with the choice of either directly accessing the seized evidence or risking a terrorist attack. And to ensure that this recommendation can be effectively implemented, INTERPOL will explore the creation of a fully dedicated and well equipped global computer forensic unit

at its Headquarters.

Finally, let me compliment publicly Colombia's *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad* and the Colombian National Police for their courage in asking INTERPOL to conduct an in-depth, independent forensic examination of the seized FARC computer exhibits and for demonstrating such integrity in allowing INTERPOL to do its work without attempting to influence the outcome.

Let me thank Colombia's General Prosecutor Mario Iguaran for trusting INTERPOL to safeguard this highly sensitive material during the course of our work.

Let me thank your Minister of External Affairs Fernando Araujo for hosting today's press conference.

Since our work is now complete, I would ask my colleagues from INTERPOL to formally transfer our classified report and exhibits to the Head of DAS and Colombia's National Police so that they may take custody of them and turn them over to the country's General Prosecutor.

Thank you

INTERPOL media release

15 May 2008

INTERPOL releases Forensic Report requested by Colombia on seized FARC computers and hardware

BOGOTA, Colombia - INTERPOL today presented [the results of its forensic examination](#) of eight seized FARC computer and hardware exhibits following a request for assistance in March of this year by Colombia, one of INTERPOL's [186 member countries](#).

INTERPOL Secretary General [Ronald K. Noble](#) advised senior Colombian law enforcement officials that INTERPOL's team of forensic experts discovered 'no evidence of modification, alteration, addition or deletion' in the user files of any of the three laptop computers, three USB thumb drives and two external hard disks seized during a Colombian anti-narcotics and anti-terrorist operation on a FARC camp on 1 March 2008.

'Based on our careful and comprehensive forensic examination of each of the eight seized FARC computer exhibits and on consideration of all the evidence reviewed by our experts, INTERPOL concludes that there was no tampering with any data on the computer exhibits following their seizure on 1 March 2008 by Colombian authorities,' said Secretary General Noble.

Other key findings confirm that the Colombian Judicial Police computer forensic experts followed internationally recognized principles in the handling of electronic evidence from the time they received the exhibits on 3 March 2008. However, between 1 and 3 March, direct access to the seized computer exhibits by Colombia's first responder anti-terrorist unit in order to view and download their contents did not follow internationally recognized principles in the handling of electronic evidence under ordinary circumstances. INTERPOL's experts verified that this direct access and downloading had no effect on the content of any of the user files on the eight seized computer exhibits.

'It is all too common in law enforcement operations worldwide for first responder police units to directly access seized electronic evidence rather than make write-protected copies. Anti-terrorist units in particular think about getting to and analyzing the evidence right away to prevent that next attack. One of INTERPOL's three recommendations proposes that police devote more time and resources to training first responders in order to limit those situations for example when first responders are faced with the choice of either directly accessing the seized evidence or risking a terrorist attack,' added Secretary General Noble.

INTERPOL's report also emphasized that the remit of its technical examination was not to evaluate the accuracy or the source of the exhibits' content.

Using sophisticated forensic tools, INTERPOL's experts determined that the eight seized computer exhibits contained more than 600 gigabytes of data, including 37,872 written documents, 452 spreadsheets, 210,888 images, 22,481 web pages, 7,989 email addresses, 10,537 multimedia files (sound and video), and 983 encrypted files.

In non-technical terms, this volume of data would correspond to 39.5 million filled pages in Microsoft Word and, if all of the seized data were in Word format, it would take more than 1,000 years to read at a rate of 100 pages per day. To break the 983 encrypted files, INTERPOL's experts linked and ran 10 computers simultaneously 24 hours a day / 7 days a week for two weeks.

'INTERPOL's technical assistance in this inquiry was requested because of its unique capacity as the world's largest police organization to provide independent, objective and expert analysis to any one of its 186 member countries - and this is what it has clearly demonstrated throughout this inquiry,' said Mr. Noble.

'INTERPOL's involvement at the express request of one of its member countries has shown it can draw on the best resources and expertise worldwide to serve national and international law enforcement needs.'

In early March, Secretary General Noble also offered to meet with Ecuadorian and Venezuelan law enforcement authorities with regard to this matter, an offer which was repeated in April when he met with the heads of the INTERPOL [National Central Bureaus](#) from Bogota, Quito and Caracas - the first such meeting involving law enforcement officials from all three countries since the seizure of the FARC computers and hardware.

