



October 6, 2023

Mr. Daniel Lee Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Innovation and Intellectual Property Office of the United States Trade Representative 600 17th St., NW Washington, DC 20508

Submission by beIN Media Group LLC and Miramax, LLC 2023 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy

(Docket Number USTR-2023-0009)

Dear Mr. Lee,

beIN Media Group LLC ("beIN") and Miramax, LLC ("Miramax") appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in response to the request by the Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") to identify examples of online and physical notorious markets that engage in and facilitate substantial copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting, for the purposes of USTR's 2023 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets.

beIN is a global sports and entertainment media company incorporated under the laws of the State of Qatar. beIN engages in television production, distribution and media rights acquisition, and broadcasts in 43 countries across North America, France, Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa ("MENA"), and Asia. beIN has also expanded significantly into entertainment through television production and distribution, and currently owns a majority share of Miramax Films to grow its movie production capabilities. Since 2022, beIN has also been operating a new OTT service in MENA and Turkey known as "TOD", which includes Arabic and Turkish language original entertainment productions, as well as exclusively-licensed content.

During the past year, beIN has held exclusive rights to broadcast, and to authorize others to broadcast, premium US sporting competitions in the MENA region, including but not limited to the National Basketball Association ("NBA"), Major League Baseball ("MLB"), the US Open Tennis Championships, as well as major international sporting competitions such as the Champions League by the Union of European Football Associations ("UEFA"), and national soccer leagues. beIN was also the Official Broadcaster for the Soccer World Cup by Fédération Internationale de Football Association ("FIFA") held in Qatar in 2022.

The core of beIN's business is dependent on intellectual property ("IP") rights that result both from having acquired exclusive media rights from third parties, such as major sporting leagues (including many based in the US), and from beIN's own efforts as the creator of media content. beIN's negotiations to acquire broadcast rights from major US and international sporting leagues have been underpinned by a necessary confidence in international IP protection. Accordingly, the protection and enforcement of those IP rights is fundamental to the health and success not only of beIN and the rights holder sporting leagues themselves, but also of the many people in the United States, and around the world, whose livelihoods are dependent on the revenue that this industry generates.

Miramax is a global film and television studio headquartered in Los Angeles, CA. Miramax is known for films such as Good Will Hunting, 13 Going on 30, Kill Bill, Halloween (and its sequels), The Gentlemen, Uncle Frank, City of Lies, Wrath of Man, Operation Fortune, and many others. Miramax is also the sales agent for the production company Revolution Films ("Revolution") and has worldwide television and digital distribution rights for Revolution's films. Revolution acquired some of its titles from the library of the Morgan Creek Entertainment Group ("Morgan Creek") several years ago and Miramax now represents these titles, having television and digital distribution rights worldwide, excluding North America. Miramax was acquired by beIN in March 2016, and, since December 2019, has been 49 percent owned by ViacomCBS.

Piracy presents a serious threat to the broadcasting, film, and television industry. In the MENA region in particular, where beIN broadcasts directly to customers via its own encrypted satellite channels (in Arabic, English, and French) and an OTT (over-the top) service directly via the Internet (beIN Connect, and since 2022, a new OTT service known as "TOD"), piracy is likely the principal means in many countries by which consumers access premium television content, including live sports broadcasts. Piracy is also likely the primary means in many countries in the MENA region by which consumers access premium movie and television content on demand, including content owned by Miramax. Indeed, there are many well-established pirate operators, and well-known piracy "brands," that are openly sold in physical and online markets in countries across the MENA region.

In many respects the piracy in MENA is occurring in a far more widespread, and open way, than is seen in most other parts of the world, and so represents a particularly acute threat to the sustainability and growth potential for the audio-visual sector in the region.

beIN and Miramax are fully committed to the fight against piracy through all available technological and legal means. We are pleased to say that some of the services referred to in our previous USTR submissions have now ceased operating.

We therefore welcome USTR's publication of key online and physical marketplaces that are involved in infringements of IP rights, and commend its aim to encourage the licensed distribution of legitimate content.

In this year's submission, beIN and Miramax respectfully submit that the following should be considered for inclusion in the Notorious Markets report.

## **B2B Markets**

In addition to the sale of piracy devices to end consumers, a lax approach to enforcement can be manifested through the proliferation of piracy services in the business to business market for audio-visual services. For example, in **Cambodia**, beIN is aware of a number of operators that supply pirated television channels, including beIN, US and other local and international content to the hotel market and serviced apartments. These operators, including **Cambodia Digital TV Co Ltd** (a joint venture between Yunnan Media Group and National Television of Cambodia), and **Phnom Penh Cable Television** (one of the major cable TV services in Cambodia), supply channels to both serviced apartments and international hotel chains for guests to watch channels within the rooms and other public areas. Weak enforcement laws in the country make it very difficult for rights owners to prevent this, and means legitimate licensed B2B operators cannot viably enter market.





# Piracy Receiver Brands / Related IPTV services

In this section of the submission, beIN and Miramax outline a number of well-known and significant brands of receivers which are distributed across the MENA region, which are typically pre-enabled for TV piracy with pirate IPTV apps, along with some of the well-known piracy apps that typically pre-loaded on those devices, or otherwise believed to be popular in the region.

While this list is by no means exhaustive, beIN and Miramax propose that each of the below services warrant being included in the Notorious Markets Report.

#### Chaloos / Mediastar / Forever TV

The Chaloos company, which is based in Erbil, Iraq, is a major source of piracy, including, of beIN and Miramax content. The Chaloos company owns and distributes Mediastar branded receivers which enable IPTV and control word sharing piracy. Among many other channels, they provide access to pirated beIN content.

