

JJ Redick claims he misspoke in Chinese New Year video with apparent racial slur

Sixers guard JJ Redick appeared to drop a slur into a video celebrating the Chinese New Year. (AP Photo)

NBA All-Star weekend has taken a rather unfortunate turn for Philadelphia 76ers guard JJ Redick.

In a video featuring numerous league stars and coaches wishing China a happy new year, a clip of Redick offering his best wishes appeared to feature a racial slur. As soon as the video was released, social media lit up with outrage over Redick's words and a new cut of the montage was released with the Redick scene taken out.

The video was not produced by the NBA, but has received an excess of attention regardless.

Redick tweeted a statement on the matter early Sunday afternoon in which he claims he was tongue tied and stumbled over his words.

That may very well have been the case — it appeared as if he was trying to say "NBA China" — but isn't an excuse either.

We'll see if there is any action taken by the NBA or the Sixers. NBA outreach has grown exponentially in China in recent years with some of the league's stars becoming as big overseas as they are in the United States. Mistake or not, this isn't the type of action that goes unnoticed.

Blake Schuster is a writer for Ball Don't Lie on Yahoo Sports. Have a tip? Email him at blakeschuster@yahoo.com or follow him on Twitter! Follow @Schustee

More NBA coverage from Yahoo Sports: • 'Starstruck' rookie pulls upset in NBA Dunk Contest • Report: Knicks coach Homecek shoved Joakim Noah during argument • Durant blames himself for beef with Westbrook • NBA star throws down heroic 'Black Panther' dunk • LeBron to Fox News: 'Thank you, whatever her name is'

JJ Redick: NBA star apologises after 'racist' video outrage

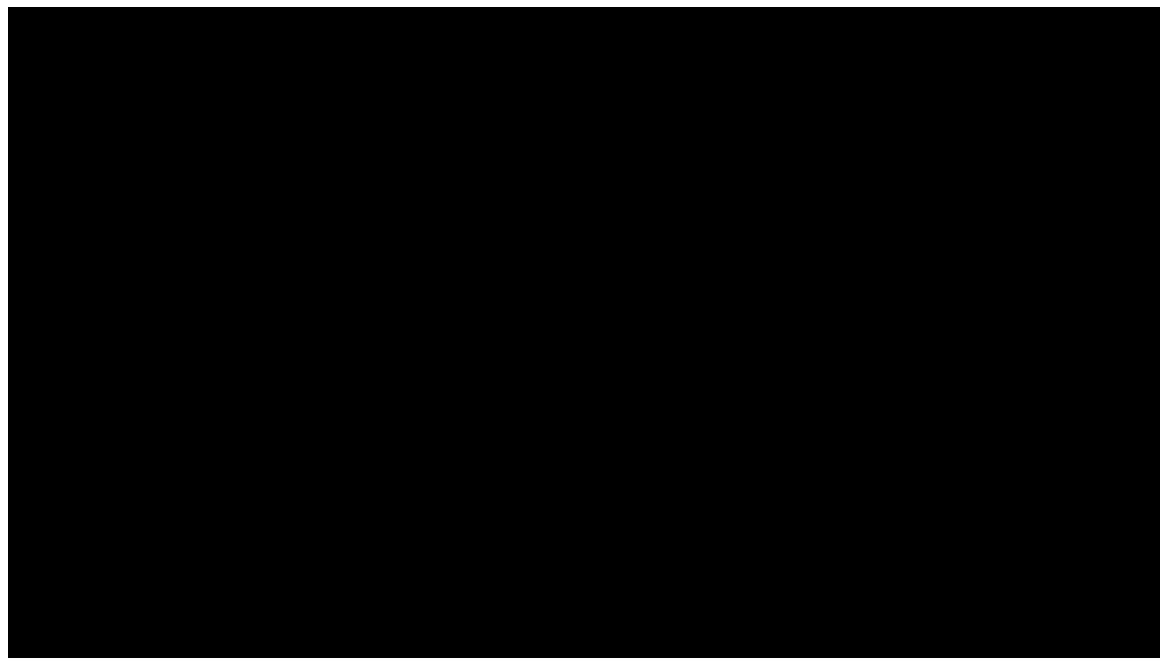


Image source, MakeMalik/Sina

Weibo

A basketball player has apologised after a video of him allegedly using a racial slur was widely shared online.

Social media users claim Philadelphia 76ers player JJ Redick used a derogatory term when taking part in a video compilation of NBA stars wishing fans a happy Chinese New Year.

A reaction video to the compilation, and especially Redick's comment, posted on China's social media platform Weibo by user MakeMalik has been viewed over 16 million times.

Redick has claimed he was "tongue-tied" and has apologised.

Redick took to Twitter to dispute the claims, writing: "Clearly I was tongue-tied, as the word I purportedly said is not in my vocabulary. I'm disappointed that anyone would think I would use that word."

He later said he was "so sorry for upsetting anyone," and gave an explanation of how the video was filmed.

"I was intending to say 'NBA Chinese fans,'" he wrote. "It sounded weird in my mind so I changed it mid-sentence to 'NBA fans in China'.

"It came out the wrong way."

A Chinese translation of the apology has also been shared to Weibo, with users disputing the apology's sincerity.

The reaction has generally been negative, with one user calling it "definitely an insult," and another telling the NBA to apologise.

