

Facebook puts back censored Vietnam photo

9th September, 2016



Facebook has reversed its decision to block a famous photograph of the Vietnam War on its website. The photo is of a naked, 9-year-old Vietnamese girl and other terrified children running away from a napalm attack

in South Vietnam. The napalm badly burnt her back. The iconic photograph was taken by Associated Press photographer Nick Ut and won a Pulitzer Prize for photojournalism. However, Facebook banned the photo from its site because the child in the photo is naked. Facebook got a lot of complaints after the ban. Even the president of Norway, Erna Solberg, criticised Facebook. She said the photo was an important part of history and that Facebook was editing history by erasing the image.

Ms Solberg explained why she was so angry. She said: "They must see the difference between editing out child pornography and editing out history." She wrote on her own Facebook page: "I want my children and other children to grow up in a society where history is taught as it was." After Facebook decided to allow the photo back on its pages, a spokesperson made a comment, saying: "An image of a naked child would normally be presumed to violate our community standards, and in some countries might even qualify as child pornography. In [the case of the 'Napalm Girl' photograph], we recognize the history and global importance of this image in documenting a particular moment in time."

Sources: cnbc.com / NYTimes.com / BangkokPost.com

Writing

There should be no naked bodies in art or newspaper photos. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

decision / block / famous / photograph / terrified / iconic / prize / journalism / history / angry / children / society / comment / image / standards / global / importance

True / False

- The photo Facebook block wasn't at all famous. T / F
- The photo was taken in the north of Vietnam. T / F
- The photographer won a prize for the photo. T / F
- The president of Norway complained that the photo was banned. T / F
- Norway's president said Facebook was editing out history. T / F
- Norway's president does not have a Facebook account. T / F
- Facebook did not comment on the photo. T / F
- Facebook said it recognized the historical importance of the photo. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. reversed | a. let |
| 2. block | b. frightened |
| 3. terrified | c. received |
| 4. got | d. example |
| 5. erasing | e. backtracked on |
| 6. angry | f. guidelines |
| 7. allow | g. recording |
| 8. standards | h. bar |
| 9. case | i. furious |
| 10. documenting | j. deleting |

Discussion – Student A

- Should the ban stay because the 9-year-old girl is naked?
- What do you think the girl in the photo thinks of this news?
- Should paintings of nude people be allowed on Facebook?
- What movies have you seen about the Vietnam War?
- What do you think of nudity in art?
- Is there too much flesh on TV and the Internet nowadays?
- Is the photo an example of pornography?
- What questions would you like to ask Facebook's boss?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- Facebook has reversed
- terrified children
- iconic
- Facebook got a
- editing history
- They must
- a society where history is
- violate our community
- child
- documenting a particular moment
- taught as it was
- by erasing the image
- standards
- running away
- in time
- its decision
- photograph
- pornography
- lot of complaints after the ban
- see the difference

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Vietnam War?
- What photos have you seen on the Vietnam War?
- What do you know about the 'Napalm Girl' photograph?
- Was Facebook right to ban the 'Napalm Girl' photograph?
- What do you think about Facebook?
- Is there ever a time when war photos should be banned?
- What do you think it's like to be a war photographer?
- Was Facebook trying to erase history?

Spelling

- Facebook has reversed its doiceins
- block a ufmaso photograph
- other ifitdrree children running away
- The iioccn photograph
- Facebook adbnen the photo
- Facebook got a lot of mcpnsoliat
- igtiedn out history
- grow up in a otsyeci
- tconiuymm standards
- might even flauiqy
- ogblal importance
- a upclairrt moment in time

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Facebook

You think Facebook is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Google, YouTube or Wikipedia.

Role B – Google

You think Google is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Facebook, YouTube or Wikipedia.

Role C – YouTube

You think YouTube is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Google, Facebook or Wikipedia.

Role D – Wikipedia

You think Wikipedia is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Google, YouTube or Facebook.

Speaking – Websites

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

- YouTube
- Wikipedia
- Amazon
- Instagram
- Facebook
- WhatsApp
- Google
- Twitter

Answers – True False

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