Mediastar (*mediastar.co*), which is owned by Chaloos operates shops that sell household appliances and "Mediastar" branded receivers across Iraq. Mediastar receivers are also sold in Iraq from Chaloos electronics goods store.

More generally, Mediastar receivers are distributed and sold all across the MENA region, and are one of the major well known piracy receiver "brands". Mediastar receivers are one of the brands of receivers which are commonly sold through physical outlets in MENA (including at the physical markets places referred to above).

Mediastar shop in As Sulaymaniyah, Iraq





Medistar receivers are commonly pre-loaded with an IPTV app formerly known as Forever IPTV, which in 2022 was renamed "Forever TV".

Forever TV provides access to thousands of on-demand movies and television shows, including content owned by Miramax. For example, the following US channels are available on Forever TV: ABC News, CBS, CNN, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, and MTV. Screenshots of ABC News and ESPN being made available on Forever IPTV are provided below:



In addition to being made available on Mediastar devices, Forever TV also operates from a website at <a href="https://foreveriptv.net/">https://foreveriptv.net/</a> The website offers plans for direct customers, as well as options to operate as re-streamer and re-seller of the Forever TV service.

Investigation have shown that the operations of Forever TV is closely linked to Mediastar and the Chaloos company.

In 2020, 2021 and 2022 USTR added Chaloos to its Notorious Markets List, and recognized that Chaloos reportedly owns and operates Mediastar and Forever IPTV. Since then, there have been no improvements, and Chaloos continues to pirate beIN and Miramax channels and distribute them via its IPTV services. beIN and Miramax therefore request that Chaloos, remain on the Notorious Markets List for 2023, along with the Mediastar brand of receiver, and the Forever TV service.

# Spider

The Spider company, based in Amman, Jordan, distributes Spider-branded devices across the MENA region and Europe, either via online sales (including at <a href="http://spiderreceiver.com">http://spiderreceiver.com</a>) or from physical shops. The Spider brand is very well known in Jordan, and further across MENA.

The company has advertised online, in social media, and with outdoor advertising in Jordan, such as the below example from 2022.



Spider also operates its own stores, which distribute Spider receivers. See the below picture of Spider receivers stocked on the shelves inside a Spider store in Amman, Jordan.



Spider receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- Golden IPTV
- MYHD IPTV
- Echoo IPTV

All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Golden IPTV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. A screenshot of beIN channels available on a Spider device is included below:



Screenshots of some of the pirated US television channels made available on Spider devices are included below:



Subscriptions to well-known pirate IPTV services Haha IPTV, Brave, and MYHD IPTV, are also openly sold from the Spider company's website at <a href="http://spiderreceiver.com">http://spiderreceiver.com</a>, as can be seen below:











In 2018, Colorado-based DISH Network LLC, filed a copyright infringement action in a US federal district court against the US distributors of Spider IPTV devices. DISH Network was successful in obtaining damages from Spider's US distributors, as well as a permanent injunction prohibiting the US distributors from distributing or otherwise infringing DISH Network's exclusive rights in the United States.

beIN and Miramax request that Spider be added to the Notorious Markets List.

In 2022, the USTR added Spider to the Notorious Markets List. beIN and Miramax propose that it remain on the Notorious Markets List for 2023.

### Family Box

Family Box is both a terrestrial pirate organization covering Kurdistan, and an IPTV pirate organization with global coverage. Its offices are in Erbil, Iraq.

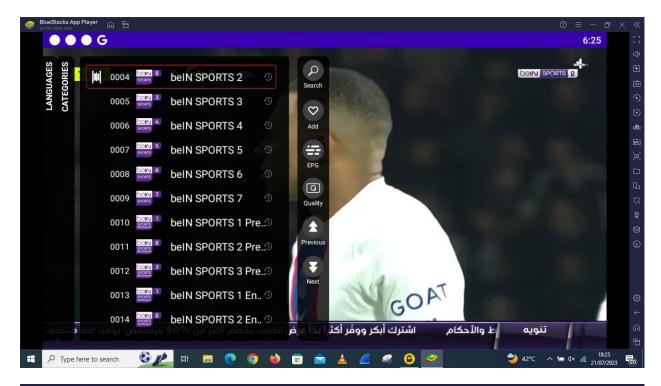
While the terrestrial network, which broadcasts 270 channels locally, including beIN channels, (which it broadcasts without authorization is of great concern to beIN), it is the Pirate IPTV operation which is causing huge damage to beIN across MENA.

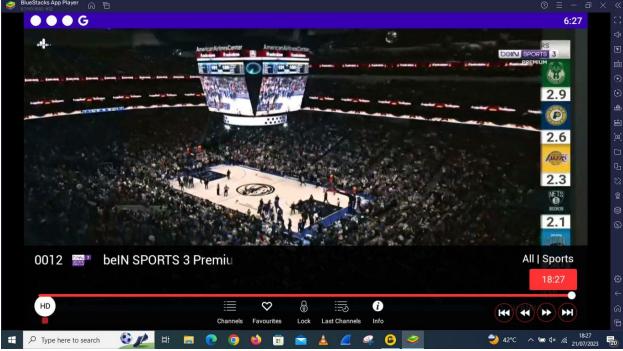
In fact, beIN estimates that around 1/3 of all pirated beIN channels seen on pirate IPTV services have originated with the Family Box's operations.

