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Censorship Group Removes Wikipedia Blacklisting

› By [David Kravets](#)

› 12.09.08

› 2:58 PM



Wikipedia's functionality was returning to normal Tuesday after an internet watchdog group removed the online encyclopedia from a child porn watchlist.

The brouhaha began Saturday, when the England-based Internet Watch Foundation placed Wikipedia on a watchlist because of the encyclopedia's entry about the German rock band, Scorpions. The cover art of its 1976 album, *Virgin Killer*, shows a nude young girl on the cover. In response to the blacklisting, British internet service providers filtered out the entry and pushed the site through a proxy server, [forcing Wikipedia to halt public](#) edits while the site functioned at a snail's pace.

"Millions of Britons now have access to all of Wikipedia, and volunteers can resume their important editing work," said Sue Gardner, executive director of San Francisco-based Wikimedia Foundation, which runs Wikipedia.

The IWF on Tuesday said that, "in light of the length of time the image has existed and its wide availability, the decision has been taken to remove the webpage from our list."

Nearly all-British internet service providers follow the IWF filtering guidelines. Wikipedia had appealed the IWF blacklisting. The IWF was bombarded with complaints.

Ironically, news accounts of the filtering promoted the album cover, and it was posted widely on the internet — a factor the IWF said it considered when removing Wikipedia from its censorship watch.

"IWF's overriding objective is to minimize the availability of indecent images of children on the internet, however, on this occasion our efforts have had the opposite effect," [the group said in a statement](#)

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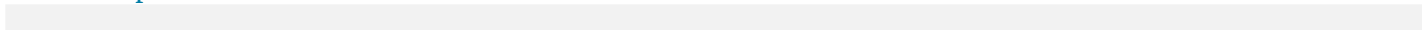


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L.O. · 4 years ago

IWF = fail

LOL!

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Dalkorian · 4 years ago

Don't get me wrong, I think it's quaint that you guys love your guns so much, but was the right to own a weapon with exploding bullets able to stop the PATRIOT act going through?

Does your precious gun stop the government from wiretapping your conversations?

Posted by: J | Dec 10, 2008 8:56:09 PM

No J, you got us there. But it does keep the king of England out of our faces! (LOL!)

.
Oh, and when that mountain lion (or grizzly bear, or african elephant) comes rampaging thought your living room, you'll be jealous of us then, I tell you what.

;-)

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J · 4 years ago

"So the Great Britan still has a spine, I figured it dissappeared when you let your guns and cigarettes to be taken away..."

Mmm. No idea what you're on about with the cigarettes, but civilised western countries got over the whole "right to bear arms" thing back when the world ran out of frontiers and colonies.

Don't get me wrong, I think it's quaint that you guys love your guns so much, but was the right to own a weapon with exploding bullets able to stop the PATRIOT act going through?

Does your precious gun stop the government from wiretapping your conversations?

Take out the log in your own eye before commenting on the speck in others'.

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Zerg · 4 years ago

Hey Mako. Never has there been any data that said there was any at all pedophiles (which is an invented word anyway) on wikipedia.

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Mako · 4 years ago

EDIT: Meant to sav "is middle aged nowadavs" but that should be obvious if you don't travel with

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