

The NBA Gives in to China's Pressure

Read the article and fill in the gaps using words in the box.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) has been in the news lately due to controversy over _____ made by one of its managers. Daryl Morey, the owner of the Houston Rockets, supported people who are fighting for their rights in Hong Kong, a _____ that is ruled by the Chinese government. His comments angered the People's Republic of China, and the _____ threatened to stop doing business with the NBA. The basketball league has an agreement with China to _____ games to the Chinese people. This deal makes the NBA a large sum of money.

The Chinese government threatened to stop the agreement because of Morey's comments. The NBA responded by _____ to China for the owner's remarks _____ the Hong Kong protesters, who want the same rights that Americans enjoy in the United States. Later, the Houston Rockets owner apologized on Twitter, saying, "I did not intend my tweets to cause any _____ to Rockets fans and friends of mine in China."

Free Speech

The right to _____ of expression stops the U.S. _____ from punishing Americans who express their opinions. While it keeps citizens safe from the government, it does not protect people from other _____ that can result from a point of view that others do not like.

The notion of free speech is _____ in American culture. Americans have supported the idea that people should be allowed to express their _____ openly, even if nobody else likes them, without being punished.

Communism and Free Speech

The People's Republic of China is led by a communist government and Chinese citizens do not enjoy the _____ to free speech. They can speak freely as long as they do not say anything negative about the government.

If a Chinese person makes comments that criticize the communists in charge, they could be arrested and put in prison. The country is well known for punishing people who speak out against Chinese _____. Now, international business deals are threatened when Americans criticize the Chinese government.

Free speech is one of the most important rights protected by the _____. Without it, Americans would be unable to say what they want. They would live in the fear that they might say something to catch the attention of the state. For this, Americans should be grateful for the First Amendment and fight hard to _____ it.

ingrained	regarding	comments	consequences	Constitution	city
offense	protect	country	right	politicians	freedom
thoughts		government	apologizing		broadcast