IFA©T-GC

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT – GREATER CHINA

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HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE FLEX ANTI-PIRACY MUSCLES OVER WINTER HOLIDAY PERIOD

43 Movie Pirates Arrested, 189 Pirate Movie Burners and Over 195,000 Pirated Movie DVDs Seized

Hong Kong – The Motion Picture Association (MPA) announced that Operation Blackout, an Asia-Pacific wide anti-piracy enforcement operation that ran from November 2007 to January 2008, resulted in the arrest of 675 suspected pirates, seizures of more than 2.6 million pirated optical discs and 1,200 optical disc burners. The burners were capable of producing millions of pirated movie DVDs and millions in illicit revenue in a year.

During Operation Blackout, the International Federation Against Copyright Theft-Greater China (IFACT-GC) provided logistic and litigation support to Hong Kong Customs and Excise in a number of raids resulting in the arrest of 43 movie pirates and the seizure of 189 DVD-R burners and over 195,000 pirated DVDs.

"The level of support given to rights owners by Hong Kong Customs has once again set the benchmark for enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions" said IFACT-GC Executive Director and General Manager Sam Ho, "It is particularly gratifying to see 43 pirates facing the very real prospect of jail for their activities as deterrent jail sentences are key elements in effective enforcement against copyright theft."

Operation Blackout operations were conducted in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

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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. For more information about the MPA, please visit www.mpa-i.org.*

About the IFACT-GC: *The International Federation Against Copyright Theft – Greater China 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. IFACT-GC works closely with its supporters, government and enforcement authorities to protect the Greater China film and television industry, retailers and movie fans. For more information about the IFACT-GC, please visit www.ifact-gc.org.*

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