



**NZFACT**

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MOVIE PIRACY: DOING THE CRIME NOW MEANS DOING THE TIME**

*Latest Sentence of 14 Months for Burning and Selling Pirated Movie DVDs  
Confirms Trend of Courts Sending Movie Pirates to Prison*

Auckland: Jing Lin Wang, a 29-year-old unemployed Chinese national, was sentenced today by Judge Barry MORRIS in Auckland District Court on a number of charges related to the manufacture and sale of pirated movie DVDs and receiving stolen property.

Wang had pled guilty on 6 September 2007 to one count of the each of the following offences:

- (a) Making an object that the person knows is an infringing copy of a copyright work (section 131(1)(a) Copyright Act 1994) REPRESENTATIVE CHARGE.
- (b) Selling an object that the person knows is an infringing copy of a copyright work (section 131(1)(e) Copyright Act 1994) REPRESENTATIVE CHARGE.
- (c) Accessing a computer for a dishonest purpose (section 249(1)(a) Crimes Act 1961).
- (d) Receiving stolen goods (section 246 Crimes Act 1961).

In submissions to the Court, prosecuting counsel emphasized that the charges laid were representative charges only and that Wang had been involved in commercial scale piracy.

In summing up Judge MORRIS stated that WANG was obviously operating at a commercial level and the Copyright Offences were treated as seriously as the Receiving charge.

The charges arose from a raid conducted on 3 July 2007 on Wang's home. The raid was a culmination of a joint investigation by the Police, supported by investigators from the New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft (NZFACT). During the investigation it was confirmed that Wang was replicating pirated movies on DVD on burner equipment in his home. He was

then selling them for \$10 a copy at the Frankton market in Hamilton.

“This case really highlights that movie pirates are criminals – in addition to selling pirated movies Wang was also convicted of receiving and reselling over \$19,000 goods stolen to order from shops.” said Tony Eaton, Executive Director of NZFACT. “Regardless of what other criminal activities they are involved in, this case confirms that our Courts are sending movie pirates to prison and that’s good news for moviemakers, for cinema owners and for retailers selling legitimate DVDs.”

The unauthorized distribution and manufacturing of films on DVD or other media is an infringement of New Zealand's Copyright Act. Anyone who commits an offence under the Act faces up to five years imprisonment or a fine of up to \$10,000 for every infringing copy (up to a maximum of \$150,000 in respect of the same transaction). Reparation may also be ordered where the offence involves the making of a profit or gain.

#### *Piracy in Asia-Pacific*

*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.*

*About NZFACT: The New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft was established in 2005 by the Motion Picture Association to protect the film industry in New Zealand from the adverse impact of copyright theft. NZFACT works closely with its members, government and enforcement authorities to protect the New Zealand film and television industry, retailers and movie fans. NZFACT members include: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, New Zealand; 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. NZFACT works in association with the Motion Picture Association, which represents the interests of the film industry across the world. NZFACT also has an alliance with the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand to share information regarding copyright infringement, and is a member of the recently-formed Anti Counterfeiting Group, which represents the interests of New Zealand's major intellectual property stakeholders, such as the music industry, computer software and publishing. NZFACT has a nationwide hotline that enables the reporting of film copyright theft 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 0800 267 9744.*

*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 Encino, 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.*

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