beIN is able to draw this conclusion from the fact that Family Box uses a "Family" logo, which it applies to streams that originate from the operations. These have been seen on a very high proportion of pirated beIN channels on pirate IPTV services monitored by beIN throughout the region and internationally, and indicates that Family Box is likely the source of these pirated streams, which are either directly supplied to other pirate IPTV services, or subsequently restreamed across the internet. The high quality and reliability of these streams, aided by the sophisticated nature of the Family's Box's operations (in circumventing antipiracy measures and distribution) is likely a contributing factor to the preponderance of the Family Box as a source.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://about.dish.com/news-releases?item=123321

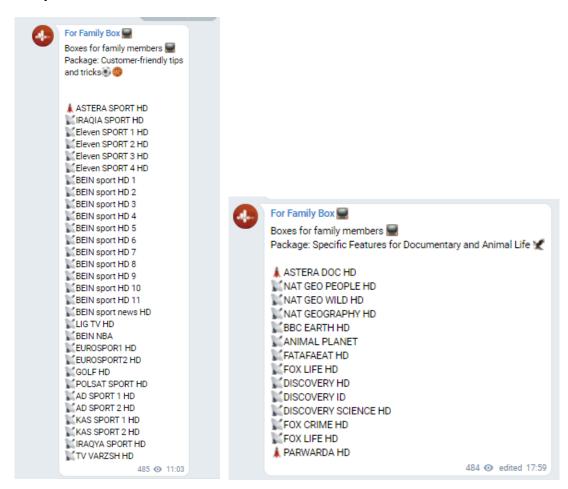




Video-on-demand content on the Family Box's IPTV network includes approximately 20,000 movies. Family Box makes available beIN channels, as well as other international and US rights holders' content. A screenshot showing the promotion of FOX as being available on Family Box is provided below:



Family Box has promoted its services via a Telegram channel, in which it advertises the availability of several US and international channels, including National Geographic, Discovery, FOX, and BBC Earth, as well as content from Netflix.







beIN and Miramax propose that Family Box be added to the Notorious Markets List.

#### Redline / Red IPTV

Redline is a Turkish company (DTS Elektronik Sanayi Ticaret Limited), with offices in Istanbul, Turkey, and Shenzen, China (see: https://redline.com.tr/en/about-us).

Redline manufactures and distributes various "Red" brands of receivers into markets across Turkey, MENA, and Europe.



beIN's investigations indicate that Redline is also likely to be involved in the manufacture. distribution and/or support of as many as 60 other well-known brands of receiver typically sold pre-loaded with pirate IPTV apps across MENA.

As such, beIN regards Redline as a very significant player in the markets for pirated beIN content across MENA.

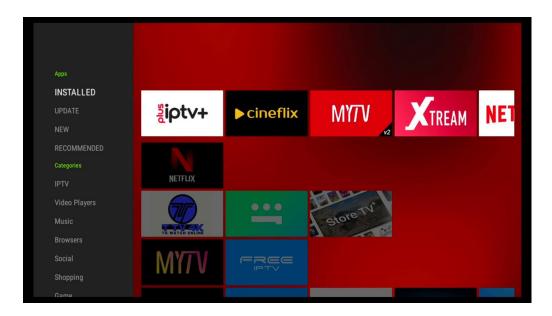
Redline is linked to the operation of an IPTV service known as "Red IPTV", which makes available pirated content, including beIN and Miramax content, as well as huge libraries and number of channels from other US and international content owners.

In 2018 Colorado-based DISH Network LLC, filed a copyright infringement action in a US federal district court against the US distributors of Tigerstar devices, on the basis that made available pirated Dish Content.<sup>2</sup> One of the pirate IPTV apps being made available on the Tigerstar receivers, and referred to in the judgment was RedIPTV.

DISH Network was successful in obtaining damages from Tigerstar's US distributors, as well as a permanent injunction prohibiting the US distributors from distributing or otherwise infringing DISH Network's exclusive rights in the United States.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://about.dish.com/news-releases?item=123321



Redline is also associated with other IPTV apps, which distribute pirated IPTV channels, including "IPTV Plus" app, and an OTT interface (which provides additional functionality and playlists for use with Smart TVs and other devices). Other brands and websites associated with Redline include Red360, 7line.tv, and Redlineteknik.com. See: <a href="http://redlineiptv.com/">http://redlineiptv.com/</a> and <a href="http://redlineiptv.com/">http://redlineiptv.com/</a> and <a href="http://www.red360.tv/">http://www.red360.tv/</a>

Since 2023, "IPTV Plus" is the main pirate IPTV app pre-installed on this device. IPTV Plus provides access to pirated beIN channels and Miramax content, as well as other international and US rights holders' channels, such as: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC.



In addition, Redline manufactured devices have been supplied with other well-known piracy apps widely seen in the MENA region, including:

- Haha IPTV
- MYHD IPTV
- Echoo IPTV

All of these apps make available pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international channels, including Cartoon Network, CNN, Discovery, FOX,

MTV and NBC. Screenshots of Cartoon Network and CBS channels being made available on MYHD IPTV are provided below:





beIN and Miramax propose that Redline and Red IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

#### Gazal

The Gazal company, based in Amman, Jordan, distributes Gazal-branded devices across the MENA region and Europe, either via online sales (including at <a href="https://gazalsat.com">https://gazalsat.com</a>) or from physical shops, the main shop located at Ad-Dustour Street, Amman, Jordan. Gazal receivers are typically sold at almost all satellite shops in Jordan, these function as resellers for Gazal.

