

Man dragged off plane will sue United Airlines

16th April, 2017



An American airline is in trouble for the way it treated one of its passengers. A passenger on a United Airlines flight was dragged out of his seat and pulled out of

the aircraft along the floor of the airplane. The passenger, David Dao, was a 69-year-old doctor. Dr Dao became unconscious after security guards pulled him out of his seat. His face was covered in blood. He lost two front teeth and the security guards also broke his nose. The doctor paid for his seat but United Airlines ordered him to get off the plane because they wanted his seat for a flight attendant to sit down. The doctor explained he had to work the next day because he had many patients to see at his hospital. United staff didn't listen to him.

Dr Dao is going to sue United Airlines for damages. Dao was born in Vietnam and escaped from the Vietnam War in 1975. His lawyer said being dragged off the United Airlines flight was a "more horrifying" experience than living through that war. Dr Dao's daughter said: "What happened to my dad should have never happened to any human being....We were horrified and shocked and sickened to...see what happened to him." A video of Dr Dao being dragged off the flight went viral on social media. Over 150,000 people have signed an online petition asking the United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz to resign. He said he would not resign. He also initially did not apologize and said Dr Dao was at fault for his injuries.

Sources: bbc.com / chicagotribune.com / newsweek.com

Writing

Airlines care more about money than people. Their service should be better. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

in trouble / passengers / aircraft / unconscious / blood / flight attendant / patients / sue / lawyer / horrifying / human being / shocked / social media / online / petition

True / False

- An American airline gave a treat to one of its passengers. T / F
- The passenger dragged along the floor was a male doctor, aged 69. T / F
- The passenger lost two of his bottom teeth. T / F
- The passenger said the United Airlines staff listened carefully to him. T / F
- The passenger was born in Vietnam and escaped from the war there. T / F
- The passenger said the Vietnam War was worse than the United flight. T / F
- Over 150,000 people signed a petition asking the United boss to resign. T / F
- The United CEO first said the passenger was at fault for his injuries. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. in trouble | a. spread quickly |
| 2. dragged | b. knocked out |
| 3. unconscious | c. instructed |
| 4. get off | d. to blame |
| 5. ordered | e. frightening |
| 6. escaped | f. having difficulties |
| 7. horrifying | g. leave |
| 8. went viral | h. wounds |
| 9. at fault | i. pulled |
| 10. injuries | j. fled |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of United Airlines after reading this story?
- What is your favourite airline and why?
- What do you like about flying?
- How bad is what United did to the doctor?
- How can United treat a 69-year-old person the way it did?
- What should United Airlines do for the man to apologize?
- Why did a flight attendant need a seat that a passenger paid for?
- What advice do you have for United Airlines?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. An American airline is in
 2. the way it treated one
 3. His face was covered
 4. flight
 5. he had many patients
 6. Dr Dao is going to sue United Airlines
 7. human
 8. went viral
 9. Over 150,000 people have signed
 10. Dr Dao was at
- a. for damages
 - b. attendant
 - c. on social media
 - d. of its passengers
 - e. fault
 - f. trouble
 - g. an online petition
 - h. in blood
 - i. to see at his hospital
 - j. being

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How can airlines give a better service to passengers?
- c) What do you think United will say in court?
- d) How shocking is this news?
- e) Should United's CEO resign?
- f) How can the CEO say it was the man's fault he was injured?
- g) Would you fly with United Airlines?
- h) What questions would you like to ask United's CEO?

Spelling

1. An American airline is in rbtuoel
2. A seneparsg on a United Airlines flight
3. isreutcy guards
4. His face was covered in ldboo
5. flight ntanatdte
6. he had many stetnipa to see at his hospital
7. sue United Airlines for egsdmaa
8. cpedsea from the Vietnam War
9. auhnm being
10. signed an online ionttiep
11. He said he would not gsrine
12. Dao was at uflat for his injuries

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Money

You think money is the best thing about being a flight attendant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): world travel, meeting people or good image.

Role B – World Travel

You think world travel is the best thing about being a flight attendant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): money, meeting people or good image.

Role C – Meeting People

You think meeting people is the best thing about being a flight attendant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): world travel, money or good image.

Role D – Good Image

You think having a good image is the best thing about being a flight attendant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): world travel, meeting people or money.

Speaking – Flight attendant

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about being a flight attendant at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- free flights
- working hours
- good image
- money
- nice uniform
- get to meet people
- world travel
- hotel stays

Answers – True False

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