



WIKINEWS

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Alleged 'rights group' tries to have 4,000 anti-Scientology videos removed from YouTube

According to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a rights group called the American Rights Counsel LLC has attempted to have at least 4,000 anti-Scientology videos removed from the video sharing website YouTube. Upon further investigation, Wikinews found that most videos and clips were added to YouTube by the copyright holders of the material. It was also discovered that the alleged rights group does not exist as a physical entity.

Paralympic highlights: September 8, 2008

September 8, 2008 is the 2nd major day of the 2008 Paralympic games, Wikinews' article summarises the major events and provides a medal table showing the top five countries.

UN scientist: Eat less meat to tackle climate change

Rajendra Pachauri, the chair of the UN run Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that eating less meat is a good way to reduce damage to the climate. Pachauri said that "the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has estimated that direct emissions from meat production account for about 18% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions," when explaining the reasons behind his comment. "So I want to highlight the fact

Top Stories

that among options for mitigating climate change, changing diets is something one should consider."

Frank McEnulty continues White House run for New American, Reform parties, independently; talks to Wikinews

Throughout the 2008 United States Presidential election campaign, Wikinews reporters have been talking to candidates of all political stripes, looking for their vision of America and campaign stories. This series continues now with Frank McEnulty.

Wikipedia Current Events

Roger Federer defeats Andy Murray to win the U.S. Open for a record-breaking fifth consecutive time, regaining the World Number 1 ranking.

- Washington Mutual, the largest savings and loan in the United States, ousts Chief Executive Kerry Killinger as a result of losses incurred as a result of the subprime mortgage crisis.
- A landslide triggered by heavy rain strikes a warehouse in Linfen in Shanxi province, China killing at least 26 people and injuring others.
- Hurricane Ike makes landfall near Banes, Cuba, and weakens.
- US military are to 'review an inquiry' into an air raid on a village in Herat province,

Wikipedia Current Events

Afganistan, after a new video evidence emerged indicating 'scores of civilian deaths'. US air raid in Afganistan left up to 90 people dead, 'many of them women and children', the Afghan government and the UN said. However, US officials claimed earlier that 'no more than seven civilians died'. The bodies of 'at least 10 children and many more adults' appear in two videos made with cell phones in the Afgan village Azizabad after the raid.

Paralympic highlights: September 8, 2008

September 8, 2008 is the 2nd major day of the 2008 Paralympic games.

Women's S6 100 metres freestyle
Eleanor Simmonds, Great Britain's youngest athlete at the paralympic games, won the gold medal in the women's S6 100 metres freestyle, despite the fact that she is only aged 13.

Simmonds, who has achondroplasia said that "I can't believe it." She then said that "in the last 25 (metres) I knew everybody was around me, so I just got my head into it, got my last bit of energy and just went for it."

T54 women's 5000m

Six of the eleven competitors in the final of the T54 class women's 5000m event failed to complete the course after a crash near the

end of the race. As a result of this, a rerun will take place.

The medals won in the race will be returned due to this decision. The gold medal in the original race was won by the Canadian Diane Roy and the silver was taken by the British Shelly Woods.

The British competitor spoke about the crash after the race. "When the crash happened I had moved on the outside but I was at the back of the pack and was trying to get around someone," she said. "It all happened so fast in front of me that I had to move my chair over quickly and from there it was just a race to the line. "

S10 women's 100m Butterfly

The French Elodie Lorandi set a new world record in the S10 class of the women's 100m butterfly with her time of 59.80 seconds. The record was set in the first heat of event.

Women's 400m freestyle

Russian Anna Efimenko set a new world record in the S13 class of the women's 400m freestyle with her time of 4 minutes and 37.37 seconds. The record was set in the final of the event.

Church of Scientology in France accused of fraud; ordered to stand trial

According to a report by Agence France-Presse (AFP), the Church of Scientology in France will be facing a court trial, being accused of "organized" fraud. The AFP also states that seven other Scientologists will be charged with illegally prescribing prescription medication. If found guilty, Scientology could be banned in France.

