General Information

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Description

Cartoonists around the world honor the victims of the massacre at Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris. On January 7, 2015, two masked gunmen entered the offices of the French satirical magazine, killing 12 people, including the editor and several top cartoonists.

Keywords


Citation

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"Cartoonists Across the World React to Paris Terrorist Attack with the Pen." Peter Alexander, correspondent. NBC Nightly News. NBCUniversal Media. 8 Jan. 2015. NBC Learn. Web. 8 September 2018


Transcript
Cartoonists Across the World React to Paris Terrorist Attack with the Pen

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
Finally tonight, a story about the positive backlash that followed a very bad day in Paris. If the terrorists who attacked the offices of that French magazine were attempting to silence it, their efforts have been an abject failure. The magazine normally prints about 60,000 copies a week. It's instead going to do a print run of a million copies for next week's edition. Thanks to one large donation helping to pay for it. It's part of a huge outpouring of support and grief for the victims all over the world. That story tonight from NBC's Peter Alexander.

PETER ALEXANDER, reporting:
Across the globe today, ordinary people drew their weapons. Instead of bullets, the only lead they lifted--at the tip of a pencil. These images, the most powerful prove free speech won't bow to terrorism. From the streets of Paris, no fear it reads; to this vigil in Sydney where Australians sang the French national anthem. At The Washington Post--

TOM TOLES: It felt like an attack on me and my work.
ALEXANDER: --Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Tom Toles' first reaction to the Paris shooting was shock, then anger and finally action. The finished product, "But the pen will endure," he writes.

TOLES: I wanted to take the tools I use and-- and speak immediately to that, and as forcefully as I could.
ALEXANDER: Like any good image, most of today's cartoons didn't need a caption: This from Lucille Clerc, where a broken pen becomes two; James MacLeod of the Evansville Courier and Press; Darrin Bell of the Washington Post Writers Group; the rallying cry, "Je Suis Charlie," I Am Charlie, from French artist Jean Jullien to a British magazine, The Rocking Vicar. The message indelible on social media, too.
The Philadelphia Inquirer's Signe Wilkinson.

SIGNE WILKINSON: Cartoons don't kill people. Humorless fanatics kill people.

ALEXANDER: On late-night TV, Jon Stewart's humor took a pause.

JON STEWART (Comedy Central/The Daily Show with Jon Stewart): I know very few people go into comedy, you know, as an act of courage. But those guys at Hebdo had it and they were killed for their cartoons.

ALEXANDER: "The pen is mightier than the sword" was first written more than a century ago. But those words have renewed meaning today. Peter Alexander, NBC News, Washington.