

USTR Lists Computer Village in Lagos on 2016 Notorious Markets List

January 5, 2017 | Nigerian Law Intellectual Property Watch | Combating Piracy

Last month, the office of the United States Trade Representatives (USTR) released its [Special 301 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets for 2016](#), and many online and physical markets were included on the list.

The ‘Notorious Markets List’ highlights prominent online and physical market places that reportedly engage in and facilitate substantial copyright, piracy and trademark counterfeiting. USTR developed the list under the auspices of the annual Special 301 process.

According to the report, some of the identified markets reportedly host a combination of legitimate and unauthorized activities while others exist solely to engage in or facilitate unauthorized activity.

While most IP experts focused on the fact that Alibaba’s Taobao found itself on the list once again, at NLIPW our attention was on the fact that computer village and other markets in Lagos were once again included on the list.

Excerpt from page 18 of the report:

“Computer Village Market at Ikeja is the largest and most well-known market for counterfeit computer products and accessories in Nigeria. Raids by regulators continue, but store owners allegedly collude to thwart enforcement efforts. Up to an estimated 80 percent of the wide variety of electronic products at this market are allegedly counterfeit. Nearby, Oke-Arin and Apongbon Markets are reportedly known for counterfeit soft drinks, spirits, and popular consumer goods. Regulatory agencies have conducted raids and made some arrests, but the chaotic nature of these densely populated markets make enforcement difficult. Nigerian authorities face challenges in allocating sufficient resources and building the necessary infrastructure to engage in effective import controls against the tide of foreign-manufactured counterfeit products. The situation in Nigeria exemplifies why both effective enforcement at the point of import and at the country of export are essential in stopping the flow of counterfeit and pirated goods.”

Physical markets that reportedly engaged in and facilitate copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting include:

1. Argentina – La Salada
2. Brazil – Galeria Pagé and 25 de Março

3. China – Baiyun Leather Goods Market, Jin Long Pan Foreign Trade Garment Market, Chenghai District, Wu Ai Market, Cheng Huan Cheng International Auto Parts Market, and Silk Market.
4. India – Gandhi Nagar, Burma Bazaar, and Kashmere Gate
5. Indonesia – Harco Glodok and Mangga Dua
6. Mexico – Tepito and San Juan de Dios
7. Nigeria – Computer Village Market, Ikeja, Oke-Arin, and Apongbon Markets
8. Paraguay – Ciudad del Este
9. Thailand – MBK Mall

The Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets identifies particularly infamous markets and does not constitute an exhaustive list of all markets reported to deal in pirated or counterfeit goods around the world.