

Hacked Sony film raises US - N. Korea tensions

21st December, 2014



Tensions between the USA and North Korea are rising following the cyber-attack on the film company Sony Pictures, and the subsequent decision by Sony to cancel all screenings of its movie 'The Interview'. The cancelled film is a

political action comedy about two US journalists who arrange an interview with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un with the intention of assassinating him. A group calling itself The Guardians of Peace has claimed responsibility for the attack. It warned that it would attack 9/11 style any cinema that showed the movie. It also threatened Sony that it would put online more confidential data that could damage the company if it did not pull the movie.

Sony canceled the release of its movie "in the interests of public safety" after several US cinema chains refused to screen it. This has caused a storm of protest in America. President Obama said: "We cannot have a society in which some dictators some place can start imposing censorship here." He added: "Imagine what they start doing once they see a documentary that they don't like or news reports that they don't like." Senator John McCain called the cyber-attack "an act of war" and "the greatest blow to free speech" he had seen in his lifetime. Another politician said: "America has lost its first cyber-war." Actor Rob Lowe tweeted: "Everyone caved [in]. The hackers won. An utter and complete victory for them."

Sources: *CNN.com / sky.com / bbc.co.uk*

Writing

The movie 'The Interview' should never be screened. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tensions / film company / decisions / comedy / interview / responsibility / confidential / public safety / cinema / protest / censorship / documentary / free speech / hackers

True / False

- Tensions are rising between the USA and Sony Pictures. T / F
- The movie 'The Interview' is a documentary. T / F
- A group called The Guardians of Peace said it hacked Sony. T / F
- The group said it would not upload any more data about Sony. T / F
- Sony said it cancelled screenings because of fears about public safety. T / F
- President Obama said dictators could not censor things in the USA. T / F
- A senator said the canceling of the screenings greatly hurt free speech. T / F
- An actor said Sony was the victor against the hackers. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. tensions | a. objection |
| 2. subsequent | b. total |
| 3. intention | c. top secret |
| 4. threatened | d. collapsed |
| 5. confidential | e. following |
| 6. protest | f. disaster |
| 7. dictators | g. warned |
| 8. blow | h. strained relations |
| 9. caved in | i. autocrats |
| 10. utter | j. aim |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the movie 'The Interview'?
- How serious is this incident between the US and N. Korea?
- Was Sony right to cancel screenings of the movie?
- Is it OK to make movies about killing world leaders?
- Would you go to see this movie in the USA?
- How serious a threat is hacking to world security?
- How much power do hackers have over countries?
- What implications does this story have for the movie industry?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. the subsequent | a. responsibility |
| 2. a political action | b. to free speech |
| 3. The Guardians of Peace has claimed | c. data |
| 4. It also threatened | d. of public safety |
| 5. confidential | e. of protest |
| 6. in the interests | f. Sony |
| 7. This has caused a storm | g. victory for them |
| 8. an act | h. decision by Sony |
| 9. the greatest blow | i. of war |
| 10. An utter and complete | j. comedy |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you understand the "storm of protest" in the USA?
- What do you think about President Obama's thoughts on dictators?
- What do you think of censorship?
- How might the attack on Sony be an "act of war"?
- Does free speech mean you can make movies about killing someone?
- Has America lost its first cyber-war?
- How has this cyber-attack changed the world?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of Sony?

Spelling

- itnosesn between the USA and North Korea
- the eeunqusbst decision by Sony
- cancel all rceisnnsge of its movie
- two US asjsoritnul
- with the intention of sniastsasigan him
- lctiifeodann data
- in the rtsitesne of public safety
- a storm of sottrpe
- start imposing hpoicrnsse
- they see a uecoyntmard
- rSnoeta John McCain
- Another tpoincalii said...

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. g	5. c
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. d	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Comedies

You think comedies are the best kind of movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movies aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): science fiction, romantic dramas or action.

Role B – Science fiction

You think science fiction is the best kind of movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movies aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): comedies, romantic dramas or action.

Role C – Romantic dramas

You think romantic dramas are the best kind of movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movies aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): science fiction, comedies or action.

Role D – Action

You think action is the best kind of movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their movies aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): science fiction, romantic dramas or comedies.

Speaking – Movies

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| • comedies | • action |
| • sci-fi | • animation |
| • mysteries | • animal stories |
| • horror | • romance |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.