



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **POLICE SHUT DOWN ILLEGAL DVD FACTORY IN BANGKOK**

### ***Three Suspects Arrested at Factory Believed to Make DVDs for Export to Malaysia***

Hong Kong / Bangkok - On September 24, officers of the Royal Thai Police with the assistance from representatives of the Motion Picture Association (MPA), cracked a piracy ring operating from an abandoned warehouse in Yanawa district, Rama 3 Road, Bangkok.

After monitoring the pirates for a month, the raiding party set up surveillance just outside the warehouse on the morning of September 24. The officers then stopped a black Toyota sedan heading out of the warehouse and found 14,000 pirated optical discs in the trunk of the car. Three male suspects who were in the vehicle, one Thai aged 36 and two Malaysian suspects aged 24 and 37 were immediately arrested.

The Police proceeded to raid the warehouse, which was demarcated into two areas. The front was disguised as a junk garage while the air-conditioned back area housed one DVD replicating line, one printing machine and 2,400 kilograms of polycarbonate, used in the production of optical discs. The raiding team also found approximately 16,000 pirated discs and 93 stampers. Among them were MPA member companies' titles "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor" and "Batman: The Dark Knight." No other suspects were found in the premises.

Sources inside the Royal Thai Police say that the factory is believed to have been operated by Malaysian mafia and had been producing pirated products for six months for export back into Malaysia. The Thai suspect, who claimed he was only the driver, confessed that he was going to deliver the pirated discs to customers in the Rama 5 area in Nonthaburi province, and he was paid the sum of US\$178 (THB 6,000) to run the delivery. All three suspects remain in police custody for further investigations. Police have indicated that more arrests could follow.

"We congratulate the Royal Thai Police on cracking this pirate ring which appears to be involved in cross-border piracy. This just goes to show that piracy is a serious crime and a dangerous business that impacts the local industry and law enforcement. We remain totally committed to supporting the Thai authorities in taking down these criminals and look forward to hearing about more arrests in this case," said Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director, Asia-Pacific for the MPA.

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### ***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 US\$1.2 billion came from piracy across the Asia-Pacific region, while piracy in the U.S. accounted for US\$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 and Motion Picture Association - International (MPA) represent 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](http://www.mpa-i.org).*

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