

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**9 September 2009**

### **Judge jails music pirate and warns: *respect artists' livelihood***

**SYDNEY: The principal of a piracy syndicate operating across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific was yesterday sentenced to 15 months jail and 300 hours community service in the Sydney District Court.**

Passing sentence, Judge Colin Charteris told Aisea Aholelei that his conduct and that of other music pirates was "robbing creators of the work of their livelihood".

"These are offences where the deterrence of others is paramount," he explained. "No penalty other than a period of imprisonment is appropriate. What you have done is rob the artists of their work and now you will have to give something back."

Aholelei had been convicted of 32 charges arising from the illegal manufacture of more than 50,000 remixed compilation albums and their distribution through a complex network across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

Judge Charteris said the parliament had made it clear that copyright theft was a serious crime and it was important the courts "protect performers and artists so they can be adequately rewarded for their efforts".

The piracy operation was dismantled by the Australian Federal Police and investigators from Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) on 22 April 2008, when 11 simultaneous search warrants were executed across Sydney.

The District Court ordered the jail sentence be conditionally suspended for a period of 3 years.

Criminal penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 and 5 years imprisonment per offence for individuals.

Further information and photographs are available from MIPI.

#### **Media inquiries and interviews with Dean Mitchell, Investigations Manager, MIPI contact:**

Samantha Hales: (02) 8569 1177  
After hours: 0466 362 374

#### ***About MIPI***

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI represents close to 125 music labels through their association, ARIA and over 2,000 music publishers and songwriters through their association, AMCOS. MIPI operates a free-call anti-piracy hotline at 1800 06 16 16.

[mipi@mipi.com.au](mailto:mipi@mipi.com.au)  
[www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au)

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd  
PO Box Q20, Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230  
Phone: +612 8569 1177  
Fax: +612 8569 1181  
[mipi@mipi.com.au](mailto:mipi@mipi.com.au)  
[www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au)

ABN: 90 071 726 906 ACN: 071 726 906