



*News Release*

## **TRA and ISPs Support the Ministry of Culture and Information to Stop Pornography and copyright infringement on the Dream Boxes**

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain - Sunday 18 October 2009

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) following a request from the Ministry of Culture and Information notified all the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to prevent access to Dreambox TV receivers. The Ministry is aiming to stop access to the pornography channels that breach public morality and the illegal broadcasting of paid TV Channels on the Dreamboxes.

ISPs started on 15 October 2009 to comply with the order of the Ministry of Culture and Information of blocking the Dreamboxes. Licensed operators are obliged to comply with the rules and regulations of Kingdom of Bahrain along with the Telecommunications Law.

It is worth noting that normal internet surfing and legal activities will not be affected by any action taken against the Dreamboxes. If consumers notice any abnormal disruption to any internet service they have to report it immediately to the service provider.

The Dreambox receives a digital un-encryption key from illegal servers hosted around the world on the internet where these keys are used to tell the Dreambox how to unscramble the satellite channels. But these satellite channels have not been paid for by the people running the illegal servers or the people using the Dreamboxes, so access to these channels are considered to be illegal and is theft of the Satellite channels copyright. There are also a number of pornographic channels available on the Dreambox these too are illegal under Bahraini law.

Bahrain is determined to enforce copyright Laws to protect the work of artists, film and programme makers. Illegal access to TV channels which have paid for rights to copyright material such as broadcast films, football matches and other programmes saps the revenue to artists and content providers as well as the companies who are broadcasting the material.

Users of Dreamboxes are supporting criminal activities and will be disrupted by this action. The authorities are fully aware that due to the amount of money involved the criminals will find ways round the blocking of the current access to the illegal codes and regular updates will be required. Techniques are being developed which will more securely block the access to the codes required for the Dreambox.

As more people transfer to legitimate set top boxes and decoders or start to watch TV over broadband communication links then the legitimate providers of programmes should be able to afford to reduce prices and increase the range of channels and programmes available.

## **About TRA**

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain as the regions most modern communications hub and facilitating the growth of the market. As an exemplar Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh)

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