According to the report, the charges come from an unnamed

woman, who in 1998 purchased nearly US\$30,000 worth of Scientology self-help material which allegedly included prescription drugs. After a few months passed, the woman said she felt like she was being scammed. Following several complaints from other unnamed individuals and an investigation, judge Jean-Christophe Hullin ordered at least two Scientology departments and the seven Scientologists to be put on trial for fraud and "illegally practicing as pharmacists."

The Church released a statement following the order saying that they felt "stigmatized" by the French judicial system.

"The special treatment reserved for the Church of Scientology Celebrity Center raises questions about the equality of the justice system and the presumption of innocence," the Church said in a statement to the press.

The AFP says the case is to be heard at an unknown date, and will also include an investigation by France's association for prescription drugs. Olivier Morice, a lawyer representing the unnamed woman and others in the case against the Church, say the trial could begin as early as 2009.

On September 5, an alleged rights group called the American Rights Counsel LLC attempted to have at least 4,000 anti-Scientology videos removed from the video sharing website YouTube, filing a DMCA request. Upon further investigation, Wikinews found that most videos and clips were added to YouTube by the copyright holders of the material; as DMCA requests are for the purposes of requesting removal where service providers host material that

infringe on the copyright of the complainant, the merit of these requests remain questionable. It was also discovered that the alleged rights group does not exist as a physical entity which started rumors from the internet and from one Scientology critic Mark Bunker, that the Church fraudulently submitted the DMCA requests.

Wikinews at Toronto film fest party, with Diddy

Toronto is abuzz as the stars walk among them, during the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival. The capital of and largest city in Ontario, Canada has been playing host to the premieres of major motion pictures, up-and-coming indy films, and international films alike. The festival has become one of the most popular in the world, over the last few years.

Previously, on September 5, Wikinews sent freelance photographer Richard Burdett to the eTalk Festival Party, held by television broadcaster CTV. Described as a celebration of Canadian and international film and filmmakers, the party was held at CTV's festival headquarters, the former CHUM-City Building. The red carpet extended into the parking lot stage area meaning celebrity guests were interviewed in the same spot where Diddy performed. DJ Samantha Ronson spun well into the night for revelers, as gal pal Lindsay Lohan hid from prying eyes, inside the building.

Hosted by Ben Mulroney and Tayna Kim of CTV's eTalk program, the party was broadcast live for an hour on Startv.

Hurricane Ike makes landfall on Cuba

According to the National

Hurricane Center Hurricane Ike has made landfall on Cuba, with sustained winds of 120 miles per hour and above, making it a category three hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Scale. At 8:00 p.m. (eastern time) Ike was centered approximately 60 miles North of Guantanamo and made landfall around 11:00 p.m. in the town of Cabo Lucrecia. Millions of Cubans have evacuated cities along the shoreline and moved to higher grounds as meteorologists say Eastern Cuba has never seen a storm this big.

"These people have never seen a Category 4 - or a category 3," said Jose Rubiera a meteorologist on Cubavision. The NHC states that a storm surge of 9 to 12 feet is expected along the Eastern shores.

Ike is currently moving West at around 13 miles an hour, but the National Hurricane Center states that they expect Ike to turn to a more West-Northwest direction within the coming days.

So far, Ike has killed 58 people in Haiti, 13 of the victims were children.

Alleged 'rights group' tries to have 4,000 anti-Scientology videos removed from YouTube

According to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a rights group called the American Rights Counsel LLC has attempted to have at least 4,000 anti-Scientology videos removed from the video sharing website YouTube. Upon further investigation, Wikinews found that most videos and clips were added to YouTube by the copyright holders of the material; as DMCA requests are for the purposes of requesting removal where service providers host material that infringe on the copyright of the complainant, the merit of these

requests remain questionable. It was also discovered that the alleged rights group does not exist as a physical entity. In an in-depth report, Wikinews investigated the incident and obtained exclusive information and comments from individuals, including XenuTV producer, Mark Bunker.

