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## **IIPA EXPECTS SWIFT ACTIONS BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE COPYRIGHT ENFORCEMENT AND REDUCE RAMPANT PIRACY**

Washington, D.C. -- The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), comprised of six trade associations representing the U.S. copyright industries, had a mixed reaction to today's announcement that the U.S. government will continue to review Brazil's copyright enforcement practices for another 180 days (until March 31, 2005). The U.S. decision was based on its evaluation of commitments made by Brazil during the special day GSP review conducted between July 1 and September 30, 2004.

"It is clear to us that Brazil fails to provide 'adequate and effective [copyright] protection' as required under the GSP statute," said IIPA President Eric H. Smith. Despite numerous police anti-piracy raids in Brazil, both prosecutions and criminal judgments remain scarce, and those few judgments have failed to create any deterrence to rampant copyright piracy. Less than 1% of all criminal anti-piracy raids taken by the police resulted in any criminal conviction, let alone deterrent sentences. Over the years, high rates of copyright piracy in Brazil remain virtually unchanged, with estimated trade losses due to copyright piracy in Brazil in 2003 alone placed at \$907 million, or \$2.3 billion during the three full years of this GSP review (2001-2003). Smith continued, "Brazilian promises for prospective policy-based actions, while laudable, are not equivalent to tangible raids, prosecutions and deterrent criminal convictions for commercial piracy. We believe Brazil could have taken significant enforcement-related actions during the 90-day GSP review to reduce piracy, but failed to do so."

On a positive note, the IIPA expressed its hopes that the Brazilian Government will take sustained and tangible steps to improve copyright enforcement beginning immediately and extending over the next 180 days, and beyond, to remove the cloud of possible GSP withdrawal. Such immediate actions could and should include, for example: continuous self-initiated raids in the well-known pirate marketplaces; more inspections and seizures at the Brazil-Paraguay border which result in cases forwarded for prosecution; prosecutions initiated against a number of the high-profile individuals identified in the Brazilian Congress' CPI report; recommendations issued to state and federal public prosecutors to make all efforts to expedite criminal copyright prosecutions; producing federal- and state-level educational and media campaigns about the anti-piracy fight and how piracy threatens national cultural, scientific and economic interests; and the swift operational implementation of the new National Council in Defense of Intellectual Property, Combat to Piracy, Tax Evasion and Smuggling.

Smith concluded, "The IIPA has continually stressed that countries like Brazil should not continue to receive duty-free trade benefits if they fail to provide adequate and effective copyright protection. The U.S. Congress has also made clear that countries should not remain eligible to receive such preferential benefits if they fail to take action against the blatant theft of copyrighted materials." Brazil's GSP eligibility has been under review by the U.S. government since January 2001, based on a petition filed by IIPA in 2000. To view more detailed information on IIPA, Brazil and the GSP trade program, visit the IIPA website at [www.iipa.com](http://www.iipa.com).