



beIN MEDIA GROUP DENOUNCES ARABSAT SPONSORSHIP OF THE MENA ANTI PIRACY CONFERENCE 2018

Doha, Qatar April 30, 2018

beIN MEDIA GROUP strongly denounces Arabsat's sponsorship of the up-coming MENA Anti-Piracy Conference to be held in Dubai on 2 May 2018, in light of its facilitation of satellite broadcasts by the notorious Saudi-based piracy network, cynically known as "beoutQ".

Since October 2017, the beoutQ pirates have been selling subscriptions to ten satellite channels carrying premium live sports content stolen from beIN and other broadcasters. beoutQ set top boxes are being openly sold in retail outlets across the KSA and other countries, and the packaging and promotional materials for the set top boxes explicitly advertise the availability of pirated premium sports content.

Since February 2018, the beoutQ pirates have gone even further, by distributing an illegal IPTV app which provides access to hundreds of pirated channels from around the world. The content includes, not only beIN channels, but other major global channels, covering sports, Hollywood movies, television shows, and other entertainment content. This is a very serious development for all content owners in the MENA region, since it is leading to a high penetration and awareness of pirated IPTV services, which are a huge threat to our industry.

beIN as well as several rights holders have written to Arabsat on numerous occasions, providing evidence that beoutQ is using Arabsat frequencies, and asking it to take down the beoutQ channels. Arabsat has refused this request and simply denies liability.

By sponsoring the MENA Anti-Piracy Conference, Arabsat is presenting itself as a responsible satellite operator, concerned with combatting broadcast piracy. Yet, at the same time, Arabsat is refusing to take any steps to bring an end to this piracy, which is causing immeasurable harm to broadcasters and rights owners in the MENA region. Arabsat's sponsorship of this anti-piracy event is indefensible, and makes a mockery of the conference.

beIN MEDIA GROUP again calls on Arabsat to immediately cease making its facilities available to beoutQ.

beIN MEDIA GROUP has written to the conference organizers to make them aware of this situation and demanded that Arabsat's sponsorship be cancelled.

END



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About beIN MEDIA GROUP and beIN MENA

beIN MEDIA GROUP, chaired by Nasser AL-KHELAIPI, is an independent company established in 2014, and the owner of beIN, the leading sport and entertainment global network. beIN is now distributed across 43 countries within Europe, North America, Asia, Australia, Turkey, Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Aside from building the beIN SPORTS premium network, beIN MEDIA GROUP is expanding beyond sports into entertainment through production and distribution as well as in the digital space. In November 2015, a new platform was launched in MENA including 28 beIN owned channels with 20 related to sports, 4 to movies and 4 to kids, in addition to growing numbers of third party channels. In March 2016, beIN MEDIA GROUP acquired MIRAMAX film studios offering movie production capabilities and a library of over 700 films. beIN MEDIA GROUP acquired Digiturk the leading PAY TV operator in Turkey, in August 2016.

beIN MENA is a multi-genre platform providing exclusive access to prime sporting competitions including: Olympics, FIFA World Cup, UEFA Champions League, football leagues from Europe including Spain's La Liga, England's Premier League, Italy's Serie A, France's Ligue 1, German's League Bundesliga, UEFA Europa League, FIFA Confederation Cup, Copa America; Africa Cup of Nations, CAF Champions League, AFC Champions League, AFC Cup, AFC Asian Cup 2019. Among the world's other most popular sports, tennis (including Roland Garros, US Open, Australian open and Wimbledon as well as the ATP Masters series), basketball (NBA), motorsports (Dakar Rally, NASCAR, Formula1), cycling (Tour de France), rugby (Six Nations) and many more including NFL, MLB and athletics also broadcast by beIN.

beIN MENA also offers complete spectrum of entertainment including blockbuster movies, series and best kids programs through acquiring several exclusive channels like Jeem & Baraem. Stunning local and global entertainment besides best in class sports events all delivered through state of art technology.

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