

## = Piracy Funds Terrorism =

Piracy Funds Terrorism Volume 1 , usually referred to simply as Piracy Funds Terrorism , is a mixtape produced by British recording artist M.I.A. and American DJ Diplo featuring vocal tracks intended for M.I.A. ' s debut album *Arular* mashed up with samples of other recordings . The mixtape was produced by the two artists at Diplo ' s home studio in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania . It was not officially released , but was distributed at M.I.A. ' s live shows and via the internet to promote the release of her much @-@ delayed debut album . Despite its unofficial status , several music publications included it in their listings of the best albums of 2004 .

## = = Recording = =

Recording sessions for *Arular* , the debut album by M.I.A. , took place during 2003 and 2004 , and the album was originally scheduled to be released in September 2004 . Legal issues relating to the use of samples delayed this release , however , first to December and then into 2005 . During the recording process , M.I.A. met DJ Diplo , and expressed an interest in working with him on a track for the album . Although their initial recording sessions together proved fruitless , Diplo conceived the idea of using the existing vocal tracks recorded for the album to produce a mixtape which could be used to promote the delayed full @-@ length album . M.I.A. extended her stay in the United States and the two artists produced the mixtape at his home studio .

## = = Music and artwork = =

The mixtape includes early mixes of the vocals intended for *Arular* , mashed up with samples of tracks including " Walk Like an Egyptian " by The Bangles , " Big Pimpin ' " by Jay @-@ Z and " Push It " by Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa . Tunes by Baby , dead Prez , Missy Elliott , Ciara , LL Cool J and Cutty Ranks are also included . Necessary legal clearance for the use of these samples was not obtained , with the result that the mixtape could not be sold in record shops and could only be distributed by word of mouth . In addition to pop and hip hop , global music styles are included in the mix . The track " Galang " incorporates elements of reggaeton , and three tracks consist of Brazilian baile funk .

The cover features a photograph of M.I.A. wearing a T @-@ shirt with the slogan " Complaints Department " placed above a picture of a hand grenade . Arranged around the title are a series of smaller pictures depicting dancers , rioters and riot police . According to Diplo , the pressing was handled by a " little storefront @-@ house " which specialises in producing mixtapes .

## = = Release and reception = =

An initial pressing of 1 @, @ 000 copies of the mixtape was produced and given to M.I.A. ' s record label . The label began sending the copies out as promotional recordings , prompting Diplo to ask for the remaining copies to be returned so that he could distribute them at shows and in clubs , which he felt was a more appropriate method of distribution for the mixtape . He stated that around 2 @, @ 000 copies of the recording were produced in total .

In a review for *The Village Voice* , Robert Christgau said he was more interested in hearing M.I.A. ' s own original music than a mashup : " I find more fascination ? and pleasure , if not variety ? in M.I.A. juxtaposed against herself than in , for instance , favela funk juxtaposed against ' Walk Like an Egyptian ' . Which isn ' t to deny I also find all these good things in favela funk juxtaposed against ' Walk Like an Egyptian ' . " Rolie Pemberton from *Stylus Magazine* called *Piracy Funds Terrorism* " a genre @-@ bending adventure in shattered preconceptions and club killing beats " and said that , based on the strength of the mixtape , M.I.A. ' s first official album had a lot to live up to . *Village Voice* critic Tom Breihan later expressed relief that M.I.A. ' s aesthetic and her debut album did not have much input from Diplo .

*Piracy Funds Terrorism* was voted the 23rd best album of 2004 in the *Pazz & Jop* , an annual poll

of American critics nationwide , published by The Village Voice . Pitchfork Media ranked it at number 12 on their year @-@ end albums list , and later at number 103 on their decade @-@ end list of top 200 albums from the 2000s .

= = Track listing = =

The first pressing of Piracy Funds Terrorism had an incorrect track listing , which was fixed for the second pressing , the track listing for which is as follows :

For the third pressing , two tracks featuring beats created by Cavemen were replaced with new material due to legal issues .

= = Personnel = =

The only credits on the cover are as follows :

Hollertronix / Wes Gully ( Diplo ) ? executive production

Maya Arul ( M.I.A. ) ? " executive mish mash "

Knox Robinson ? worldwide A & R