



Jürgen Stock, Secretary-General
INTERPOL
200 Quai Charles de Gaulle
29006 Lyon
France

28 September 2021

Dear Secretary-General,

Re: Clare Rewcastle Brown

We write to seek clarifications regarding INTERPOL's possible involvement in the case of Clare Rewcastle Brown. You may recall that Fair Trials wrote to you in 2015 following reports that there had been a Red Notice requested against her.

As you may recall, Ms Rewcastle Brown is a British journalist known for exposing high-level corruption involving the former Prime Minister of Malaysia (popularly known as the '1MDB scandal'), as the founder and editor-in-chief of the *Sarawak Report*. She faced charges shortly after the publication of the exposés for 'activities detrimental to parliamentary democracy', which formed the basis of a Red Notice request by the Malaysian NCB. Responding to Fair Trials' letter from August 2015 expressing concerns that the Red Notice would likely violate INTERPOL's rules, you responded to confirm that although the Red Notice request had been received, it was refused by the General Secretariat.

We have recently been contacted by Ms Rewcastle Brown, who informed us that as of 23 September, she is subject to a new arrest warrant in Malaysia. According to media reports, she is being sought to face criminal defamation charges brought by the wife of the Sultan of Terengganu regarding statements made about her in Ms Rewcastle Brown's 2018 book about the 1MDB scandal. We have serious concerns that the Malaysian NCB has attempted or is in the process of attempting to use INTERPOL's systems once again to seek her arrest.

Any data requesting Ms Rewcastle Brown's location, arrest, and/or extradition for the charges she is facing in Malaysia would be a clear and very obvious violation of INTERPOL's rules. These accusations, like the ones she faced in 2015, are based solely on Ms Rewcastle Brown's activities as a journalist and a writer, and any attempt to use INTERPOL to curb the freedom of the media and harass members of the press should be viewed as a matter of grave concern.

We would request that you clarify whether INTERPOL has received a Red Notice request regarding Ms Rewcastle Brown, or a request for arrest and extradition has been disseminated through its systems with a view to issuing a Diffusion. If either request has been made, we ask that you provide information about the outcome of INTERPOL's assessment on the validity of the request.

Given the high level of public interest in Ms Rewcastle Brown's case, and the previous history of the Malaysian NCB's attempt to use INTERPOL to seek her arrest, we strongly believe that it would be INTERPOL's interests to respond to our letter publicly.

Yours sincerely,



Bruno Min
Legal Director (UK & International), Fair Trials



Jessica Ní Mhaínín
Policy and Campaigns Manager, Index on Censorship



Sarah Clarke
Head of Europe and Central Asia, Article 19