



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **TAIWAN GANGS CONTINUE TURF WAR, USING MPA ANTI-PIRACY HOTLINE TO INFORM ON RIVALS**

***Police Seize 73 Optical Disc Burners from Pirate Movie Lab,  
Following February Seizures of 117 Burners from Opposing Gangs***

Hong Kong – On April 28, acting on a tip to the Motion Picture Association (MPA), a team of officers from Taiwan's Third Security Police, with support from the Foundation for the Protection of Film and Video Works (FVWP), raided a pirate optical disc burning lab in Taichung, seizing 73 optical disc burners and arresting three people. FVWP represents the MPA in Taiwan.

The raid was related to a pair of raids that took place on February 5, 2007, in which separate seizures of 91 and 26 optical disc burners were made. The February raids resulted from separate tips to the MPA's anti-piracy hotline in Taiwan by organized criminal gangs hoping to eliminate rival organizations. It is believed that tip that led to the April 28 raid was provided by the suspect who had had 91 burners seized in February, in an effort to even the score with his competitor.

The 59 DVD-R burners and 14 CD-R burners seized on April 28, believed to have been a source of pirated discs distributed throughout Taiwan, were capable of producing 1,274,400 DVD-Rs and 1,008,000 CD-Rs in one year, generating potential revenue of US\$6,090,957.

"The evidence that organized criminal gangs control much of the piracy business worldwide is incontrovertible, and should be a source of considerable concern to every law-abiding citizen," said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. "The organizations that number among their activities drug trafficking, prostitution and people trafficking also make millions from wholesale intellectual property theft that plunders the world's creativity, pillaging its economies and disrupting social fabric.

"The Motion Picture Association and our member companies greatly appreciate the efforts of the Taiwan government and its law enforcement agencies in fighting copyright theft and protecting intellectual property rights."

In Taiwan, a significant proportion of pirated movies are individually burned onto optical discs with DVD-R or CD-R burners. Large-scale burner labs, which allow pirates to individually burn movies onto optical discs, are capable of producing millions of pirate CD-Rs or DVD-Rs per year. In 2006, Taiwan law enforcement agencies seized 1,552 optical burners in raids on movie piracy operations.

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

A comprehensive study aimed at producing a more accurate picture of the impact that piracy has on the film industry including, for the first time, losses due to internet piracy, recently calculated that the MPA studios lost US\$6.1 billion to worldwide piracy in 2005. About US\$2.4 billion was lost to bootlegging\*, US\$1.4 billion to illegal copying\* and US\$2.3 billion to Internet piracy. Of the US\$6.1 billion in lost revenue to the studios, approximate \$1.2 billion came from piracy across the Asia-Pacific region, while piracy in the U.S. accounted for \$1.3 billion.

In 2006, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 30,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,400 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 35 million illegal optical discs, 50 factory optical disc production lines and 4,482 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 11,000 legal actions.

*\*Bootlegging: Obtaining movies by either purchasing an illegally copied VHS/DVD/VCD or acquiring hard copies of bootleg movies.*

*\*Illegal copying: Making illegal copies for self or receiving illegal copies from friends of a legitimate VHS/DVD/VCD*

*\*Internet piracy: Obtaining movies by either downloading them from the Internet without paying or acquiring hard copies of illegally downloaded movies from friends or family.*

***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 Los Angeles, 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.; 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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