Gazal is also a very popular brand of receiver in Jordan, as well as MENA more generally, and typically sold from physical outlets.

Gazal receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- Golden IPTV
- MYHD IPTV
- Echoo IPTV

All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Golden IPTV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. A screenshot of beIN channels available on a Gazal device is included below:

Below are images of pirated content available on a Gazal receiver, revealing significant US content.

beIN and Miramax propose that Gazal be added to the Notorious Markets List.









# Dream TV

Dream TV is a well-known and widely viewed Moroccan-based pirate IPTV service provider.



On its websites and social media page Dream TV presents itself as the largest provider of IPTV international channels on the market for individuals and resellers, offering 2,300 channels of different qualities: SD, HD, FHD and H265.

- https://www.facebook.com/people/Mon-orange-QR/100070212199768
- https://brightv.net
- https://bright4k.com
- https://dream4k.tv
- https://dreamtviptv.com
- https://uixpertdev.com

Through its investigations, beIN has found that Dream TV is likely to be responsible for a substantial proportion of pirated beIN channels streamed in the pirate IPTV ecosystem. These are all pirate streams showing pirated beIN channels, as well as Miramax content and channels belonging to other international and US rights holders, such as: ABC News, Cartoon Network, CNN, FOX, and NBC. Screenshots of soccer and NBA games on beIN being shown on Dream TV are provided below, along with screenshots of Sky Sports:

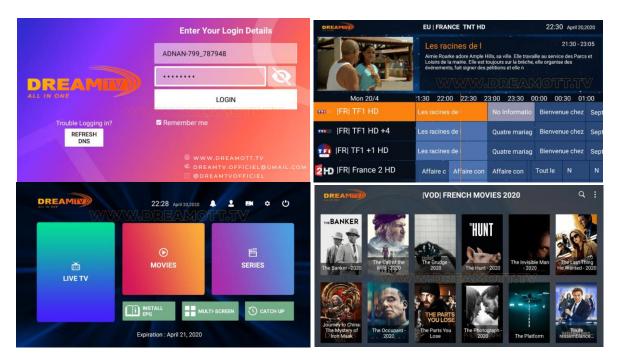






Dream TV offers for download several android apps which, in combination with a valid subscription, provide direct access to infringing content.

Screenshots of Dream TV's user interface are included below:

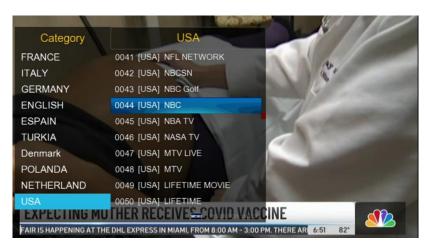


Screenshots of some of the movies and TV shows available on Dream TV, including Miramax movies and other well-known US content, are shown below:



Screenshots of some of the television channels available on Dream TV, including CNN, CBS, Cinemax, Cartoon Network, FOX, NFL Network, NBC, NBA TV, MTV, and Lifetime are included below:







Dream TV's IPTV Reseller Program, which allows individuals to sign up, purchase and resell Dream TV, is also available on Dream TV's website at: <a href="https://brightv.net/revendeur-iptv/">https://brightv.net/revendeur-iptv/</a>

Besides an IPTV service, and a reseller network, DreamTV is also found to be closely linked to Moroccan receiver brand Dreamsat (dreamsat.ma). Dreamsat sells IPTV receivers allowing to receive 8000 pirated channels.



HOME / RÉCEPTEUR

#### Dreamsat 310 Mini

- Résolution HD 1080p prise en charge
- Sortie vidéo/audio HDMI
- · Lecteur de carte CA
- Port Ethernet LAN
- · Recherche aveugle sensitive
- 8000 chaines de stockage
- 64 satellites de stockage
- Menu multilingue pris en charge
- DiSEqC 1.0, 1.1, 1.2
- USALS pris en charge
- Enregistrement et lecture via USB
- Timeshift pris en charge

Dreamsat is a very popular brand of satellite and IPTV receiver distributed in Morocco.

beIN and Miramax propose that Dream TV and Dreamsat be added to the Notorious Markets List.

#### Icone / GoGo IPTV

Icone distributes Icone branded receivers, which are manufactured by a South Korean company Aloys.

Icone is headquartered in the UAE, from which it exports and distributes receivers across MENA and Europe. It advertises offices in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Canada (see <a href="http://www.icone-tech.com/">http://www.icone-tech.com/</a>).

Icone receivers provide access to pirate IPTV content by means of the **GoGo IPTV** app, which is preconfigured for easy download on the device. Authentication of the app is included in the purchase of the device. Instructions on how to activate the GoGo IPTV subscription on Icone devices are also included on the GoGo IPTV website (see: <a href="https://gogoiptv.net/activation-gogoiptv/">https://gogoiptv.net/activation-gogoiptv/</a>).

The GoGo IPTV app makes available thousands of pirated television channels and on demand content, including beIN channels, Miramax content and content of other US and international rights holders. For example, GoGo IPTV provides access to US channels such as: Cartoon Network, CNN, Discovery, FOX, HBO, National Geographic, and NBA HD. A screenshot of a beIN channel being made available on GoGo IPTV is provided below:



Screenshots of on demand movie content available on GoGo IPTV are included below:





GoGo IPTV also operates a reseller program, by which others can sell access to GoGo IPTV (see <a href="https://gogoiptv.net/">https://gogoiptv.net/</a>).

