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## Baidu ordered to halt music downloading service

By Derek Caney  
Reuters  
Monday, September 19, 2005; 7:57 PM

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NEW YORK (Reuters) - Chinese Internet search engine Baidu.com Inc. <BIDU.OQ> on Monday said a Beijing court ordered the company to stop providing music downloading services as part of a copyright infringement suit brought by Shanghai Busheng Music Culture Media Co.

The company, which was fined RMB 68,000, said it would appeal.

"We believe that the district court order was based on a misunderstanding of the search engine technology and therefore is without merit," the company's lawyer Decheng Li of Beijing law firm Zhonglun W&D said in a statement.

Separately, the four largest music labels - Universal Music, Sony BMG, EMI Group Plc <EMI.L> and Warner Music Group <WMG.N> - are suing Baidu for copyright infringement because the company, known as the Chinese Google, provides the links to the download services.

Baidu said in the statement that it provides search services, but not downloading services.

A spokesman would not comment on the suits brought by the labels.

President Hu Jintao promised U.S. President George W. Bush last Tuesday at the United Nations summit that China was willing to work on ways to prevent infringement of intellectual property rights.

The film and music industry have been trying to crack down on piracy, one of their largest costs. Record companies recently won a landmark decision against Grokster, a peer-to-peer network that allowed users to download music from one another without permission from artists.

### QUIZ

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The Baidu cases are believed to be different, since the search engine is providing links to sites that offer illegal downloads.

Baidu lost nearly a third of its value last week after two of the investment banks that managed the company's initial public offering said the stock price was overblown.

Shares rose 31 cents in aftermarket trading to \$79.84.

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