



PRESS RELEASE

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The 2022 Global Anti-Counterfeiting Awards

Highlighting the continuing great work of Anti-Counterfeiting stalwarts

The winners of the twenty second annual Global Anti-Counterfeiting Awards organised by the Global Anti-Counterfeiting Group, were announced in Paris today on World Anti-Counterfeiting Day. The awards are made as a continuing recognition of achievements in IPR Enforcement by organisations, companies and individuals. The winners (details in attached note) announced today, are:

Individual Special Lifetime Achievement Award

**Emmanuelle Cinque
Brand Protection Manager
Nike France**

Individual Achievement Award

**Toyin Joy Ampitan
Deputy Comptroller
Nigeria Customs Service**

National Public Body Award

**Douanes et Droits Indirects
France**

National Public Body Award

**Guardia Civil
Spain**

Company Award

**Hermes International
Anti-Counterfeiting Department**

Association Award

**AIM
Belgium**

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John Anderson, Chairman of the GACG international network of national and regional anti-counterfeiting organisations said “The awards this year again highlight the wide range of co-operation that is needed – and provided - by different organisations and individuals and especially across the public/private sector divide, in the campaign against the international trade in fakes. I am especially impressed once again with the emphases on both co-ordination between the public and private sectors and the importance of raising public awareness that was evident in many of the nominations. Counterfeiting is a significant and ever-growing challenge for all intellectual property owners, and tackling it requires a mixture of legal knowledge, investigative resources, technology, enforcement and education. All those organisations recognised in this year’s Awards have demonstrated their commitment to tackling IP infringement, and they deserve congratulations on their recognition.”

The awards presentations were made in Paris on 8th June at the Musée de Contrefaçon, housed at the Headquarters of the Union des Fabricants (UNIFAB) on World Anti-Counterfeiting Day. Some of the award winners were present to receive their trophies.

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/Note to Editors.....

Note to Editors: Details of 2022 Award Winners



Individual Special Lifetime Achievement Award

Emmanuelle Cinque has been a high profile operational brand protection manager at Nike France for over 30 years. She is described as a great professional investigator and has proved her skills as an ‘IP Guardian’ many times. As she moves towards retirement after this great career it is right that her peers in the Industry and in the campaign against the international trade in fakes generally should recognise her for the work she accomplished; the numerous well-run (and mostly successful) operations she conducted. She obtained many judgments against counterfeiters and economic criminals in her long and successful career.

Individual Achievement Award

Described as ‘an exceptional woman in uniform’ **Toyin Joy Ampitan** is the Deputy Comptroller of the Nigeria Customs Service and has shown herself to be a dedicated opponent of IPR infringements with zero tolerance to counterfeiting and of unfair treatment that threatens safety and equity. She has collaborated on many operations to target and dismantle the manufacture and distribution of fake controlled drugs. Notably recently in late 2020 she worked with the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organisation, the World Customs Organisation and Interpol on an operation to break up a criminal operation producing fake tramadol and tapenadol. This operation resulted in the seizure of hundreds of counterfeit products. Also in late 2021, DC Ampitan was involved in the tracking and seizure of illicit medicines and medical supplies – an operation in co-operation with the WCO (Operation Stop I & II). She works continuously with several anti-counterfeiting and anti-illicit goods groups to conduct training and fake product identification techniques.

National Public Body Award

Douanes et Droits Indirects – French Customs – continues to make exceptional contributions in the fight against the international trade in fakes. In 2021 they had notable success in terms of seizures (+62% compared to 2020): 9.4 million fakes were stopped by operational agents of the Douanes who had to adapt their methodologies to counteract the new demand for fake goods of all types during the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular there was a pronounced shift of trade in fakes to online and e-commerce resulting in the need to control large amounts of containers with small packages.

