China mocks hapless - and hopeless - 'iPhone armour' smuggler

BEIJING, CHINA: A man nabbed for attempting to smuggle 94 smartphones into China by strapping them to his body was mocked by amused netizens on Tuesday after pictures of his 'iPhone armour' went viral...

Shenzhen by night. The wannabe iPhone smuggler was caught in the city with 'iPhone armour' - dozens of iPhones - attached to his body. (Image: Public Domain)

Online images of the man show him covered in dozens of handsets, held together under his outer clothes with cling-film and masking tape, with commentators comparing him to comic superhero Iron Man.

He was held in the southern city of Shenzhen as he tried to enter from neighbouring Hong Kong with his hidden cargo, the *People's Daily* said on Monday.

The former British colony is controlled by Beijing but maintains separate trade rules from the mainland under the "One country, two systems" principle.

"When the person passed through the metal detector gate, it made a loud and clear alarm," the report said.

Despite being made in China, iPhones are relatively expensive in the country, with many users having to sign up to long-term contracts with mobile companies, and there is a thriving trade in informal imports from Hong Kong.

Netizens on China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo labelled the man "Apple Man", using a Chinese character commonly used for superheroes, particularly Marvel's Iron Man.

"I just keep thinking this guy is trying to imitate Iron Man," one commented on Tuesday.

[Check out iPhone Man here](#).

Source: AFP, via I-Net Bridge