Within the past 24 hours, according to the EFF, the Counsel "sent out over 4000 DMCA takedown notices to YouTube, all making copyright infringement claims against videos with content critical of the Church of Scientology." A DMCA notice, or Digital Millennium Copyright Act notice means an attempt to limit the use of copyrighted material that is often infringing on the rights of an alleged copyright.

Wikinews made attempts to contact American Rights Counsel LLC for comment on the take-down notices, but was unable to obtain contact details for the alleged organisation. One post on a YouTube discussion page related to the organization states that they "do not appear to exist outside of these claims on YouTube." Wikinews contacted YouTube several times asking them if they have a process of verifying DMCA requests from individuals or entities claiming copyright infringement, but when they responded, they directed Wikinews to their terms of service saying, "item 8 addresses the DMCA and 8 B addresses counter-notice procedures."

YouTube's terms of use in regards to filing DMCA requests states that only "A physical or electronic signature of a person authorized to act on behalf of the owner of an exclusive right that is allegedly infringed" can make such claims. It also goes on to say,

"Identification of the copyrighted work claimed to have been infringed, or, if multiple copyrighted works at a single online site are covered by a single notification, a representative list of such works at that site."

The EFF says the videos attempting to be removed had shown clips from Anonymous protests of the Church and news footage from Australia and Germany which were critical of Scientology. Some videos were also messages from Anonymous to Scientology, and vice versa. Others were also video clips from a City Commission meeting in Clearwater, Florida. Accounts hosting the material were "suspended by YouTube in response to multiple allegations of copyright infringement."

YouTube does, however, have a process for users that wish to file a counter-notice against a take-down under the DMCA. After the DMCA notices were sent, YouTube users began to revolt, by sending "DMCA counter-notices" to YouTube. The EFF states that the counter attack resulted in many of the accounts being reinstated and their videos restored.

One user claimed that he had shot and uploaded one of the videos that was taken down. "How can someone else file a claim against a video I MADE?," said ShadowVsScientology, one of the YouTube users who had a video deleted. Since he owned the rights to the video, he alleges that the American Rights Counsel had no legal grounds to request its removal.

A video posted on YouTube by a user called 'ChurchOfScientology', who was responsible for the original 'Message to Scientology' in

January of 2008 created after the Church had a video of a Tom Cruise interview removed from the site, states that the organization responsible for the DMCA's does not exist and is run by a man named Dr. Oliver Schaper. They state that he "fronts" the organization for Scientology. It also calls Schaper's actions "deceptive". Schaper also had an account on YouTube which has since been suspended. Wikinews obtained a cached version of his account page in which he states to the group Anonymous, "I respect your efforts as long your efforts remain within the limits of the law and remain fair. Although I don't censor any postings, I would appreciate if any conversation could remain civil and insult free." Schaper also states that he "will not censor because I strongly believe in the freedom of speech." They accuse him of running and owning media companies that distribute gay pornography, something Schaper later admits, but only that it's an "adult television network." Homosexuality is not accepted within the Church of Scientology and is not tolerated. Scientology believes that homosexuality is a disease and can be cured.

A user named "Oschaper" has written articles on the online open-sourced encyclopedia Wikipedia about Peephole TV and Volksmusik TV. Oliver Schaper is the founder of Peephole TV, and is also involved with Volksmusik TV. In an e-mail to Wikinews, Wikipedia user Oschaper claims that his first name is Olaf, and that he is "not related" to Oliver Schaper. "Olaf" writes: "My name is Olaf Schaper and I use the handle oschaper on Wikipedia. I'm not related to Oliver Schaper and we share only the last name ... If you like to contact Oliver Schaper please see his

companies website at www.acos.tv". When asked how he managed to get an e-mail address with that last name, Olaf replied, "I got the email because my best friend works for his networks hence the creation of my postings on Wikipedia."