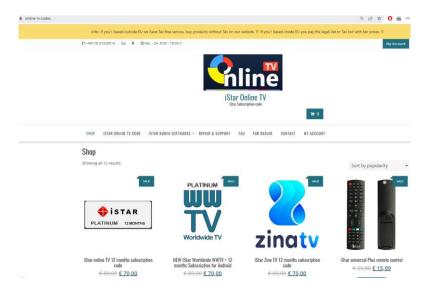
beIN and Miramax propose that Icone and GoGo IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## iStar

iStar Media ("iStar") is a receiver brand also operating out of Erbil, Iraq. iStar receivers are typically enabled for satellite and IPTV piracy, and iStar also operates a localized network with pirated content. On its website: https://istarinternational.com/about-us/ (screenshot immediately below), iStar claims to provide live TV streaming, movies, series and animations without the use of satellite dishes.



iStar sells iStar-branded receivers that come with a 12-month subscription to the pirate IPTV app "Online TV."



This service provides access to pirated television channels, including beIN channels, as well as pirated VOD content, including Miramax content. iStar receivers also provide access to IPTV services such as Zeed Gold, which in turn provide access to VOD content.<sup>3</sup>

The screenshot below shows a pirated beIN broadcast of a 2023 NBA game, made available through an iStar-branded receiver:



iStar-branded receivers have been seen being sold across Europe and the United States.

iStar websites include <u>www.iistar-korea.eu</u>; <u>www.istar-4k.com</u> and www.istarinternational.com. iStar also has a US-focused reseller website, <u>www.istarus.com</u>, as well as a general reseller website, online-tv.codes.

On September 21, 2021, Colorado-based DISH Network, supported by the International Broadcaster Coalition Against Piracy ("IBCAP"), launched a copyright infringement claim in US federal district court against iStar Company, the operator of the iStar IPTV service and its affiliated entities and individuals.<sup>4</sup> That action resulted in damages orders and broad injunctions in respect of iStar in the US.<sup>5</sup>

beIN and Miramax proposed that iStar be added to the Notorious Markets List.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See <a href="https://www.ibcap.org/ibcap-announces-24-million-lawsuit-against-istar-iptv-service/">https://www.ibcap.org/ibcap-announces-24-million-lawsuit-against-istar-iptv-service/</a>;
<a href="https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mied.357115/gov.uscourts.mied.357115.1.0.pdf">https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mied.357115/gov.uscourts.mied.357115.1.0.pdf</a> .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.globenewswire.com/en/news-release/2022/11/07/2549948/0/en/IBCAP-Coordinated-Lawsuit-Results-in-Massive-Takedown-Ruling-Against-iStar-Pirate-Service-iStar-CEO-Ordered-to-Personally-Pay-15-7-Million.html

# Majestic

Majestic is another popular Jordanian IPTV Receiver brand. The pirate brand sells receivers online at majesticsat.com and on social media platforms such as Facebook.

Majestic receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- Echoo TV
- SAM IPTV
- Matrix IPTV
- Ultra IPTV

All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Echoo TV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. A screenshot of beIN channels available on a Majestic device is included below:

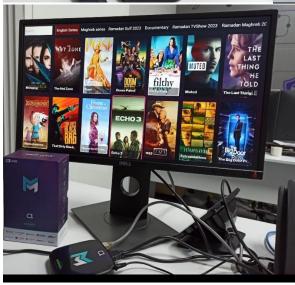
Below are images of pirated content available on a Majestic receiver, revealing significant US content.

beIN and Miramax request that Majestic be added to the Notorious Markets List.













# **Professorsat**

Professorsat is another popular Jordanian IPTV Receiver brand. The pirate brand sells receivers online at professorsat.com and on social media platforms such as Facebook, e.g.: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ShaikhAlkarCompany/">https://www.facebook.com/ShaikhAlkarCompany/</a>;

<u>https://www.facebook.com/ProfessorSatellite</u>. Investigations show that all these outlets belong to the same family in Amman, Jordan.

Professorsat receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- Pal IPTV
- SAM IPTV

- Matrix IPTV
- Ultra IPTV
- Doctor IPTV
- Belo IPTV
- HaHa IPTV

All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Echoo TV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. A screenshot of beIN channels available on a Professorsat device is included below.

Below are images of pirated content available on a Professorsat receiver, revealing significant US content.





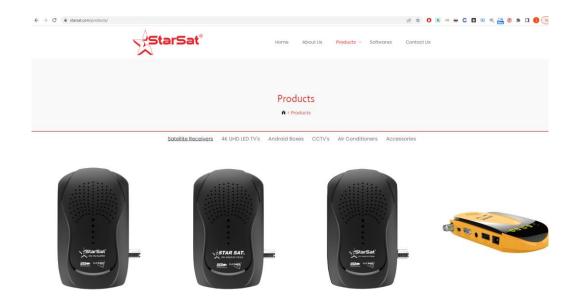




beIN and Miramax propose that Professorsat be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## **Starsat**

The Starsat company (Star Sat Trading LLC) is headquartered in the UAE from where it exports and distributes "Starsat" branded receivers, across the MENA region. Starsat receivers are advertised on Starsat's website: <a href="https://starsat.com">https://starsat.com</a>. Star Sat Trading LLC was established in 1999 in Dubai, UAE. The organisation is focused on the wholesale import and export of electronics.



The receivers are believed to be manufactured in China, by Zhuhai Gotech Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd (GoTech).

Various Starsat receiver models are a supplied with the "Apollo 5" IPTV app, which enables access to pirated IPTV content. The logo for the app as commonly seen within the Starsat receiver is as below.



