



For Immediate Release
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MPA to Continue Legal Action Against Taiwan P2P Operator ezPeer

Notorious Service Has Hundreds of Thousands of Pirate Subscribers

Hong Kong, Encino – On June 30, Taiwan’s Shi Lin District Court ruled that peer-to-peer (P2P) operator ezPeer was not guilty of unauthorized reproduction and public transmission of copyrighted materials in violation of the country’s Copyright Law, as well as with violation of Taiwan’s Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act. Among the materials ezPeer was accused of pirating were MPA member company titles.

On January 19, 2004, the Motion Picture Association’s (MPA) Taiwan office filed a criminal complaint charging that ezPeer was knowingly engaged in infringing MPA member companies’ copyrights for profit. ezPeer had at that time already been indicted under similar charges by IFPI, which represents the music industry worldwide, and the MPA’s complaint was ultimately combined with IFPI’s complaint by the Shi Lin District Court. The first hearing in the criminal trial took place on September 10, 2004.

In the 30 June judgment, the Court ruled only on the IFPI complaint. Under Taiwanese law, the MPA’s interest in the case will proceed to appeal with any appeal made by IFPI in the 10 days following the decision. IFPI have stated they will appeal the ruling. Should IFPI fail to appeal the ruling, or should the appeal fail, the MPA’s case will be returned to the Prosecutor’s Office for further investigation and resubmission to the District Court.

Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific, MPA said, “While recognizing the independence of the Court, we are extremely disappointed with the verdict. The verdict handed down by the Court severely damages Taiwan’s reputation as a protector of copyright and a country that respects intellectual property rights. For years ezPeer facilitated the unauthorized and unlawful online sale of MPA member company movies and this illegal behavior continued unchecked throughout the trial. Its continued unauthorized and illegal activity threatens the development of Taiwan’s creative industries,

threatens Taiwan's relations with its trading partners, and sends a very unfortunate message to the Taiwanese people."

ezPeer provides a subscription service that offers unauthorized versions of copyrighted works for downloading without compensating the rights holders, and as a result enables criminal activity by thousands of ezPeer members in Taiwan who might believe the service is legitimate as a result of the subscription fee structure. These ezPeer members are deceived into unknowingly participating in the fast-growing web of piracy on the Internet and subject themselves to possible prosecution.

Piracy in Asia

The MPA estimates that its member companies lose in excess of US\$896 million in potential revenue annually in the Asia-Pacific region alone. In 2004, the MPA operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 25,500 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,000 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of approximately 49,000,000 illegal optical discs, and the initiation of more than 8,000 legal actions.

About the MPA: *The Motion Picture Association (MPA) represents the interests of major motion picture companies in the global marketplace. On behalf of its Member Companies, the MPA conducts investigations around the world, assists with the criminal and civil litigation generated by such cases, and conducts education outreach programs to teach movie fans around the world about the harmful effects of piracy. The MPA directs its worldwide anti-piracy operations from its headquarters based in Encino, California and has regional offices located in Brussels (Europe, Middle East and Africa), Mexico City (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Hong Kong (Asia-Pacific). The MPA's anti-piracy activities have helped to transform entire markets from pirate to legitimate, benefiting video distributors, retailers, and foreign and local filmmakers alike. The MPA member companies include: Buena Vista International, Inc.; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc.*

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