



**OPERATION "I.N.F.R.A**

**(International fugitive round up and arrest)**

Operation INFRA was launched June 1<sup>st</sup>, around the world.

Crime Stoppers International (CSI) spearheaded this operation on behalf of its affiliated programs world wide, but in conjunction with its Law Enforcement partners these being Interpol, and the US Marshal Service as well as its law enforcement agencies across the globe in which Crime Stoppers operates.

CSI had set up a Global Communications hub in Europe headed by a former Scotland Yard Detective as well as a Detective Senior Sergeant from Australian Police to assist in the global coordination of Operation INFRA.

Mr. Murphy said "never under estimate the power of the partnership between the community and the media in assisting Police, it's formidable. Consider that 500 million people could be looking for you, that is daunting".

"Crime Stoppers International has created a crime fighting resource which allows for every person in the world to have the ability to provide information to law enforcement agencies without being identified."

Murphy continued "by empowering our citizens to anonymously report the whereabouts of fugitives we enable anyone to safely assist in removing a potentially dangerous criminal from our communities."

An inaugural internationally co ordinated operation with our law enforcement partners targeting fugitives in co-ordination with seven CSI member countries has resulted in 45 fugitives being either located or arrested worldwide.

Operation Infra (International Fugitive Round-Up and Arrest ), from 1-30 June, targeted fugitives thought to be located in one of the operation's seven actively participating member countries – Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Jamaica, United Kingdom and the United States. It saw CSI team up with Interpol, U.S. Marshals Service, the UK's Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), to fully exploit the latest available intelligence to locate, arrest and secure the possible extradition of internationally wanted criminals against whom there were Interpol Red Notices.

The fugitives were selected according to the severity of their offences and the operation involved the more difficult cases on which there was little information. Out of 477 cases





selected for Infra, 45 fugitives were positively located, eight of whom were arrested. The remaining 37 cases remain pending extradition procedures between the countries involved. Colombia and Jamaica also ran national operations in June targeting locally wanted criminals.

CSI's Global Communications hub in Europe was the international focal point for any information received on the fugitives, assembling, analyzing and forwarding this information to the relevant countries through Interpol's network of 187 National Central Bureaus (NCBs) for action.

With Operation Infra taking place in conjunction with the U.S. Marshals' Operation FALCON – an initiative targeting fugitives in the United States – U.S. Marshals Service Director John F Clark said: "The U.S. Marshals Service is proud to have played a role in the inaugural Operation Infra. This operation brought together law enforcement agencies worldwide and proved that it is becoming increasingly difficult for criminals to find a place to hide."

The Assistant Director of Interpol's Fugitive Investigative Support unit, Martin Cox, said that the inaugural operation was a learning opportunity which aimed to encourage more countries to participate in future Infra-Red operations. He said that international co-operation was key to success in locating and bringing international fugitives to justice, including the need to update Interpol wanted persons Red Notices with new information.

SOCA's Deputy Director of International Affairs, David Armond, said that "the success of Operation Infra demonstrates how joint collaborative working across the globe raises the risk to criminals who believe that they can evade capture. A number of extremely dangerous criminals who were at large in the UK will now face justice as the result of this operation."

Among those arrested worldwide during Operation Infra was Bruce Vito Veniero, an American citizen wanted for drug trafficking who went on the run in 1997 after signing a guilty plea bargain with the U.S. Federal Government and posting bail of one million dollars. He was arrested in Buenos Aires on 23 June after Interpol's Regional Bureau in the Argentinian capital provided key investigative leads from the U.S. Marshals Service. He is now being held in Argentina awaiting extradition to the United States where he faces life imprisonment.





---

Worldwide, Crime Stoppers has assisted in the arrest of more than 785 000 criminals and assisted in the success prosecution of more than 1.2million cases

If you have any information or know someone who might, contact your local Crime Stoppers or visit [www.csiworld.org](http://www.csiworld.org)

**Enquiries: North America and Europe**  
**Tel:+1 905-951 -4806**

email: [rpage@kmts.ca](mailto:rpage@kmts.ca)

**Enquiries: Africa and Asia Pacific**  
**Tel:+ 61-417-99-66-00**

email: [executive@crimestoppers.com.au](mailto:executive@crimestoppers.com.au)

END