National Public Body Award

The Spanish Civil Guard - **Guardia Civil** – as a Law Enforcement Agency has a great commitment to fight against counterfeiting, leading operations to identify criminal organisations or individuals who illegally manufacture or distribute counterfeit goods. In so doing Guardia Civil works extensively with other international institutions – such as EUROPOL, the Observatory of the EUIPO, OLAF, the World Customs Organization or Interpol, with whom joint operations have been notably successful. An example of recent successful international collaboration was fulfilled in July 2021 when Guardia Civil deployed a police raid in La Jonquera and Els Limits (Girona, Spain), within the framework of the Operation FRONTCOPY, leading to the arrest of 8 people and the investigation of 33 others, as alleged perpetrators of the



crimes of criminal organization, IP crime and money laundering. More than 60,000 counterfeit items worth about 16.5 million EUR, metal labels and printing presses among other items were seized. The investigation had the support of EUROPOL, the French National Gendarmerie, the Tax Action Unit of the Guarda Nacional Republicana (GNR) and the Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica (ASAE) of Portugal, the Spanish Agency for Tax Administration (AEAT) and Social Security Labor Inspection (ITSS), Health and Consumer Inspection of the Generalitat de Catalunya, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBPO) and the Department of Homeland Security (HSI) of the United States of America, as well as experts from the private sector representing different brands members of the Spanish Trademark Defence Association (ANDEMA) and REACT SPAIN. The results of this investigation allowed Spain to be removed from the Notorious Markets Report of the U.S. Government.

Company Award

Keeping up a long tradition of exceptional campaigning and operations against the international trade in Fakes **Hermes International** Anti-Counterfeiting Department has had significant recent success with many seizures around the world – also resulting in many judgements which have positively influenced IP Rights. The Anti-Counterfeiting Department is based in France but with members of the team located in China, Japan and Singapore. In 2021 Hermes seized 10,000 pairs of shoes with distribution linked to organised Chinese criminals and a further judgement was rendered in February 2021 in Hermes favour condemning a network of counterfeiters to more than EUR 10 million in damages.

Association Award

The European Brands Association **AIM**, located in the heart of the European Union institutional headquarters in Brussels, has continued its reputation for ‘incredible’ work over several years. Principally the work of the Anti-Counterfeiting Committee AIM has been at the forefront of working with the European institutions on legislation and law enforcement. Most recently AIM has been working with its members on the proposals in a Digital Services Act (DSA) lobbying and communicating to raise awareness among all sectors about the need to put in place ambitious measures to make stronger IP rights for better protection of the economy, the environment and consumers in the online and e-commerce world.

The **Global Anti-Counterfeiting Awards** are presented for outstanding achievement by organisations, companies or individuals involved in combating counterfeiting and piracy, either to protect their own brands or products or in the development of an environment which encourages the combating of counterfeits and pirate products. The Awards are now given in five main categories: Individual Achievement, National Public Body, International Public Organisation, Company, and Association. The Awards Jury may also consider Special Awards in each category.

Counterfeit and pirated goods could cost the global economy up to €2 trillion per year (GACG estimate), and this translates into loss of legal employment, lack of investment in new jobs and increased prices of legal goods. It also means less public funding for services such as health, education and social welfare. Many organisations, companies and individuals are taking effective



action against these illicit, dangerous and sub-standard goods to protect consumers, promote investment in new jobs and increase government revenues, and to combat the involvement of organised crime. Some of them ‘go the extra mile’ and the GAC awards are recognition of these outstanding performances.

The awards are open to nominations from anyone with an interest in brand protection, anti-counterfeiting, and anti-piracy activities, particularly in the international context, ensuring a wide spread of nominations from across the world. The awards are judged by a Jury of GACG Members and a representative of previous award winners.

World Anti-Counterfeiting Day (Journée Mondiale Anti-Contrefaçon), also now in its twenty second year, was established by GACG members to enable the organisation of local, national and regional events under the umbrella of an international campaign which could focus on the particular problems of counterfeiting and piracy in the countries or regions involved. The WAC Day events are usually held on the same day in summer each year but are individually organised by the national or regional associations themselves who may or may not take up themes suggested by the GACG or being used by other associations. Some industry associations have also organised publicity. In 2022, some events have already taken place on World IP Day – 26th April – and many more are expected to co-incide with the event organised in Paris by the Union des Fabricants.

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