

Brazil's Coelho offers \$100,000 for N. Korea parody film

December 19 2014

Brazilian author Paulo Coelho offered Thursday to pay Sony \$100,000 for rights to "The Interview," protesting the company's decision to scrap the North Korean parody film amid chilling threats from hackers.

Sony Pictures canceled the December 25 release of the film after after major theater chains in the United States and Canada said they would not screen the madcap comedy in which two television journalists are recruited to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un.

Skittishness about attending the movie followed threats by a hacking group calling itself GOP (Guardians of Peace), which invoked the September 11, 2001 attacks in an ominous warning to any moviegoers planning to see the film.

Sony's decision sparked protest from [free speech](#) advocates and foreign policy hawks.

"I offer @SonyPictures 100k for the rights of 'The Interview' I will post it free on my blog. Pls get in touch with me via @SonyPicturesBr," Coelho wrote on his Twitter account.

He later added: "Offer to @SonyPictures stands till Fri 12:00 AM. You recover 0,01% of the budget, & I can say NO to terrorist threats."

The author of "The Alchemist" told Brazil newspaper O Globo the canceled release "set a terrible precedent."

"It's a threat that works. It's like the terrorists win," he said, likening the move to when British-Indian author Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" was burned and banned in Muslim countries, but said "this is even more serious."

In addition to the threat against cinema-goers, Sony was hacked and a trove of embarrassing emails, scripts and other internal communications—including information about employee salaries and health records—was leaked.

North Korea has denied involvement in the brazen November 24 cyber attack against Sony, which experts say could have been carried out by disgruntled Sony workers or by supporters of a foreign power.

© 2014 AFP

Citation: Brazil's Coelho offers \$100,000 for N. Korea parody film (2014, December 19)
retrieved 26 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-12-brazil-coelho-korea-parody.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.