

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ACHTE/NEUNTE BOLL KINO)
BETEILIGUNGS GMBH & CO KG)
Plaintiff,)
v.) CA. No. 1:10-cv-00453-RMC
DOES 1 – 4,577)
Defendants.) Next Deadline: N/A

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff, by its attorneys, for its complaint against Defendants, allege:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This is a civil action seeking damages and injunctive relief for copyright infringement under the copyright laws of the United States (17 US.C. § 101 et seq.).
2. This Court has jurisdiction under 17 US.C. §101 et seq.; 28 US.C. § 1331 (federal question); and 28 US.C. § 1338(a) (copyright).
3. The manner of the illegal transfer of Plaintiff’s motion picture, “Far Cry,” among the P2P network users is called a “BitTorrent protocol” or “torrent,” which is different than the standard P2P protocol used for such networks as Kazaa and Limewire. The BitTorrent protocol makes even small computers with low bandwidth capable of participating in large data transfers across a P2P network. The initial file-provider intentionally elects to share a file with a torrent network. This initial file is called a seed. Other users (“peers”) on the network connect to the seed file to download. As yet additional peers request the same file each additional user becomes a part of the network from where the file can be downloaded. However, unlike a traditional

peer-to-peer network, each new file downloader is receiving a different piece of the data from each user who has already downloaded the file that together comprises the whole. This piecemeal system with multiple pieces of data coming from peer members is usually referred to as a “swarm.” The effect of this technology makes every downloader also an uploader of the illegally transferred file(s). This means that every “node” or peer user who has a copy of the infringing copyrighted material on a torrent network must necessarily also be a source of download for that infringing file.

4. This distributed nature of BitTorrent leads to a rapid viral spreading of a file throughout peer users. As more peers join the swarm, the likelihood of a successful download increases. Because of the nature of a BitTorrent protocol, any seed peer that has downloaded a file prior to the time a subsequent peer downloads the same file is automatically a source for the subsequent peer so long as that first seed peer is online at the time the subsequent peer downloads a file. Essentially, because of the nature of the swarm downloads as described above, every infringer is *simultaneously* stealing copyrighted material from many ISPs in numerous jurisdictions around the country.

5. Venue in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and/or 28 U.S.C. §1400(a). Although the true identity of each Defendant is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, on information and belief, each Defendant may be found in this District and/or a substantial part of the acts of infringement complained of herein occurred in this District. On information and belief, personal jurisdiction in this District is proper because each Defendant, without consent or permission of Plaintiff exclusive rights owner, distributed, and offered to distribute over the Internet copyrighted works for which Plaintiff has exclusive rights. Such unlawful distribution occurred in every jurisdiction in the United States, including this one. In addition, each Defendant

contracted with an Internet Service Provider found in this District to provide each Defendant with access to the Internet.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Achte/Neunte Boll Kino Beteiligungs Gmbh & Co KG (“Plaintiff”) is a creator and/or distributor of motion pictures. Plaintiff brings this action to stop Defendants from copying and distributing to others over the Internet unauthorized copies of the motion picture, “*Far Cry*,” to which Plaintiff holds an exclusive license in and to the copyright. Defendants’ infringements allow them and others unlawfully to obtain and distribute for free an unauthorized copyrighted work for which Plaintiff spent a substantial amount of time, money and effort to obtain the exclusive rights to market, distribute, and sell. Each time a Defendant unlawfully distributes a free copy of Plaintiff’s copyrighted motion picture to others over the Internet, each person who copies that motion picture can then distribute that unlawful copy to others without any significant degradation in sound and picture quality. Thus, a Defendant’s distribution of even one unlawful copy of a motion picture can result in the nearly instantaneous worldwide distribution of that single copy to a limitless number of people. Plaintiff now seeks redress for this rampant infringement of its exclusive rights in and to the copyright for the motion picture entitled “*Far Cry*”.

