



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **TAIWANESE PIRATE MOVIE WEBSITE RAIDED; CLAIMS NEARLY 1.5 MILLION MEMBERS**

### ***MPA Investigation Leads to Ministry of Justice Raid On Taiwan-owned, U.S.-based Subscription Site***

Hong Kong – On April 21, officers from Taiwan’s Ministry of Justice Bureau of Investigation (MJIB) raided premises linked to a pirate website known in Chinese as “the Breeze Forum” <<http://bbs.wefong.com/index.php>>, arresting a 36-year-old man named Jacky Sung believed to be the website operator and charging him with multiple violations of Taiwan’s Copyright Law.

Although the servers hosting the site are located in Houston, Texas, and the website remains in operation, primarily as a discussion forum, the arresting officers forced Sung to remove copyright-infringing content from the site, which listed for download 2,425 foreign and domestic movies, of which 203 were MPA member company titles.

The raid followed an investigation begun on July 1, 2005 by the Foundation for The Protection of Film and Video Works (FVWP), which represents the Motion Picture Association (MPA) in Taiwan. FVWP representatives joined MJIB officers in the raid on Sung’s premises.

“Subscription services that offer unauthorized versions of copyrighted works for downloading without compensating the rights holders enable criminal activity by thousands of members in Taiwan who might believe the service is legitimate as a result of the subscription fee structure,” said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific, MPA said, “These members are deceived into unknowingly participating in the fast-growing web of piracy on the Internet and not only damage Taiwan’s creative industries, but also subject themselves to possible prosecution.”

### ***P2P Piracy in Taiwan***

On September 9, 2005, the Taipei District Court ruled that Taiwan’s Kuro peer-to-peer (P2P) network, at the time believed to have been Taiwan’s largest P2P file-sharing network, had infringed the copyrights of music industry companies by authorizing Kuro users to copy and distribute copyrighted materials.

The court ruled that Kuro operators Chen Kuo Hua, Chen Kuo Hsiung and Chen Sho Teng, executives of Fashionnow Co. Ltd., which owns the site, were guilty of copyright infringement and sentenced them to prison terms. Chen Kuo Hua, Fashionnow's C.E.O., and Chen Kuo Hsiung, Fashionnow's General Manager, were sentenced to three years imprisonment each. Chen Sho Teng, Fashionnow's Chairman and the father of Chen Kuo Hua and Chen Kuo Hsiung, was sentenced to two years imprisonment. Each was fined NT\$3 million (US\$93,750).

In addition, the court fined Fashionnow Co. Ltd. NT\$3 million (US\$93,750) and sentenced a Kuro subscriber, Chen Jia Hwei (no relation to the Fashionnow Chens), to four months imprisonment suspended for three years.

### ***Piracy in Asia***

In 2005, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 34,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting more than 10,500 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 34 million illegal optical discs, 55 factory optical disc production lines and 3,362 optical disc burners, as well as 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), São Paulo (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Singapore (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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