Wikinews contacted Schaper for exclusive comments. Schaper replied saying that he is a "very strong advocate for the Church of Scientology, the religion of Scientology and a free speech advocate" and "I don't need to go into details but I felt that my family and myself have been direct targets and in an attempt to control the situation, I started to track down and remove online links between me and my religion. This included postings made by HouseSpiderAnon on his videos, who publicly connected the dots and made them available to a larger audience."

"I requested several times to have my information removed from his videos as I wanted no association with his work but he refused, even after I stated several times that he has the right to protest but that I would like to enforce my right of privacy. He refused and demanded documentation of the attacks, something I refused because it was not my attention to allow more documents to be available online in public hand," added Schaper who also said he has been a victim of identity theft and now has the FBI involved in investigating his claim.

"Tustin PD [police department] has been on the case and now the FBI is involved as well. Social Security has been notified and we have seen about 200 attempts to use the SSN [social security number] for fake credit cards applications," Schaper told Wikinews.

Schaper admits that he contacted YouTube to have videos which contained images of him that were being used without permission and videos "which violated [his] privacy removed." Those requests made by Schaper were eventually accepted by YouTube but "videos that contained just a text messages directed against me or my church remained," he added. He also admits to owning "several broadcasting companies, ACOS Broadcasting Corp. (eight mainstream television and two radio networks) & Media House Enterprises, Inc. (adult television network PEEPHOLE TV)."

"I had the power to go fully against copyrighted material because we own or licensed large amounts of content. But it was not my responsibility to enforce all copyright violations on YouTube. In addition with the attacks on our servers, websites and infrastructure, no time would have been available to take on a fight," added Schaper.

Schaper also denies any involvement with the alleged rights group and also states he was just notified that it doesn't even exist.

"As many other people, and even members of the Church of Scientology received information about a company that removed anti-Scientology content from YouTube, shit hit the fan and members of Anonymous went on a full attack on me. I still have to this date no information about the American Rights Counsel and I have no connection, knowledge or involvement in this company which I have been informed of does not even exist," Schaper told Wikinews.

One critic of Scientology, television

producer Mark Bunker also had his accounts deleted by YouTube, but had them quickly restored. Bunker also believes that the American Rights Counsel does not exist.

"American Rights Counsel LLC does not exist. When I got my take-down notices from YouTube I tried to file a DMCA counter-notice but in order to do that you need to get the name of the contact person to be served with the notice and the contact information of the company which the government lists on the web," said Bunker to Wikinews who also added that their name is not registered with the United States copyright office.

"I next did a google search for American Rights Counsel LLC which brought up absolutely no results so clearly this was fraud from the beginning. I contact[ed] YouTube and they quickly restored everything to my account and others," added Bunker.

Wikinews has also learned that a contributor on Wikipedia, claiming to be a member of Anonymous, has posted what is allegedly personal information of Schaper. The edit, made to the article Peephole TV states that he is a lawyer, employed with a firm on Ricklinger, Stadtweg in Hanover, Germany. It also stated that he is affiliated with the "Tustin Org" in California. In what seems to be a gathering of information on Schaper from other online sources, according to Enturbulation.org, the result of releasing the information has resulted in legal and physical threats from Schaper to someone, known as 'HouseSpiderV2' on Enturbulation, who has claimed to have released e-mail correspondents between him and Schaper.

"Don't think I will not be able to track you down and serve you with papers. I would make the case so expensive for you that you would not be able to even fight this on your own funding as I have the money at my disposal," allegedly states Schaper to 'HouseSpiderV2' in an e-mail. "You have 24 hours to remove the postings or I will start to make this a legal issue. That makes it simple," he added.

Despite the claims that the Wikipedia contributor is Oliver Schaper, he claims to have never registered an account with Wikipedia. He also says he has never made any threats of physical harm to members of Anonymous.

