ARBITRATION
AND
MEDIATION CENTER

WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. v. Michael John,EMH LLC; yunus dilsiz, redweb; Nanci Nette
Case No. D2026-3791

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., United States of America ("United States"), represented by Zacco Sweden AB, Sweden.

The Respondents are Michael John, EMH LLC, United States; yunus dilsiz, redweb, Türkiye, self-represented; and Nanci Nette, United States.

2. The Domain Names and Registrars

The disputed domain name <wikipedia.org.ai> is registered with Porkbun LLC.

The disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, <0wikipedia.org>, and <00wikipedia.org> are registered with GoDaddy.com, LLC. (the "Registrars").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on August 25, 2026. On August 25, 2026, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrars a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain names. On August 25 and 27, 2026, the Registrars transmitted by email to the Center their verification responses respectively disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain names which differed from the named Respondents (REDACTED FOR PRIVACY) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on August 27, 2026, with the registrant and contact information of nominally multiple underlying registrants revealed by the Registrars, requesting the Complainant to either file separate complaints for the disputed domain names associated with different underlying registrants or alternatively, demonstrate that the underlying registrants are in fact the same entity and/or that all disputed domain names are under common control. The Complainant filed an amendment to the Complaint on September 1, 2026.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amendment to the Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy" or "UDRP"), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules"), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondents of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on September 8, 2026. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was September 28, 2026. The Respondent of the disputed domain names <0wikipedia.org>, <wikizero.net>, and <wikizero.org> sent email communications to the Center on September 3 and 8, 2026, respectively. The Response was filed by the Respondent of the disputed domain names <0wikipedia.org>, <wikizero.net>, and <wikizero.org> on September 8, 2026. An email communication sent from an email address shown on the website at <wikizero.org>[1] was received by the Center on September 11, 2026.

The Center appointed Vincent Denoyelle as the sole panelist in this matter on October 8, 2026. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the provision and distribution of educational information provided by tens of thousands of contributors. One of the Complainant's best-known projects is Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia that publishes content provided and edited by the public. Wikipedia includes many informational articles. Wikimedia Commons, another of the Complainant's projects, is a shared media repository of millions of freely usable images, sound files, and video files. The Complainant also previously operated a program named Wikipedia Zero which was discontinued in February 2018.

The Complainant owns numerous WIKIPEDIA and WIKINEWS trade marks throughout the world including the following:

- United States Trade Mark WIKIPEDIA, registered on September 23, 2008, under number 3505429 in classes 35, 38, and 41;

- International Trade Mark WIKIPEDIA, registered on April 3, 2014, under number 1226355 in classes 9, 16, 18, 25, 35, 36, 38, 41, and 42 and designating, among others, Türkiye; and

- European Union Trade Mark WIKINEWS, registered on September 30, 2014, under number 012847901 in classes 41, and 42.

The Complainant registered the domain name <wikipedia.org> on January 13, 2001.

The disputed domain name <wikipedia.org.ai> was registered on March 14, 2023, and points to a single page containing only texts including the term "Wikipedia article parser API".

The disputed domain names <wikizero.net> and <wikizero.org> were registered on September 24, 2017. At the time reflected in the Complaint, <wikizero.net> redirected to <wikizero.org>, which pointed to a full-blown website under the name WikiZero. It contains the following statement under "About Us": "Welcome to WikiZero, your number one source for all things Encyclopedia. We're dedicated to providing you the best of Encyclopedia, with a focus on dependability. customer service, and WikiZero. We're working to turn our passion for Encyclopedia into a booming online store. We hope you enjoy our products as much as we enjoy offering them to you." It refers to articles from the Complainant's Wikipedia service but also refers to content from other companies.

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[1] Noting in particular the general powers of a panel articulated inter alia in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the UDRP Rules, it has been accepted that a panel may undertake limited factual research into matters of public record if it would consider such information useful to assessing the case merits and reaching a decision. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Select UDRP Questions ("WIPO Overview 3.1"), section 4.8.

The disputed domain name <0wikipedia.org> was registered on May 4, 2017, and at the time of filing of the Complaint, it redirected to <wikizero.net>, which in turn redirected to <wikizero.org>. At the time of the Decision, it is not associated with any website content.

The disputed domain name <00wikipedia.org> was registered on January 12, 2019, and access to the website is blocked by the Panel's firm due to the presence of malware on the destination website. At the time of filing of the Complainant, it apparently redirected to the website of an online casino.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the disputed domain names.

Notably, the Complainant contends that the disputed domain names are either identical (in the case of <wikipedia.org.ai>) or confusingly similar to its trade marks as they reproduce WIKIPEDIA in its entirety or reproduce the term "wiki", which the Complainant asserts is associated with Wikipedia and alludes to its trade mark WIKIPEDIA.

The Complainant confirms that it has not authorized or licensed the Respondents to use the Complainant's trade marks. The Complainant contends that the Respondents are, to the Complainant's knowledge, not commonly known by the respective disputed domain names. The Complainant asserts that the Respondents have not made any preparations to use the disputed domain names or a name corresponding to the disputed domain names in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services, nor have the Respondents used disputed domain names for any legitimate noncommercial or fair use purpose.

