



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **NEW YEAR CLEAN UP BY THAI POLICE NETS FIVE ARRESTS AND 25,000 PIRATED DISCS**

***Two distribution centres and 11 retail outlets raided in Bangkok pirate haven***

Hong Kong/Bangkok - On January 7, a team of 22 officers from the Economic & Technological Crime Suppression Division (ECOTEC) headed by Commander General Visuth Vanichburta as well as Motion Picture Association (MPA) representatives raided two distribution centers and 11 retail outlets located in the notorious Banmor area in Bangkok.

The police raids were part of the MPA's anti-piracy initiative Operation Blackout that runs through the holiday season till end-January 2008 around the region.

During the raid, over 25,000 optical discs were seized. Of these, 6,000 infringed MPA member company titles including "Alien vs. Predator 2", "American Gangster" and "I am Legend".

Two men and three women were also arrested. More suspects escaped when lookouts blew whistles to warn pirate operators, while others blocked the police from moving forward in this crowded area renowned for being a haven of pirates dealing in all sorts of pirated products.

MPA also contacted other right owners both foreign and local film and music industry representatives to identify the rest of the pirated products under the strategy of total enforcement and co-operation.

"The police have no day off when it comes to pirates selling their products. We will continue to do everything within our powers to stop these criminals." said General Visuth after the raid.

"We are happy that the Thai authorities have taken Operation Blackout to heart and persisted in cleaning up Banmor despite all the challenges faced," said Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific for the MPA. "It is a very promising start to the New Year and we look forward to many more such success stories from Thailand."

### ***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 2006, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 30,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,400 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 35 million illegal optical discs, 50 factory optical disc production lines and 4,482 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 11,000 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](http://www.mpa-i.org).*

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