

U.S. rock group banned from Russia

6th August, 2013



A rock group from the USA have been banned from performing at a music festival in Russia after a band member stuffed the Russian flag inside his pants.

Jared Hasselhoff, the bass player with the band Bloodhound Gang, was filmed pushing the flag into the front of his pants and pulling it out the back. The band were performing at a concert in the Ukrainian city of Odessa on July 31st. Hasselhoff grabbed the flag and yelled to the crowd, "Don't tell Putin," before his stunt. His antics led Russia's Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky to describe the band as "idiots" and banned them from playing their scheduled slot at Russia's Kubana music festival this week. Hasselhoff later apologised for his actions.

The band are still in Russia and may face criminal charges. Alexander Tkachyov, the governor of the region holding the festival, tweeted: "For such pranks they should be behind bars." Russian lawmaker Vladimir Markin told reporters: "A crime defined by Article 329 of the Russian Criminal Code is the defiling of the Russian state flag. This crime has been committed and this is a premeditated offense." He added: "We will do our best to identify and bring to court every person involved." A comment posted on the Voice of Russia website called Hasselhoff's actions an "unpardonable and inexcusable criminal act" that breached Russian laws and insulted Russians worldwide.

Sources: BBC / RIA / RUVR

Writing

People should take great pride in their own national flag and respect the flags of other nations. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rock group / banned / music festival / national flag / performing / idiots / apologized / criminal charges / be behind bars / premeditated / identify / unpardonable / insulted

True / False

- An American rock band have been banned from singing in Russia. T / F
- The bass player put Russia's flag in his pants at a concert in Moscow. T / F
- Russia's Culture Minister said the band members were idiots. T / F
- The bass player has yet to apologise for what he did. T / F
- It's possible the band could go to court over what happened. T / F
- A Russian governor said the band should go to prison. T / F
- It is not a crime to disrespect the Russian flag. T / F
- A post on a Russian website urged Russians to forgive the band. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. banned | a. broke |
| 2. stuffed | b. fools |
| 3. yelled | c. timetabled |
| 4. idiots | d. crime |
| 5. scheduled | e. come up against |
| 6. face | f. in prison |
| 7. behind bars | g. prohibited |
| 8. offense | h. slandered |
| 9. breached | i. pushed |
| 10. insulted | j. cried out |

Discussion – Student A

- Should the band be behind bars?
- How does your flag make you feel?
- Do bands have a responsibility to behave when in other countries?
- What do you think of people burning flags from other countries on the news?
- Besides your own, what's the best flag in the world?
- How will Hasselhoff's actions affect the band's image?
- Was what Hasselhoff did "unpardonable and inexcusable"?
- What questions would you like to ask Jared Hasselhoff?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. banned from performing | a. holding the festival |
| 2. the bass | b. offense |
| 3. describe the band | c. slot |
| 4. playing their scheduled | d. at a music festival |
| 5. Hasselhoff later apologised | e. behind bars |
| 6. face criminal | f. player with the band |
| 7. the governor of the region | g. inexcusable criminal act |
| 8. For such pranks they should be | h. for his actions |
| 9. this is a premeditated | i. charges |
| 10. an unpardonable and | j. as "idiots" |

Discussion – Student B

- How important is your national flag to you?
- What do you know about the history of your flag?
- What do you think of Jared Hasselhoff's actions?
- How would you feel if someone did that to your flag?
- Would it be different if a Russian did that to their flag?
- Why do you think Hasselhoff did what he did?
- Is it right to ban the band from performing in Russia?
- How far will Hasselhoff's apologies go?

Spelling

- banned from iermrfqpn
- ftsfdue the Russian flag inside his pants
- at a tconrec in the Ukrainian city of Odessa
- describe the band as "isoidt"
- playing their euscddh slot
- Hasselhoff later adsgeliopo (UK) / azioeqdpol (USA)
- face riimcan charges
- the eogrin holding the festival
- finlidge of the Russian state flag
- a premeditated esnfeof
- becalxenusi criminal act
- eacrdhbe Russian laws

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – National flag

You think the national flag is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the national anthem, the national sports team or the national cuisine.

Role B – National anthem

You think the national anthem is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the national flag, the national sports team or the national cuisine.

Role C – National sports team

You think the national sports team is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the national anthem, the national flag or the national cuisine.

Role D – National cuisine

You think the national cuisine is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the national anthem, the national sports team or the national flag.

Speaking - Pride

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the times you feel most proud of your flag at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| • at the Olympics | • on a soldier's uniform |
| • as a tattoo | • at a national celebration |
| • in space | • going into your country |
| • at the United Nations | • at an environmental summit |

Answers – True False

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