The Complainant submits that the Respondents must have been aware of the Complainant's trade marks when registering the respective disputed domain names given the substantial renown of the Complainant and its trade marks. The Complainant considers that the Respondents have intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to websites, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's well-known mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of the Respondents' websites, or of a product or service on the Respondents' websites. For the disputed domain name <wikipedia.org.ai>, which the Complainant describes as passively held, the Complainant considers that, in light of the overall circumstances of the present case, such passive holding constitutes bad faith on the part of the respective Respondents.

B. Respondents

One Respondent (the registrant of the disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org> and <0wikipedia.org>) replied to the Complainant's contentions asserting that:

- The Respondent states that the Respondent sold and transferred <wikizero.org> before the commencement of the proceeding and controls only <wikizero.net> and <0wikipedia.org>;

- The request for consolidation should not extend to <wikipedia.org.ai> and <00wikipedia.org> as they are not affiliated with the Respondent;

- The disputed domain names <wikizero.net> and <0wikipedia.org> were registered to provide an alternative user interface via an officially provided API for public access and are thus used for a legitimate, noncommercial fair use purpose, especially as the project was born out of a regional censorship crisis;

- The Respondent does not host malware, casinos, or phishing scams on the websites at the disputed domain names;

- The Respondent does not claim to be the Wikimedia Foundation;

- The Respondent merely uses the term “wiki” and “wikipedia” descriptively to inform users what open-source data they are accessing via the official API; and

- As a direct demonstration of good faith and open cooperation, the Respondent voluntarily took down the <0wikipedia.org> website and completely deleted its Domain Name System (DNS) records.

In addition to the above, an email communication sent from an email address shown on the website at <wikizero.org> was received by the Center on September 11, 2026, stating “this guy stole 3000$ from me what are you talking about?”

6. Discussion and Findings

Consolidation: Multiple Respondents

The amended Complaint was filed in relation to nominally different domain name registrants. The Complainant alleges that the domain name registrants are the same entity or mere alter egos of each other, or under common control. The Complainant requests the consolidation of the Complaint against the multiple disputed domain name registrants pursuant to paragraph 10(e) of the Rules.

One Respondent (the registrant of the disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, and <0wikipedia.org>) contends that the consolidation request of the Complainant should not extend to <wikipedia.org.ai> and <00wikipedia.org> as these disputed domain names are not affiliated with the Respondent. This Respondent further contends that <wikizero.org> was sold and transferred before the commencement of the proceeding and that the Respondent controls only <wikizero.net> and <0wikipedia.org>.

Paragraph 3(c) of the Rules states that a complaint may relate to more than one domain name, provided that the domain names are registered by the same domain name holder.

In addressing the Complainant’s request, the Panel will consider whether (i) the disputed domain names or corresponding websites are subject to common control; and (ii) the consolidation would be fair and equitable to all Parties. See WIPO Overview 3.1, section 4.11.2.

As regards common control, the Panel notes that the disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, and <0wikipedia.org> have been registered by the same Respondent yunus dilsiz, redweb, reportedly located in Türkiye, while the other two disputed domain names <wikipedia.org.ai> and <00wikipedia.org> have been registered by Michael John, EMH LLC, and Nanci Nette, respectively, reportedly located in the United States. The Panel does not find a sufficient basis in the record to infer that the other two disputed domain names <wikipedia.org.ai> and <00wikipedia.org> are under common control with the remaining three disputed domain names. Indeed, whilst the two disputed domain names <wikipedia.org.ai> and <00wikipedia.org> target the same WIKIPEDIA trade mark, and according to the Complainant, the contact details of the registrants of these two disputed domain names are false, there is no material evidence in the record to suggest that either of them is connected with the three disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, and <0wikipedia.org>, or that they are connected with each other. In particular, the Panel notes that <wikipedia.org.ai> points to a single page containing only text including the term “Wikipedia article parser API”, whereas <00wikipedia.org> resolves to an online casino website, while the other three disputed domain names have been used to host the same website under the name WikiZero.

Accordingly, the Panel will decide the Complaint regarding the disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, and <0wikipedia.org> (referred to below as the “disputed domain names”), which are registered in the name of “yunus dilsiz, redweb”, referred to below as the “Respondent”.

On the other hand, the Panel declines to consolidate the disputes regarding the domain names <wikipedia.org.ai> and <00wikipedia.org>. This decision is made without prejudice to the possibility of the filing of new complaints regarding these two domain names.

In addition, the Panel notes that the Respondent contends that <wikizero.org> was sold and transferred before the commencement of the proceeding and that the Respondent controls only <wikizero.net> and <0wikipedia.org>. Paragraph 1 of the Rules provides that "Respondent means the holder of a domain-name registration against which a complaint is initiated." The Registrar, GoDaddy.com, LLC, confirmed to the Center in its Registrar Verification email that "yunus dilsiz, redweb" is the registrant of the disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, and <0wikipedia.org>, and the Respondent has been identified as one of the Respondents in the amendment to the Complaint dated September 1, 2026. Apart from the Respondent's assertions in email communications dated September 3 and 8, 2026, the Respondent has not provided any documentary evidence to substantiate the assertion that <wikizero.org> was sold and transferred. The Panel therefore finds that "yunus dilsiz, redweb" is the proper Respondent with respect to the disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, and <0wikipedia.org>.

