

# ANNEX: JAMAICA

## INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE (IIPA)

### 2018 SPECIAL 301 REPORT ON COPYRIGHT PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

In April 2015, the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica publicly identified nearly 100 illegally transmitted channels, and it issued a directive to cable licensees to cease the illegal transmission of 19 of these channels by August 2015. The 2015 enforcement directive was widely complied with, and there were some steps taken in 2016 to continue the enforcement of broadcast rights among the country's top providers of audiovisual content. However, there has not been a widespread subsequent removal of channels, and dozens of additional channels continue to be broadcast illegally by local operators. In addition, Jamaica maintains a statutory licensing regime for the retransmission of copyrighted television programming, but has not consistently enforced the payment of statutory royalties to rights holders.

One positive step in 2015 was the enactment of amendments to the Copyright Act to fulfill Jamaica's obligations under the WIPO Internet Treaties; and, the law was amended to extend the term of copyright protection. In June 2017, the U.S. Government led the "Joint CARICOM-United States Public-Private Sector Stakeholder Seminar and Dialogue on Broadcast Licensing and Enforcement in a Converging World" in Jamaica. This long-awaited dialogue was a positive step allowing content licensors, cable operators, regulators and copyright officers to discuss the direction the region should take regarding pirated content on various cable platforms. IIPA hopes that this initiative will accelerate the pace of reform in Jamaica and in neighboring markets in the months and years to come.

In its April 2017 Special 301 Report, the U.S. Government noted the progress made in the prior years, but also noted the "dozens of local operators" continuing to illegally broadcast content. Although the Government of Jamaica has agreed to legalize its broadcast television ecosystem, rampant signal theft continues. The government needs to enforce the current law and fully implement its promised reforms.

Jamaica is currently on the [Watch List](#).