The Apollo 5 IPTV app provide access to beIN and Miramax channels, as well as other US and international rights holders' channels. For example, the following US channels are available on on the Starsat receiver: CBS, Disney, HBO, MTV and National Geographic.

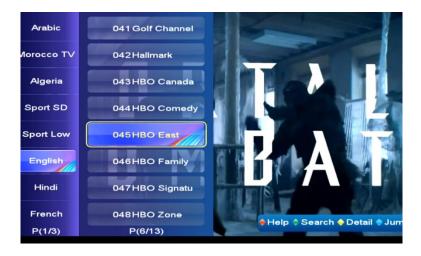
A screenshot of a beIN channel being made available on a Starsat receiver through the Apollo 5 IPTV app is provided below:





Screenshots of other pirated television content (CBS Sports and HBO) available from a Starsat receiver using the Apollo 5 IPTV app are included below:





beIN and Miramax propose that Starsat and the Apollo 5 IPTV app be included in the Notorious Markets List.

## Volka IPTV / Fosto TV

Volka IPTV was established in 2015 by a Tunisian national. They have recently rebranded to Fosto TV and operating from a website at Fosto.tv





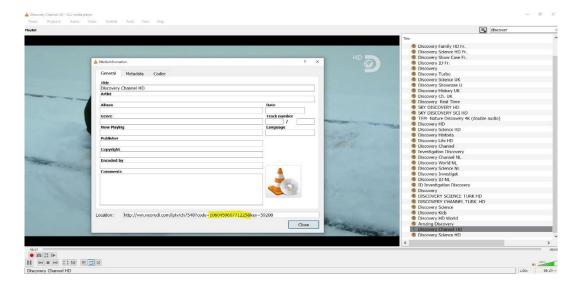
The nature of the pirated content being made available from the service is evident from the website, and includes well known US and MENA rights owners.

The service has used an effective reseller scheme, which has led to the creation of many offshoot websites which featured the Volka branding. Resellers are mostly located in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

Volka IPTV / Fosto TV makes available beIN channels and Miramax content, as well as many other channels belonging to international and US rights holders, including ABC, Showtime, FOX, CBS, HBO, NBC, NBA HD, Fox Sport, and ESPN.

Examples of some of the US content available is shown below, including a screenshot of an MLB game on ESPN, and a list of the many Discovery channels readily available.





Examples of some of the many on-demand movies available on Volka are pictured below:













## **NEW FILMS**









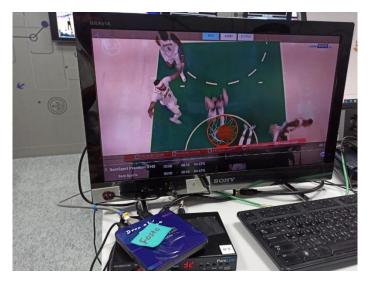


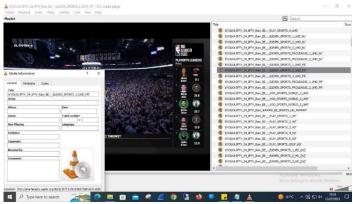










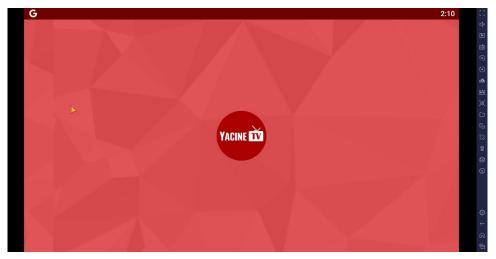


beIN and Miramax propose that Volka IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## Yacine TV

Yacine TV is a popular piracy app which is likely operated from Algeria. The "Yacine TV" brand appears to be very popular in North Africa. When searching the Internet for Yacine TV, many results appear, including for copycats of this piracy service. Investigations indicate that the "official" version of this app is available at: <a href="http://download.yacineapp.tv/">http://download.yacineapp.tv/</a> A screenshot of the Yacine TV logo is provided below:





Yacine TV makes available beIN channels, as well as many other international channels. Screenshots showing beIN and US content available on Yacine TV are provided below:









beIN and Miramax propose that Yacine TV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## **Internet Key Sharing (Hacking of encrypted satellite broadcasts) piracy**

Internet Key Sharing (IKS) piracy involves pirates illegally obtaining the encryption keys (through hacking) for satellite television broadcasts and sharing them with their own subscribers. The encryption keys are also known as "Control Words". The pirates charge a subscription fee to access the control words, which are distributed over the internet to satellite receivers which are equipped to receive both the satellite broadcasts, and the control words (distributed in real time over the internet from the IKS service) necessary to decrypt and watch the broadcasts.

The IKS service charges their users a subscription fee which is substantially below the fees charged by the legitimate broadcaster, but enables their users to receive the same high quality satellite broadcast. The subscriptions are typically sold in MENA through local networks of electronics dealers, and can often also be renewed online. They are a very substantial part of the local piracy landscape in MENA, and have long been a popular way for viewers in North Africa to watch European pay television broadcasts, whose satellite footprints overspill into the territory.

Many of the popular brands of receivers referred to above, and used for IPTV piracy, are "hybrid", and also enabled to receive satellite broadcasts, including by means of pirate IKS services.

Given the significance of this form of piracy within the MENA landscape, and the infringements occurring of beIN content (including US content licensed to beIN) and other rights owners content, beIN believes it is appropriate for these services to be added to the USTR Notorious Markets Lists for 2023.

