



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FACT WELCOMES TIGHTENING OF LAWS ON FILM PIRACY

The Federation Against Copyright Theft ('FACT') is pleased with the announcement by The Chancellor in his Pre Budget Report, following the recommendations of Andrew Gowers, that stronger enforcement is needed to tackle the problem of film piracy.

We welcome the statement that there will be tighter penalties for illegal copying and piracy and the recognition of intellectual ('IP') crime in the National Community Safety Plan, as well as the additional funding for enforcement by Trading Standards. It is also pleasing to see that there is a recommendation in the Gowers Report for the regulation of so-called 'occasional sales' such as markets and car boot sales.

Kieron Sharp, FACT Director General commented: *"Film piracy has been seen by some as a 'soft' crime yet it brings harm and other serious criminal activity to local communities. It also has proven involvement with organised crime in the UK and internationally.*

*FACT has strengthened its resource and capability over the past year and is now the pre eminent anti-piracy organisation in the UK.*

*Criminals made over £270 million from film piracy in 2005, making this the worst affected single sector for intellectual property crime out of all IP industries. This is revenue that has been lost to the local and national economy and is affecting British jobs."*

FACT works with Police and Trading Standards across the UK to ensure that those involved in film piracy are punished for their actions and we are starting to see some stronger sentencing meted out by the Courts.

- Ends

#### For further information:

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#### Notes to editors:

##### FACT 2006 court results include:

Gary Fenn from Ilford, Essex sentenced to 15 months imprisonment

Zhong Li, a Chinese national living in London, sentenced to four years imprisonment

Peter Spencer, from Bradford, West Yorkshire sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and an assets seizure of £55,000

#### About FACT

The Federation Against Copyright Theft is the UK's leading trade organisation established to protect and represent the interests of the film and broadcasting industry against copyright and trademark infringements. Established in 1983, FACT works closely with statutory law enforcement agencies to

combat the growth of pirate DVDs, film and other forms of broadcast material including the increasing threat from online/internet-based piracy. FACT has been accepted as a prosecution authority and engages in criminal prosecutions in its own right.

The maximum penalty for offences of film piracy is 10 years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine. Proceeds of Crime Act legislation now also enables confiscation of assets and goods obtained through criminal activity.

[www.fact-uk.org.uk](http://www.fact-uk.org.uk)

[www.piracyisacrime.com](http://www.piracyisacrime.com)

[www.allianceagainstiptheft.co.uk](http://www.allianceagainstiptheft.co.uk)