

To the attention of Interpol Member States

Subject: Candidacy of Hu Binchen (China) to INTERPOL's Executive Committee

15 November 2021

Your Excellencies,

We, the undersigned representatives of civil society and non-governmental organisations working on human rights issues, appeal to you to refrain from voting for Hu Binchen as a delegate to the INTERPOL Executive Committee during the upcoming 89th General Assembly session. As activists in exile who are particularly vulnerable to the Chinese Government's attempts to persecute dissidents abroad, we fear the potential election of Hu Binchen would have grave consequences for the safety and wellbeing of Chinese, Hong Kongers, Taiwanese and Chinese human rights activists living outside China as well as Tibetan and Uyghur diasporas.

It is inappropriate for serious abusers of INTERPOL to be given prominent positions to lead it. China's misuse of INTERPOL Red Notices as a tool to forcibly return dissidents is well-documented. Prominent examples are the cases of Uyghur activists Dolkun Isa, who was subject to a Chinese Red notice for almost 20 years before it was deleted in 2018¹, and Idris Hasan, who was arrested in Morocco in July this year on the basis of a now-deleted Chinese Red Notice, but continues to face extradition to China.²

Hu Binchen's candidacy further highlights long-standing concerns³ about China using leadership positions to gain influence in the organization, which in the past has damaged its reputation and reportedly threatened its political neutrality. Given this history, the candidacy of Hu Binchen is particularly worrying, as he has been known as the right-hand man of Meng Hongwei during his Presidency.

Finally, we are highly alarmed by the integrity of INTERPOL's electoral processes, as there seems to be no vetting of candidates. Hu Binchen, as Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department at China's Ministry of Public Security since 2014, has played a leading role in strengthening China's security cooperation with various countries such as Malaysia, Turkey, and Cambodia, who have forcibly deported Uyghurs to China in recent years in clear violation of international law.

In light of the above, we reiterate that Hu Binchen's candidacy and persona is exemplary of China's attempts to abuse multilateral institutions for its own repressive interests. As activists vulnerable to this repression, we urge you to uphold the spirit of INTERPOL's Charter and join us in our opposition to Hu Binchen's candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

¹ <https://www.fairtrials.org/case-study/dolkun-isa>

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<https://safeguarddefenders.com/en/blog/interpol-reveals-reason-canceled-china-requested-red-notice-shows-complicity-detention-and>

³

https://www.fairtrials.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/Dismantling%20the%20tools%20of%20oppression.pdf; <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=28090&lang=en>; <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6324/documents/69495/default/>;

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Finn Lau, Founder of Hong Kong Liberty, Hong Kong activist in exile

Gheyyur Qurban, World Uyghur Congress Berlin, Uyghur activist in exile

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