

Are People Violating the First Amendment? by Katherine Rodriguez

Are we upholding the first amendment? The first amendment is freedom of the press, religion, and speech. With my knowledge about two incidents that occurred recently, I believe people are not respecting the freedom of the press. The movie, "*The Interview*" was considered unsuitable to show to audiences. The movie was almost cancelled. Charlie Hebdo is a newspaper in Paris, France. From their recent cartoon, terrorists attacked Paris. All the amendments must be followed, finding laws. People are breaking the law of the first amendment, and it needs to stop.

This month, Charlie Hebdo created and published a cartoon of Muhammad. Muhammad is an Islamic prophet, and a major figure in the Muslim faith- much like Jesus in the Christian religion. Some Islamic extremists were very angry and decided to attack the satirical magazine. They killed twelve people that day. I don't like how the newspaper published a cartoon that could potentially disrespect Islam and its people, but the press has the freedom and the right to publish whatever they want. The terrorists did not just kill the people that were involved with this newspaper, they also shot an innocent policewoman. That is wrong, because shooting people that were not even involved is an excuse to kill. In my opinion, I know that the terrorists were offended, but I believe that their actions were unnecessarily ruthless, they could have voiced their opinions differently- perhaps in a more peaceful way. The terrorists also held a group of people hostage, and shot four of them soon after. What the terrorists did, completely violated the first amendment, because the newspaper had every right to publish this, and they took this right from them.

Sony, in my opinion, violated the first amendment. North Korea wrote several threats to Sony if they released the movie, "*The Interview*". North Korea sent emails to Sony stating that they will have terrorist attacks at the movie theaters if they show this movie. North Korea very much influenced Sony to consider cancelling the release of the movie. President Obama declared that in his opinion, Sony should release the movie. Although President Obama did not make Sony release the movie, Sony realized that they were allowed the freedom to express their views, and decided to take the President's encouragement, and release the film.

On the other hand, Charlie Hebdo disrespected the Muslim faith. In Islam, they believe that it is forbidden to draw pictures or cartoons of Muhammad, let alone ridicule him. Many Muslims felt that their religion was disregarded. The movie, "*The Interview*" is about assassinating the North Korea leader, Kim Jong Un. While Kim Jong Un has a reputation of being cruel and hostile, he is still a human being. No one would want to learn that a movie that is soon to be released around the world, is about someone attempting to assassinate you. The movie could also potentially put the U.S. in danger. The U.S. and North Korea do not get along. By releasing this movie, it was not a surprise that North Korea would be angry. Why would Sony want to add fuel to the fire?

Although, "*The Interview*" and Charlie Hebdo have a negative message, the first amendment states that the press has the freedom to write what they wish- with no punishment. It is important to uphold and respect all of the amendments. The amendment says that with this freedom being used, there should be no punishment saying to stop what the press publishes. Killing twelve people and sending threats to movie theaters about possible terrorist attacks, not only violates the amendment, but violates our most standard and basic human rights of: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, all around the globe. If more and more incidents like this happen, people will forget the true meaning of having the simple power of our own words, just as Steve Jobs once wisely remarked, "Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your inner voice."