'At no stage has INTERPOL had any stake in the outcome of the findings except to determine and report on the truth. As made clear in the report made public today, INTERPOL's computer forensic assistance was endorsed by the Organization of American States and not objected to by any of its 186 member countries,' said Secretary General Noble.

In addition to its ongoing global initiatives in the war on terrorism and traditional transnational crime, INTERPOL has often been called upon to provide expertise in other sensitive inquiries, including the UN Oil-for-food scandal and the ongoing investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese premier Rafik Hariri in 2005.

See also

[Press statement](#) by INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble

INTERPOL media release

13 June 2008

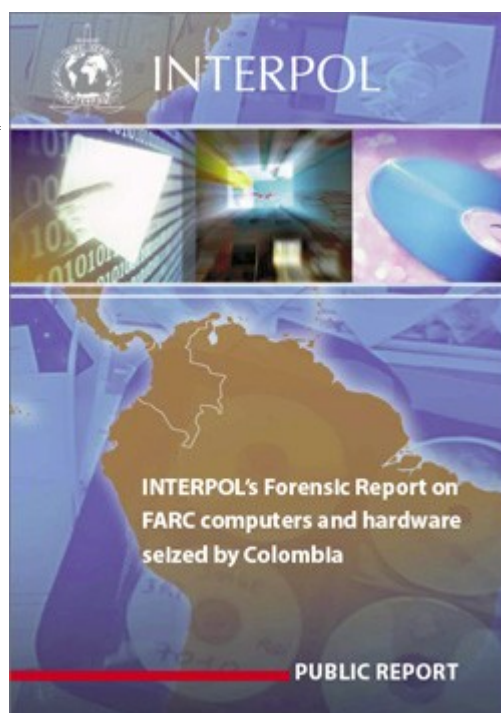
INTERPOL reaffirms key findings of its examination of seized FARC computers in response to efforts to distort conclusions

LYON, France - Following the publication of '[INTERPOL's Forensic report on FARC computers and hardware seized by Colombia](#)' on Thursday, 15 May 2008, there have been many inaccurate and misleading statements made in relation to INTERPOL's findings.

The most recent misinterpretation of the report's conclusions was contained in a press release issued by Ecuador's Ministry of Foreign Relations on Tuesday, 10 June following a meeting with INTERPOL officials from its New York office at the United Nations. Ecuador's press release gives the false impression that some 'new' information was brought to light during its meeting with INTERPOL representatives. INTERPOL believes that Ecuador has misinterpreted the key findings of INTERPOL's report and the content of discussions with INTERPOL staff.

For example, Ecuador's press release inaccurately suggests that INTERPOL had not established whether the eight seized exhibits forensically examined by INTERPOL's computer forensic experts had been recovered by Colombian authorities on 1 March 2008 from a FARC camp or belonged to Raul Reyes.

In fact, during the preparation of its report INTERPOL requested and was provided with documents and information relating to the chain of custody of the exhibits seized by Colombian authorities on 1 March 2008. Based on a review of all the information and material provided by Colombia, including a classified oral briefing, INTERPOL was able to satisfy itself, and clearly stated in its report, that the seized computer exhibits it was requested to forensically examine were taken from the FARC terrorist camp on 1 March 2008 and belonged to Raul Reyes.



[INTERPOL's Forensic Report on FARC computers and hardware seized by Colombia](#)

See also

- [Press statement by Ronald K. Noble, INTERPOL Secretary General](#)
Bogota, Colombia– 15/05/2008
- [INTERPOL releases Forensic Report requested by Colombia on seized FARC computers and hardware](#) (15/05/2008)

This finding was inextricably linked to INTERPOL's determination as to whether there was any manipulation or alteration of data contained in those seized computer exhibits.

The INTERPOL report clearly states that the overall conclusion of its experts was that 'no user files have been created, modified or deleted on any of the eight FARC computer exhibits following their seizure on 1 March 2008' (paragraph 99). The report also makes clear that after detailed and careful computer forensic analysis – comprehensively documented within the text - the experts excluded the possibility that the user files were tampered with after 1 March 2008, including the period between 1 and 3 March 2008.

