Boston bombings: Czech Republic is not Chechnya

22nd April, 2013

via https://www.cia.gov

The Czech Republic's ambassador to the United States has made it very clear that his country is not Chechnya. He was alarmed that many U.S. social media users were leaving messages on Twitter and Facebook to say that the Boston Marathon bombers were from the Czech Republic. Many of the posts called for America to get revenge on the Czech Republic. The ambassador, Petr Gandalovič, put a statement on the Czech embassy website to educate people about the difference between his country and Chechnya. It read: "The Czech Republic and Chechnya are two very different entities - the Czech Republic is a Central European country; Chechnya is a part of the Russian Federation."

The Czech president reminded Americans that his country is a U.S. ally. He said: "The Czech Republic is an active and reliable partner of the U.S. in the fight against terrorism. We…stand side by side with our allies." In another Internet mix-up, social media users played online "detectives" and revealed the name of an innocent man they believed was the main suspect in the bombings. One poster said: "I'd like to extend the deepest apologies to the family of [the wrongly accused] for any part we may have had in relaying… faulty information." Meanwhile, an expert American interrogation team is waiting to question the real suspect, 19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who is in serious but stable condition in hospital.

Sources: *RIA / BBC / Wikipedia*

Writing

We will never win the war on terrorism. Discuss

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

ambassador / alarmed / social media / embassy / educate / Czech Republic / Chechnya / a US ally / reliable partner / detectives / main suspect / apologies / suspect

True / False

a) The Czech ambassador to the USA was alarmed by social media users. T / F

b) People were confusing the Czech Republic with Chechnya. T / F

c) The ambassador made a statement on US TV to educate people. T / F

d) The ambassador made a mistake about where Chechnya was. T / F

e) The Czech president said we wanted his country to become a US ally. T / F

f) Online "detectives" named a "suspect" who was an innocent man. T / F

g) One of the "detectives" apologized to the man and his family. T / F

h) An interrogation team has already started questioning the suspect. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	clear	a.	posts
2	alarmed	b.	trustworthy
3.	messages	c.	teach
4.	educate	d.	upset
5.	entities	e.	questioning
6.	ally	f.	safe
7.	reliable	g.	understandable
8.	faulty	h.	partner
9.	interrogation	i.	incorrect
10.	stable	j.	things

Discussion – Student A

a) Do you think the Boston Bombers acted alone?

b) Do you think the War on Terror will ever end?

c) What should happen to the suspect now in police custody?

d) Does what happened in Boston make you worry more about the world?

e) Do you think the police will find out why the bombers attacked Boston?

f) How wrong is it to name people you think are suspects online?

g) Do you ever mix up different countries?

h) What questions would you like to ask the head of the interrogators?

Phrase Match

1.	made it	a.	the real suspect
2	get	b.	is a U.S. ally
3.	educate people	c.	entities
4.	two very different	d.	very clear
5.	Chechnya is a part	e.	with our allies
6.	his country	f.	about the difference
7.	stand side by side	g.	revenge
8.	deepest	h.	of the Russian Federation
9.	waiting to question	i.	stable condition
10.	in serious but	j.	apologies

Discussion – Student B

a) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'terrorism'?

b) What do you think about what you read?

c) Do you think the ambassador was right to be alarmed?

d) What are the differences between the Czech Republic and Chechnya?

e) Why don't people know the difference?

f) How did you find out about the Boston Marathon bombings?

g) Was it better to follow the news on TV or social media sites?

h) What are the differences between TV news and news on social media?

Spelling

1. rsaasmbado to the United States

2. He was lemrdaa

3. get rnvgeee

4. sbemyas website

5. two very different seititne

6. a part of the Russian aFnoetired

7. a U.S. ylal

8. an active and eraelbil partner

9. an nnncotei man

10. lafytu information

11. igntrtoreaion team

12. in oeurssi but stable condition

Role Play

Role A – Police chief
You think that social media does not help the work of your officers when there is a manhunt. Tell the others three reasons why. You would like your government to shut down all social media sites so the police can do a better job of catching suspects.

Role B – Social media boss
You think that social media is very, very useful when police are looking for a suspect. Tell the others three reasons why. You think that shutting down social media sites during a manhunt is a very silly idea. People need to know what is going on and stay in touch with each other.

Role C – Country's president
You are worried about the role social media sites play when the police and detectives are hunting a suspected terrorist. Tell the others three reasons why. You want to put controls on what people can post online, but you don't want to shut down the social media sites.

Role D – Average Jo
You are very grateful that social media sites provided so much useful information about the manhunt. Tell the others three reasons why. Twitter was always first with news. Posts on Twitter could tell people what to do in an emergency better than TV could.

Speaking

Which of these sources do you trust most? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most trusted at the top. Change partners often.

- Twitter
- your government
- BBC
- Al Jazeera
- your national TV news
- CNN
- a police spokesperson
- other _____

Answers – True False

a T	b T	c F	d F	e F	f T	g T	h F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

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