7. Plaintiff is a Kommanditgesellschaft, or German Limited Partnership, with its principal place of business at Wormserstrasse 173, D-55130 Mainz, Germany. Plaintiff is engaged in the production, acquisition, and distribution of motion pictures for theatrical exhibition, home entertainment, and other forms of distribution. Plaintiff is the owner of the pertinent exclusive rights under copyright in the United States, and the exclusive licensee of the copyright in and to

that certain motion picture entitled "*Far Cry*," which has been unlawfully distributed over the Internet by the Defendants.

8. The true names of Defendants are unknown to Plaintiff at this time. Each Defendant is known to Plaintiff only by the Internet Protocol ("IP") address assigned to that Defendant by his or her Internet Service Provider on the date and at the time at which the infringing activity of each Defendant was observed. The IP address of each Defendant thus far identified, together with the date and time at which his or her infringing activity was observed, is included on Exhibit A hereto. Plaintiff believes that information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of each Defendant's true name and permit the Plaintiff to amend this Complaint to state the same. Plaintiff further believes that the information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of additional infringing parties to be added to this Complaint as defendants, since monitoring of online infringement of Plaintiff's motion picture is ongoing.

COUNT I
INFRINGEMENT OF REGISTERED COPYRIGHT

9. The Plaintiff is responsible for the marketing, sale, and distribution of the commercially released motion picture titled "*Far Cry*."

10. At all relevant times the Plaintiff has been the holder of the pertinent exclusive rights infringed by Defendants, as alleged hereunder, for certain copyrighted works, including but not limited to the copyrighted motion picture "*Far Cry*" (including screenplays and derivative works, the "Copyrighted Motion Picture"). The Copyrighted Motion Picture is the subject of valid Certificate of Copyright Registrations # PA 1-658-168 issued by the Register of Copyrights.

11. The Copyrighted Motion Picture contains a copyright notice advising the viewer that the motion picture is protected by the copyright laws.

12. The Plaintiff is informed and believes that each Defendant, without the permission or consent of the Plaintiff, has used, and continues to use, an online media distribution system to distribute to the public, including by making available for distribution to others, the Copyrighted Motion Picture. Exhibit A identifies the Doe Defendants known to Plaintiff as of the date of this Complaint who have, without the permission or consent of Plaintiff, distributed the Copyrighted Motion Picture to the public, including by making available for distribution to others. In doing so, each Defendant has violated Plaintiff's exclusive rights of reproduction and distribution. Each Defendant's actions constitute infringement of Plaintiff's exclusive rights protected under the Copyright Act of 1976 (17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*).

13. The foregoing acts of infringement have been willful, intentional, and in disregard of and with indifference to the rights of Plaintiff.

14. As a result of each Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to relief pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504 and to its attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

15. The conduct of each Defendant is causing and, unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, will continue to cause Plaintiff great and irreparable injury that cannot fully be compensated or measured in money. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 502 and 503, Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief prohibiting each Defendant from further infringing Plaintiff's copyright and ordering that each Defendant destroy all copies of Copyrighted Motion Picture made in violation of Plaintiff's exclusive rights to the copyright.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against each Defendant as follows:

1. For entry of preliminary and permanent injunctions providing that each Defendant shall be enjoined from directly or indirectly infringing Plaintiff's rights in the Copyrighted Motion

Picture and any motion picture, whether now in existence or later created, that is owned, licensed to, or controlled by Plaintiff (“Plaintiff’s Motion Pictures”), including without limitation by using the Internet to reproduce or copy Plaintiff’s Motion Pictures, to distribute Plaintiff’s Motion Pictures, or to make Plaintiff’s Motion Pictures available for distribution to the public, except pursuant to a lawful license or with the express authority of Plaintiff. Defendant also shall destroy all copies of Plaintiff’s Motion Pictures that Defendant has downloaded onto any computer hard drive or server without Plaintiff’s authorization and shall destroy all copies of those downloaded motion pictures transferred onto any physical medium or device in each Defendant’s possession, custody, or control.

2. For actual damages or statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504, at the election of the Plaintiff.
3. For Plaintiff’s costs.
4. For Plaintiff’s reasonable attorneys’ fees.
5. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

ACHTE/NEUNTE BOLL KINO BETEILIGUNGS
GMBH & CO KG

DATED: May 12, 2010

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