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**IIPA ENDORSES TERMINATION
OF 'GSP' PIRACY INVESTIGATION IN PAKISTAN**
Calls on Government to Remain Vigilant Against Book Piracy

WASHINGTON, DC – The International Intellectual Property Alliance, comprised of seven U.S. copyright-based trade associations comprising over 1,900 companies, today endorsed the decision by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to terminate a review ongoing since 2004 of Pakistan's intellectual property protection under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trade program. GSP is a provision of U.S. trade law that unilaterally grants duty-free trading benefits to certain products from eligible beneficiary countries from the developing world, conditioned in part on each beneficiary providing "adequate and effective" protection of intellectual property rights.

Eric H. Smith, IIPA President, said, "IIPA recognizes the progress made in reducing the impact of optical disc piracy in Pakistan and endorses the termination of the GSP review of Pakistan, while noting that outstanding issues such as book piracy continue to merit attention through other mechanisms. Just two years ago, Pakistan was supplying the world with pirate optical discs (CDs, DVDs, CD-ROMs). In addition to pirates wiping out the domestic market through a literal pirate bazaar of every imaginable copyright product (including pirate optical discs and pirate books), pirate exports of optical discs seriously threatened legitimate markets in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, among others. The sheer scope of the problem underscores the enormous efforts of the Pakistani Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Aziz and the Federal Investigation Agency to shut down pirate optical disc manufacturing operations and arrest the owners."

Smith continued, "The GSP Program is intended to provide benefits to countries that provide adequate and effective levels of copyright protection, not just in law but in practice. In the case of Pakistan, the GSP Program worked well to bring this important trade issue to the attention of the Pakistani Government. Vigilance will be needed, however, to ensure that the problem of massive optical disc piracy does not return to Pakistan. The plants must remain closed and the Government should implement mechanisms to ensure that optical disc piracy remains in check. In addition, other forms of piracy, especially book piracy, remain serious problems in Pakistan. The Pakistani Government must continue to address these outstanding issues, and the U.S. Government should continue to press to resolve these issues."

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The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a coalition of seven trade associations formed in 1984 to represent the U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve international protection of copyright materials, and to open up foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. The IIPA is comprised of: the Association of American Publishers (AAP), the Business Software Alliance (BSA), the Entertainment Software Association (ESA), Independent Television and Film Alliance (IFTA), the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA), and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). These member associations represent over 1,900 U.S. companies producing and distributing materials protected by copyright laws throughout the world – all types of computer software including business applications software and entertainment software (such as videogame CDs and cartridges, personal computer CD-ROMs and multimedia products); theatrical films, television programs, home videos and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and textbooks, tradebooks, reference and professional publications and journals (in both electronic and print media). For more information on the IIPA, visit www.iipa.com.