Therefore, the assertion in the press release issued by Ecuador that there was no evidence 'that user files had not been created, modified or deleted' is groundless. Clearly, if no user file has been created or modified or deleted on a computer then there will not be any evidence of this, as it does not exist. INTERPOL cannot understand why Ecuador would persist in trying to suggest that Colombian law enforcement authorities altered the content of the user files of the seized FARC computer exhibits when INTERPOL's independent investigation determined that they did not.

If Ecuador has objections with the content of the user files, then Ecuador should criticise the FARC because the seized computers belonged to the FARC. Yet, to date, INTERPOL has not read any account of Ecuador denouncing or criticising the FARC in relation to any user files content in the seized computer exhibits allegedly implicating Ecuador or any of its government officials.

INTERPOL also has made clear that validating the contents of the computer exhibits were not manipulated after their seizure by Colombian authorities is not in any way, shape or form the same as saying that the contents of the user files are true and accurate. INTERPOL therefore objects to those who suggest that INTERPOL's report validates the source and accuracy of any particular document or user file contained therein. INTERPOL's report states exactly the contrary.

Countries and individuals who have been the subject of attack based on INTERPOL's report could thus have used INTERPOL's report to support their arguments of innocence, rather than invoking false, weak and offensive arguments that the user files had been manipulated or altered by Colombian authorities after their seizure. The fact that a computer contains a document accusing or implicating a person of wrongdoing does not make such claims true. Only a court of law or a specially appointed commission with appropriate jurisdiction can make such a determination after having heard all of the evidence.

In response to Ecuador's 'reaffirmation' that 'it attached no evidential value to the information obtained in the computers,' it must again be made clear that at no time has INTERPOL suggested or recommended its factual determination that none of the user files were altered be legally binding in any of its 186 member countries. It must also be underlined that INTERPOL's report was not prepared in order that it be submitted to any court of law; INTERPOL's report was prepared in response to Colombia's request, with the full support of the Organization of American States and without any objection from any INTERPOL member country (including Ecuador).

Ecuador, or any of INTERPOL's member countries, has the sovereign right to accept or reject INTERPOL's report in whole or in part, but no governmental authority should mislead or misinform the public about INTERPOL's findings, either to deflect the focus of the public's attention, to attack an individual or a country, or through a lack of understanding.

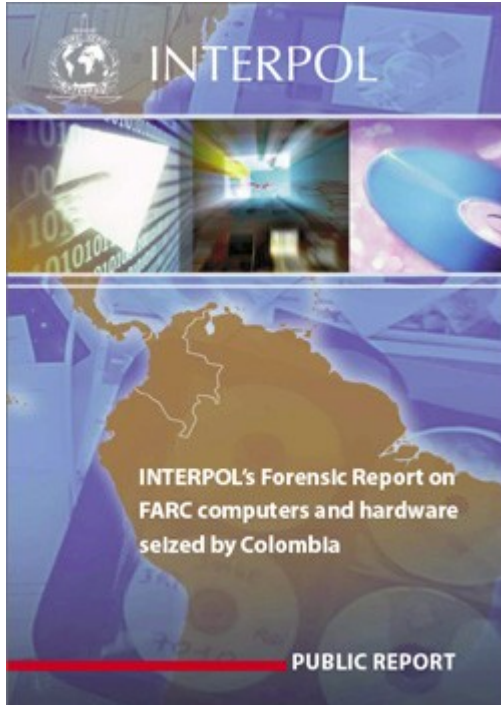
As stated not only in the report, but on many occasions, INTERPOL's Secretary General has repeatedly offered to meet with Ecuador or any other INTERPOL member country that has concerns or questions about the nature of INTERPOL's computer forensic assistance to Colombia, an offer which has never been taken up.

In the interests of international police co-operation, INTERPOL hopes that Ecuador will control its repeated tendency to attack INTERPOL for simply having reported the truth in an impartial manner. If there is indeed content in the seized FARC computer user files with which Ecuador disagrees, then it should complain to and criticise the FARC, not INTERPOL.

INTERPOL equally hopes that in the future, any country or individual commenting on 'INTERPOL's Forensic report on FARC computers and hardware seized by Colombia' will study the actual contents of the report before making erroneous or misleading remarks about its alleged content.

INTERPOL's Forensic Report on FARC computers and hardware seized by Colombia

15 May 2008



[Download as an Acrobat file](#) 



[Download as an Acrobat file](#) 



[Download as an Acrobat file](#) 



[Download as an Acrobat file](#) 