



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT – GREATER CHINA

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## HONG KONG HANDS OUT HIGHEST EVER PRISON SENTENCE FOR MOVIE PIRACY DISTRIBUTION

*Ten Syndicate Members Imprisoned from 11 to 74 months as Government Moves to  
Confiscate US\$1.1 Million Proceeds of Crime*

Hong Kong - On July 27, Hong Kong's Deputy District Judge M. Chow handed out Hong Kong's stiffest ever penalty for movie piracy distribution at the conclusion of a three year investigation and prosecution of an organized criminal syndicate arrested for distributing pirated movies.

Ten members of the gang were convicted and sentenced to prison for periods ranging from 11 months to 74 months. Mastermind, Tang Wai-man aged 33 was sentenced to 74 months while another senior figure, 31-year-old Kong Wai-chun received 58 months. The sentences were enhanced 30% by Judge Chow under the provisions of Hong Kong's Organized & Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO).

In addition Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (HKC&ED) has seized and frozen HK\$9 million (US\$1.1 million) worth of assets related to the crimes and will initiate action to confiscate the money.

The arrests in this case were made on February 14 and 15, 2007, following a year-long investigation by HKC&ED. The investigation culminated with raids on three warehouses and three retail shops, the arrests of the ten defendants and the seizure of more than 33,000 seized discs infringing Motion Picture Association's member company titles, including *"Happy Feet"*, *"Night At the Museum"*, *"Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest"* and *"X-Men: The Last Stand"*.

"This is a great result for legitimate business and for the member companies of the Motion Picture Association. Protecting the creative and financial investment that goes into making and distributing movies is essential for the industry in Hong Kong," said Sam Ho, Executive Director and General Manager of the International Federation Against Copyright Theft - Greater China. "Our whole industry greatly appreciates the professionalism and commitment of the Hong Kong government, particularly the Hong Kong Customs & Excise Department, in protecting intellectual property rights and making Hong Kong a good place to do creative business."

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**About the MPA:** *The Motion Picture Association (MPA) and Motion Picture Association International (MPA-I) represent the interests of major motion picture companies in the global marketplace. As part of this, it*

*investigates and reports on activities infringing its member companies' intellectual property rights, assists with the resulting criminal and civil litigation to protect their copyrights, and conducts education outreach programs to teach movie fans around the world about the harmful effects of piracy. These activities have helped to transform entire markets from pirate to legitimate, benefiting video distributors, retailers, and foreign and local filmmakers alike.*

*The organization's worldwide anti-piracy operations are directed from its headquarters in Los Angeles, California and overseen at the regional and local market levels by teams located in Brussels (Europe, Middle East and Africa), São Paulo (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Singapore (Asia Pacific). Its member companies include: Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLLP; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. For more information about the MPA, please visit [www.mpa-i.org](http://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](http://www.ifact-gc.org).*

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