

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **THE PIRATE BAY CHARGED IN SWEDEN**

Operators of the world's largest BitTorrent tracker site, The Pirate Bay, were yesterday charged by Swedish prosecutors for preparing and participating in widespread copyright infringement. The charges follow the high profile raid of The Pirate Bay's premises by the Swedish Police in 2006.

The Pirate Bay, which is available in 25 languages in 30 countries, allows users across the world, including Australia, to search for and download indexed torrent files which contain key information required to illegally download copyright infringing files, including music and movies, from other users. The Pirate Bay's business model is predicated on selling advertising and the site boasts a reach to over 10 million users worldwide. The Pirate Bay pays nothing for the copyright infringing content that it uses to attract its audience.

Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) wrote to the Swedish Police in July 2007 to express support for their action against The Pirate Bay stating that "a significant number of peer-to-peer users in Australia are using BitTorrent protocols and relying on The Pirate Bay for their torrents. Accordingly, The Pirate Bay is of significant concern to the Australian music industry in facilitating illegal file sharing in Australia."

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI said "International sites like The Pirate Bay that facilitate widespread electronic copyright infringement significantly undermine the ability of Australian artists and songwriters to make a living from their craft. The decisive action of Swedish authorities to charge individuals involved in The Pirate Bay are welcomed by the Australian music industry."

Operators of The Pirate Bay facing charges are Carl Lundstrom, Peter Sunde, Frederik Neij and Gottfrid Svartholm Warg.

#### **Interviews:**

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#### **About MIPI**

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd ([www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au)) is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI members include large and small music labels through their association ARIA and singers and songwriters through their association AMCOS.