IFA©T-GC

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT – GREATER CHINA

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HONG KONG COURT ORDERS CONFISCATION OF US$153,000, THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDS OF PIRACY

Convicted Pirate Faces Additional 27 Months In Jail If She Fails To Hand Over The Proceeds Of Her Crimes

Hong Kong – October 2nd saw a significant new weapon added to the arsenal in the fight against the piracy of movies, music and computer software and games, as the Hong Kong Courts issued their first-ever order confiscating the proceeds of piracy.

The 41 year old pirate Lau Ka Pui was arrested in October 2005 and convicted of copyright infringement offences on February 22, 2007 relating to 30,000 pirated optical discs containing mainly computer games. She was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment for her crimes.

The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department identified and froze HK$1.2 million (approximately US$153,000) of assets that were believed to represent the proceeds of piracy. Following the pirate's conviction the authorities successfully argued that the assets were the proceeds of crime and the court ordered their confiscation. Should the assets not be surrendered on or before April 2, 2008 the convicted pirate will face ***an additional*** 27 months imprisonment.

IFA©T-GC Executive Director Sam Ho said: "This decision sends a clear message to the pirates. Intellectual property crime does not pay.

Pirates are equal-opportunity criminals - they steal the intellectual property of the movie, music and computer software and games industries. Now they will not be able to profit from their crime.

We applaud this development and the Hong Kong authorities for their unprecedented efforts in protecting intellectual property rights and fostering creativity."

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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.

About the IFA©T-GC: *The International Federation Against Copyright Theft was established in 2006 by the Motion Picture Association to protect the film industry in the Greater China region from the adverse impact of copyright theft. IFA©T-GC works closely with its supporters, government and enforcement authorities to protect the Greater China film and television industry, retailers and movie fans.*

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