



NEWS RELEASE

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TAIWAN'S POLICE KEEP UP THE PRESSURE WITH RAID ON PIRATE MOVIE BURNER LAB

98 Burners Seized in Second Major Raid This Year

Hong Kong/Taipei – On February 28, 2008, acting on information provided by a member of the public, Taiwan's IPR police, with support from the Taiwan Foundation Against Copyright Theft (TFACT), representing the MPA in Taiwan, raided a DVD-R burner lab in Taipei City, arresting two suspects and seizing 98 DVD-R burners. This is the third burner lab that has been taken down this year.

The police also seized 38,059 pirated discs, which infringed 69 MPA member companies' titles including "National Treasure: Book of Secrets", "American Gangster", and "Charlie Wilson's War." 28 cellular phones were also found at the lab.

The DVD-R lab raided was operated by a group that offers pirated movies for sale through flyers in the Taipei and Taoyuan areas. Orders for these pirated discs were placed over the telephone. Had the operation remained in business for one year, it could have produced more than five million pirated discs, potentially generating criminal revenues of more than US\$15.6 million dollars.

"We thank the member of the public who provided the information that enabled this raid and the IPR police for their swift action," said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the Motion Picture Association. "The Taiwanese authorities have seized more than 240 burners since the beginning of the year. We hope that the criminals behind these labs will receive punishments that reflect the gravity of the offences and the damage they cause to the creative industry."

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 pirated CD-Rs or DVD-Rs per year. In 2007 alone, 1,076 optical disc burners were seized in TFACT 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 2007, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 36,200 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 13,000 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 31 million illegal optical discs, 40 factory optical disc production lines and 6,400 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 10,000 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. For more information about the MPA, please visit www.mpa-i.org.*

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