

new tools for copyright protection Tuesday, March 23, 2010 7:16:44 PM

I assume the copyright office will soon be using image recognition software, originally developed by the military, but also widely used in products like iPhoto to recognize individuals in photos, to check for copyright infringement. I have a small set of photos of President Obama from the beginning of his political career (beginning in1995) which have been reproduced very widely, not always with my consent or credit.

I depend on royalties from my work to provide my living - as an independent photojournalist, all I have is past and current work - no pension, very little social security, and still no healthcare, just insurance with a high deductable that costs me over \$1000 per month!

Still, I feel that not just the "creative" photographers need protection, but also those of us who have spent our lives recording history.

Young people entering the field today are forced to give up their copyrights with "work for hire" clauses when they freelance for publications, etc. They are not staff, and receive no benefits, but give away any hope of profiting from their work in the future. More corporate greed.

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