"I had not the need to register an account with Wikipedia and after all this trouble will not get involved at all. There has never been any threat of violence against Housespideranon or any other member of Anonymous made by me," Schaper told Wikinews.

"It would be worth a subpoena to find out who committed this crime." —Mark Bunker

Bunker, who recently spoke with Schaper, says he believes Schaper is not involved, but that he also doesn't know who or what was responsible for filing the DMCA requests.

"I had never heard of Schaper before he was accused of this. I don't know anything about him other than he contacted me and said he was not involved. I don't know who was responsible. 4000 deletions in a matter of hours is a pretty major feat. It would be worth a subpoena to find out who committed this crime. I wouldn't blame Schaper without knowing he did it," Bunker added.

Papua New Guinea wins Australian rules football International Cup

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has defeated New Zealand (NZ) in the final round of the Australian Football International Cup. They previously finished second to Ireland in 2002 and New Zealand in 2005.

New Zealand kicked to the punt road end in a high intensity first quarter. PNG went forward quickly only to be denied by a taller NZ defense. NZ were able to create space for their forwards though structured play. The quarter finished NZ three goals one behind (19) to PNG four behinds.

PNG's first goal came from a mid air volly. The teams second came after two NZ goals including one to key forward and tournament leading goalkicker Richard Bradley. The half time scores were NZ five goals three behinds (33) to PNG two goals five behinds (17),

PNG closed the gap to six points gaining the momentum before NZ added a goal and a behind. PNG closed the gap back to six before the final break. Three Quarter time scores: NZ six goals four behinds (40) to PNG four goals ten behinds (34).

PNG rallied in the last quarter to go ahead and claim their first International Cup title in three attempts. NZ's structure faltered, if only briefly, allowing PNG, who had numbers behind the ball, back in the game.

Trailing at every change, PNG kicked three goals two behinds to New Zealands one goal in the last quarter to win 7.12 (54) to 7.4 (46).

Wikipedia Current Events

President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev and President of France Nicolas Sarkozy announced after talks in Moscow that an agreement to pull Russian forces from Georgia within a month has been reached. The agreement has become possible as EU will send 200 civilian monitors to the area and guarantee that Georgia signs a pledge to not use military force in Abkhazia and South Ossetia again.

•'Senior US soldiers and two military contractors' were training 80 Georgian special forces serviceman only 'month prior' these commandos entered South Ossetia on August, 8 night. MPRI, one of the contractors, is known also for training the Croatian military in 1995 'prior to their invasion of the ethnically-Serbian Krajina region, which led to the displacement of 200,000 refugees'. However, 'there is no evidence' that the contractors or US military knew these commandos 'were likely be used in the assault on South Ossetia'.

•Three British Muslims are found guilty of conspiracy to murder relating to the 2006 transatlantic aircraft plot

Today in History

1513 – War of the League of Cambrai: King James IV of Scotland was killed at the Battle of Flodden Field in Northumberland while leading an invasion of England.

1850 – As part of the Compromise of 1850, California was admitted into the United States as a free state instead of a slave state where slavery was legal.

1944 – With the help of the advancing forces of the Soviet Red Army, the Bulgarian government

of Konstantin Muraviev was overthrown and replaced with a government of the Fatherland Front.

2001 – Ahmad Shah Massoud, leader of the Northern Alliance, was assassinated in Afghanistan.

2004 – A car bomb exploded outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing at least nine people and injuring over 150 others.

September 09 is Republic Day in North Korea (1948); Independence Day in Tajikistan (1991)

Quote of the Day

Seize the moments of happiness, love and be loved! That is the only reality in the world, all else is folly. It is the one thing we are interested in here. ~ Leo Tolstoy

Word of the Day

apropos adj
1. Of an appropriate or pertinent nature.

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About Wikinews

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+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
+1-202-742-5918
(outside the U.S.)
+44-871-218-6397
(U.K. / Europe)

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