

千夫所指

qian1 fu1 suo3 zhi3

An American dentist killed a beloved national park lion and triggered international outrage (憤恨). “Cecil the lion” was an “iconic” attraction among international visitors to Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe (津巴布韋). He was recently lured outside the reserve’s (保護區) boundaries by bait and killed.

The dentist, an experienced trophy hunter from Minnesota, said he had no idea that the lion was special until the end of the hunt.

But his “explanation” does not seem to have pacified (平息) the waves of criticism around the world. His Twitter and Facebook accounts and dental practice website were shut down, being flooded with blistering (激烈的) attacks.

When you do something that angers the public, you will end up in a situation like that of the dentist-hunter - “千夫所指” (*qian1 fu1 suo3 zhi3*). “千” (*qian1*) is “one thousand,” “夫” (*fu1*) is “man,”

Idiom by Lon Yan

“所” (*suo3*) means “that which” and “指” (*zhi3*) is “to point.” Literally, “千夫所指” is “a thousand men that which point.”

The character “指” (*zhi3*) can also mean “finger,” and the fingers in this context are accusing ones. If someone is facing “one thousand accusing fingers,” he or she is being universally condemned, condemned by the public, or be up for general castigation (嚴厲批評).

“千夫所指” (*qian1 fu1 suo3 zhi3*) is sometimes used together with “無疾而死” (*wu2 ji2 er2 si3*), which means “die without illness.” Together, the expression “千夫所指，無疾而死” (*qian1 fu1 suo3 zhi3 wu2 ji2 er2 si3*) means if a person is hated by all, he or she cannot expect to live long.

Terms containing the character “指” (*zhi3*) include:

指揮 (*zhi3 hui1*) - to direct

指教 (*zhi3 jiao4*) - to advise, instruct

指紋 (*zhi3 wen2*) - fingerprint

指摘 (*zhi3 zhai1*) - point out (mistakes)