



NEWS RELEASE

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POLICE SEIZE 250 DVD-R, CD-R BURNERS IN RAID ON BURNER LAB IN MIAOLI, TAIWAN

***Citizen's Tip Sparked Investigation; Miaoli Raid Came
Six Days After Seizure from Taipei Lab of 67 DVD-R Burners***

Hong Kong – On May 11, Taiwan's National Highway Patrol Police, in collaboration with IPR Police and with support from the Foundation for the Protection of Film and Video Works (FVWP), representing the Motion Picture Association (MPA), raided a pirate optical disc manufacturing and distribution facilities in Miaoli City, seizing a total of 250 DVD-R and CD-R burners and arresting three women and one man on suspicion of infringing Taiwan's Copyright Law. The charges carry sentences of up to seven years imprisonment.

The burner lab, where police also seized 100,013 pirated optical discs infringing 106 MPA member company titles, was suspected of distributing significant numbers of pirated discs to a nationwide network of pirate street vendors. The seized burners were capable of producing as many as 12,312,000 CD-Rs and 1,706,400 DVD-Rs in one year, yielding revenues of US\$16,405,467, assuming the burners were in operation ten-hours-a-day, seven-days-per-week.

Six days earlier, Taipei City Police, with support from FVWP representatives, seized 67 DVD-R burners and arrested two men in a raid on a DVD-R lab in Taipei City. The burners seized in that raid were capable of producing as many as 1,447,200 DVD-Rs in one year, yielding revenues of US\$6,055,412.

"In less than a week, police in Taiwan have seized more than 300 DVD-R and CD-R burners, maintaining critical pressure on the organized criminal gangs that control optical disc piracy," said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. "However, it is clear from the scale and frequency of the seizures law enforcement authorities are making that the problem of piracy remains enormous and is inflicting significant damage on Taiwan's creative industries."

In Taiwan, it is frequently the case that pirated movies are individually burned onto optical discs with CD-R or DVD-R burners. Burner labs can contain dozens of burners, capable of producing millions of pirate CD-Rs or DVD-Rs per year. In

2004 and 2005, more than 2,500 optical disc burners were seized in FVWP/MPA operations in Taiwan.

The raids came during aggressive MPA anti-piracy enforcement operations, code named *Operation Red Card*, currently running in 13 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region.

Operation Red Card, begun on May 5, is focused on notorious piracy “black spots” in major cities in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

By cracking down on the availability of illegally pirated movies in retail shops and markets and from street vendors during the important New Year holiday season, when many new movies are released, the operation is designed to protect sales of cinema tickets and legitimate home video products such as DVDs, VCDs and VHS videotapes. Previous operations have yielded seizures of millions of pirated optical discs, and hundreds of arrests.

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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