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

It is well accepted that the first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between the Complainant's trade mark and the disputed domain names. WIPO Overview 3.1, section 1.7.

The Complainant has shown rights in respect of a trade mark or service mark for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.1, section 1.2.1.

The Panel finds that the WIKIPEDIA trade mark is either reproduced entirely or recognizable within the disputed domain names as a result of the inclusion of "wiki" which is a distinctive component of the Complainant's WIKIPEDIA trade mark. Accordingly, the disputed domain names are confusingly similar to the WIKIPEDIA trade mark of the Complainant for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.1, section 1.7.

Although the addition of other terms, here, "0" or "zero", may bear on assessment of the second and third elements, the Panel finds the addition of such terms does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity between the disputed domain names and the Complainant's trade mark for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.1, section 1.8.

The Panel finds the first element of the Policy has been established.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides a list of circumstances in which the Respondent may demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name.

Although the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, panels have recognized that proving that a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the difficult task of "proving a negative", requiring information that is often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. As such, where a complainant makes out a prima facie case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name (although the burden of proof always remains on the complainant). If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. WIPO Overview 3.1, section 2.1.

Having reviewed the available record, the Panel finds the Complainant has established a prima facie case that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain names. The Respondent has not successfully rebutted the Complainant's prima facie showing and has not come forward with any relevant

evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain names such as those enumerated in the Policy or otherwise.

The Complainant has not authorized the Respondent to use its trade marks or to register domain names incorporating them. The Respondent asserts that the website provides an alternative interface through Wikipedia's API to bypass regional censorship. Even accepting that explanation at face value, the use of the Complainant's publicly available API or content does not, by itself, establish rights or legitimate interests in domain names that create a misleading impression of association with the Complainant. What is relevant for present purposes is whether the Respondent's use of the disputed domain names constitutes genuinely fair use and does not falsely suggest sponsorship or endorsement by the Complainant. In the circumstances of this case, the Panel finds that the nature of the disputed domain names (incorporating either the entire WIKIPEDIA trade mark of the Complainant or the term "wiki" in the WIKIPEDIA trade mark, together with the term "zero" or "0" which may be seen as referring to the Complainant's prior program named Wikipedia Zero), coupled with the manner in which the associated website is presented and the lack of a clear and prominent disclaimer of the absence of a relationship between the Respondent and the Complainant, creates a risk of implied affiliation with the Complainant. In addition, the website presents itself as the "number one source for all things Encyclopedia", thereby suggesting that it offers services similar to those provided by the Complainant, and contains links to many third party websites. Moreover, its "About Us" page states "We're working to turn our passion for Encyclopedia into a booming online store", which suggests that the Respondent's use of the disputed domain names has a commercial purpose. Such use cannot therefore support the Respondent's claimed rights or legitimate interests under paragraph 4(c) of the Policy.

The Panel finds the second element of the Policy has been established.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Panel notes that, for the purposes of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy, paragraph 4(b) of the Policy establishes circumstances, in particular, but without limitation, that, if found by the Panel to be present, shall be evidence of the registration and use of a domain name in bad faith.

In the present case, the Panel finds that the Respondent must have had the Complainant and its trade marks in mind at the time of registration of the disputed domain names. Indeed, the Panel notes that the (i) disputed domain names either reproduce the WIKIPEDIA trade mark in its entirety or incorporate the distinctive "wiki" component of the Complainant's trade mark; and (ii) the disputed domain names include the term "zero" or "0" which may be seen as referring to the Complainant's widely publicized Wikipedia Zero program, which was in operation at the time of the registration of the disputed domain names. Further, the Panel finds that the Respondent's use of the disputed domain names supports the finding that the Respondent knew of the Complainant at the time of their registration.

Whilst the Respondent claims that its use of the disputed domain names constitutes fair use, as discussed under section 6.B above, the Panel finds that this claim is not supported by the content of the associated website at the disputed domain names or by the nature of the disputed domain names. In particular, its "About Us" page states "We're working to turn our passion for Encyclopedia into a booming online store", and "We hope you enjoy our products as much as we enjoy offering them to you", which suggests that the Respondent's use of the disputed domain names has a commercial purpose.

The Panel finds, on balance, that the Respondent has registered and used the disputed domain names to intentionally attempt to attract, for possible commercial gain, Internet users to the website at the disputed domain names, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's well-known trade mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of the Respondent's website, which constitutes bad faith under the Policy.

The Panel finds that the Complainant has established the third element of the Policy.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain names <wikizero.net>, <wikizero.org>, and <0wikipedia.org> be transferred to the Complainant.

The Complaint is dismissed with respect to the domain names <wikipedia.org.ai> and <00wikipedia.org> without prejudice to the possibility of the filing of new complaints regarding these two domain names.

/Vincent Denoyelle/
Vincent Denoyelle
Sole Panelist
Date: October 26, 2026