#### Forever IKS

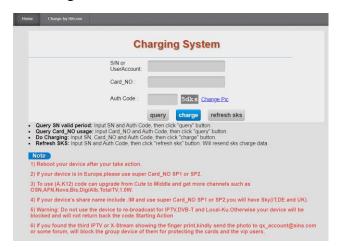
In late 2022, beIN became subject to piracy, from the Forever IKS service, with the control words to our broadcasts having been illegally obtained through hacking (by highly sophisticated pirates) and shared via the service. Although beIN has undertaken several technical operations intended to counter and disrupt this piracy, it has nevertheless continued.

The Forever IKS logo appears as below.

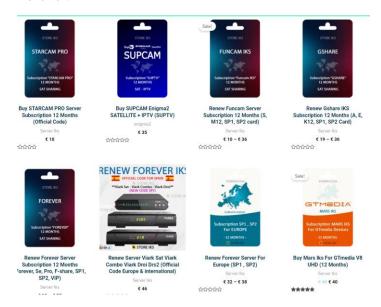


Forever IKS is preloaded on several models of receivers associated with piracy when they are purchased. These receivers often come with a yearly subscription for Forever IKS enabled.

Renewals are extensively sold on Facebook and websites by many resellers from all over MENA. Renewal codes can also be purchased in most physical satellite shops or on ecommerce platforms such as Alibaba. The company also directly maintains two websites for online renewals of their service: <a href="http://www.renewbox.net/">http://www.renewbox.net/</a> and <a href="http://tpoentrance.cc">http://tpoentrance.cc</a>. The following screenshot shows renewbox.net:

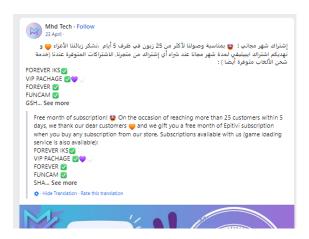


The following screenshot shows are third-party reseller website for ILS services including Forever:



#### https://storeiks.com/:

Searching Facebook for "Forever IKS renewal" brings up hundreds of posts offering this service for sale, the following is an example:



Examples of hacked channels being made available on the Forever IKS service are provided below.

















## **Pirate streaming websites**

One of the most common, and long-standing, modes of internet based piracy concerns illegitimate free streaming websites that provide access to unauthorised audio-visual content that is consumed directly on a web page through the consumer's application of a web browser. The infringing content may be accessed utilising a variety of devices (mobile, tablet, smart television) and is not limited to the use of common household web browsers across desktop personal computers.

The free and ubiquitous nature of these illegal websites also makes them a very significant and harmful part of the audiovisual piracy landscape. Often these services source and restream their pirated content from pirate IPTV services.

There are several very well-known international pirate websites of this type, which have long been making available pirated beIN, US and other international rights owners content available.

As such, beIN and Miramax propose that the following websites be added to the Notorious Markets List for 2023.

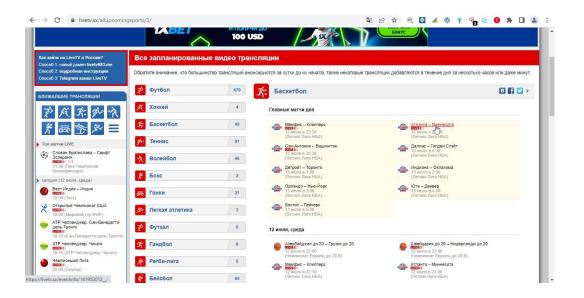
## Livetv.sx

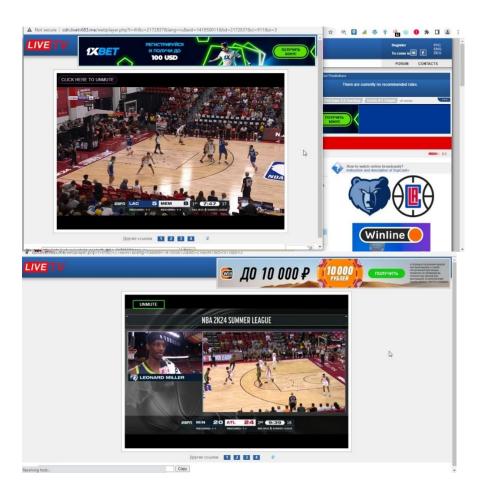
The very well-known pirate streaming site "livetv.sx" has been operational for nearly a decade<sup>6</sup> and provides users with access to illegal streaming content from numerous sporting events and tournaments including, but not limited to, soccer, tennis, basketball and motorsport

Livetv.sx operates a site index where content may be identified for consumption, before directing the pirate user to a related domain ("cdn.livetvxxx.me") where the infringing audiovisual content may be consumed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://torrentfreak.com/google-services-among-472-sites-blocked-for-world-cup-piracy-140707/

Remaining a popular outlet for the consumption of illegal material, the website "livetv.sx" generated 17.8 million global total traffic visits in May 2023<sup>7</sup>





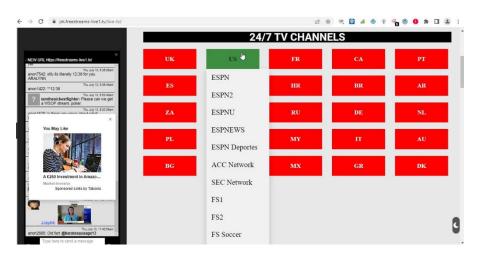
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.similarweb.com/website/livetv.sx/#ranking

#### Freestreams-live1

Originally operating via the URL "freestreams-live1.com," this domain was successfully seized by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) pursuant to a warrant issued by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 tournament. "Freestreams-live1.tv" is the new domain of the pirate streaming site which continues to heavily infringe upon numerous sporting events, organisations and broadcasters' rights through the accessibility of infringing live streaming content.

"Freestreams-live1.tv" provides pirate consumers with access to event-specific live streams, but also links to 24/7 live streaming channels. All of the infringing live content is embedded directly across "freestreams-live1.tv's" webpages.

Despite the domain name "freestreams-live1.tv" only being registered in December 2022, he platform generated 7.6 million illicit global total traffic visits in May 2023 10

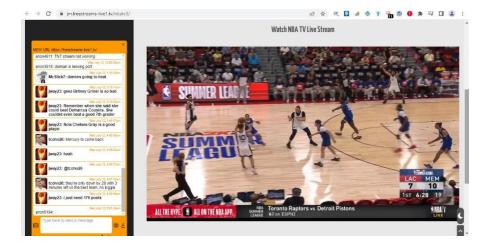




<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/maryland-us-attorney-s-office-announces-seizure-55-domain-names-violated-copyrights

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://centralops.net/co/ (Domain Creation Date: 2022-12-10T10:44:11Z)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.similarweb.com/website/freestreams-live1.tv/#traffic

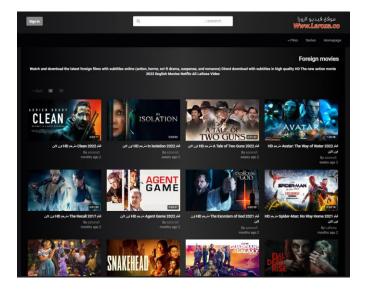


#### **LAROZA**

Laroza is one of the oldest and most popular pirate websites in the Middle East and has a vast library of Arabic and international movies and series. The website typically receives more than 7 million visits in a month. Laroza's operators have implemented an effective URL redirection strategy with redirections to multiple subdomains and TLD extensions applied daily or every other day. Some of their numerous domains used by the Laroza website are larona.one, laroza.vip, laroza.net, laroza.cam, laroza.tv, laroza.sbs among others. This strategy appears designed to circumvent enforcement and other disruption action taken by rights owners.

In 2022, beIN launched a OTT service named TOD, which includes original drama productions. All of this content has been pirated and made available from the Laroza website.

Examples of the Laroza website making available pirated Miramax and other US content are included below.



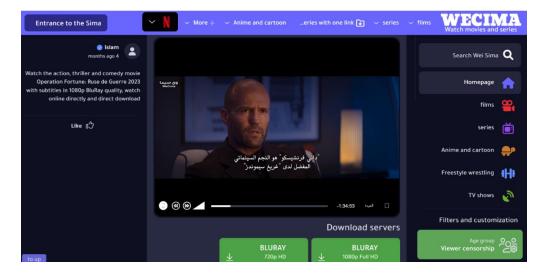


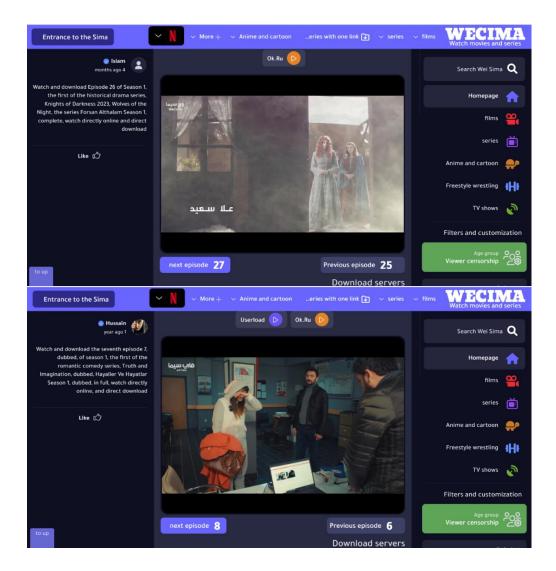
#### **WeCima**

WeCima appears to be the new version (new domain and name) of a notorious pirate website in the MENA region known as MyCima. MyCima was one of the largest piracy websites in the Middle East reporting an estimated 50 million visitors monthly. It offered a vast library of international and Arabic series and movies. Although MyCima was reportedly taken down by actions initiated by the Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment (ACE) in February 2023, WeCima, a mirror version of MyCima with same content offered, was set up shortly after. It is already recording more than 18 million monthly visits.

Apparently as a strategy to evade further enforcement actions, several WeCima domains and subdomains (wecima.click, wecima.co, mycima.wecima.watch, wecima.icu and many more) are continuously registered pointing at WeCima.cam.

Examples of pirated content, including Miramax content, are provided below.



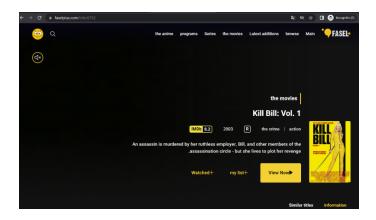


### **Fasel**

Fasel is another of the most popular pirate websites in the Middle East for streaming international movies and series. Faselplus was launched in 2023 as the premium version of FaselHD. Users can pay a monthly fee to enjoy ad-free content and features like smooth transitions between episodes. The main domains involved are faselhd.vip and faselplus.com. Between them these domains are recording more than 30 million monthly visits.

Examples of Miramax content being pirated on the website are provided below.







Should USTR have any questions or require any further information, be IN and Miramax remain at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

beIN Media Group LLC

Miramax, LLC