Meanwhile, other users have drawn parallels between the comment and China's own Lunar New Year TV show, which featured a sketch where an actress wore blackface.

But Asian-American basketball player Jeremy Lin, who recently tweeted his frustration at people using racial slurs, particularly the one Redick is accused of using, has been largely praised after coming to the defense of Redick, writing: "I truly believe he didn't say a racial slur".

Those who commented on Lin's post mostly agreed, with filmmaker and actor Jon Lee Brody calling Lin "a class act".

Lin-sanity!!! Once JJ explained how got tongue twisted switching from "NBA Chinese fans" to "NBA fans from China" it pretty much made sense and matches what you see in the video. His tone and posture also seemed genuine with the greeting.

— Joseph P Simon (@JosephPSimonLaw) February 19, 2018

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. View original tweet on Twitter

More on this story

J.J. Redick sparks outrage after using racial slur in Chinese New Year video

A video of NBA athletes wishing fans in China a Happy New Year has sparked a major controversy after J.J. Redick of the Sixers appeared to use a racial slur:

Dozens of NBA stars are featured wishing fans well for the upcoming Year of the Dog, before it cuts to Redick who says:

"I want to wish all the NBA c**k fans in China a Happy New Year."

The video showcasing Redick's slur remains the only version showing the incident. The video was not produced by the NBA or the 76ers, but rather licensed to Chinese media company Tencent. It produced the video with the NBA's rights as part of a wider broadcast agreement in China. Since the controversy began, Tencent removed the video featuring Redick — instead uploading an almost identical version without the Sixers player:

Fans are understandably outraged by Redick's apparent use of the slur and are demanding answers from the NBA, Adam Silver, and the Sixers. A Twitter search of Redick's name reveals thousands upon thousands of upset tweets:

Seriously? JJ Redick used the racist word "Chink" in the official NBA video for celebrating Chinese New Year to Chinese fans. We all know what that means and how disrespectful and insulting it is to Chinese. And we need an official explanation to this. @NBA @espn

— Liao Kuo (@kevinkuo528) February 18, 2018

@AdamSilverNBA Dear Mr.Silver,There is a video about the new years greetings from NBA players.76ers guard J.J.Redick said the word "chink" in the interview.All of us know how disrespectful it is to Chinese.I hope NBA can give us an official statement regarding the above.

— www.YQ66.cc 老虎10送28_ (@jhl3sth) February 18, 2018

Please give our Chinese NBA fans an explanation for JJ Redick the insult to China. It's unbearable for us especially in Chinese New Year.This is serious racial discrimination.
pic.twitter.com/Erpv8DWgWx

— Mr.Gao (@Gao990204) February 18, 2018

In response to the video circulating and the reaction, Redick tweeted the following:

Just saw a video that is being circulated of me wishing a happy new year to NBA fans in China.Clearly I was tongue tied, as the word I purportedly said is not in my vocabulary. I'm disappointed that anyone would think I would use that word. I love & respect our friends in China.

— JJ Redick (@JJRedick) February 18, 2018

He later elaborated with the following statement:

"To all our NBA fans in China and everyone celebrating the Chinese New Year, I want to sincerely apologize to anyone I may have offended.

After a recent 76ers game, I was asked by the NBA and Tencent to record a video wishing our NBA fans in China a Happy New Year. I was glad to do it. I was intending to say 'NBA Chinese fans,' but it sounded weird in my mind, so I changed it mid-sentence to 'NBA fans in China.' It came out the wrong way.

At the time we recorded it, no one in the room — not Tencent, not the 76ers PR team and certainly not myself — heard the word that I purported to say. Had I known it sounded anything like that, I would have been mortified and recorded the greeting over again. That is not a word in my vocabulary but I now understand how it sounds on the video.

That is not who I am — as a person, a player, a husband and a father. I have been fortunate to play in two NBA Global Games in China (2007 & 2015). I loved the experience, the culture, the history, and most of all, the people. I ask your forgiveness.

This should be a time of celebration. I am so sorry for upsetting anyone."

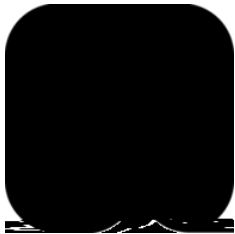
Jeremy Lin also chimed in on the situation, saying he forgave Redick and believes it was an honest mistake.

"I spoke with JJ today on the phone for a long time. I truly believe he didn't say a racial slur and that he has a great deal of respect towards Chinese people. I also reached out to Adam Silver and David Shoemaker. Everyone knows that this word should never be used in referring to Chinese people and everyone is committed to Chinese fans being treated with the equality and respect they deserve," Lin said in a statement on Sunday night.

"Being Chinese is so important to me and I will do everything I can to work with the NBA to help continue teach fans about the depth and beauty of Chinese culture and the importance of China to basketball culture. To the fans, I encourage you not to use hateful language towards the NBA and JJ. Hope everyone continues to have a Happy Chinese New Year!"

NBA Player J.J. Redick Filmed Calling Chinese Fans "Chinks"

He first argued that he never said it but soon released an official apology.



Koreaboo

February 20th, 2018

A Chinese media company created a special Lunar New Year video with a collaboration of multiple NBA star athletes. Chinese fans around the world were excited about the stars' greetings... except one.

The video began with a series of basketball stars giving a special shout-out to their Chinese fans.

They wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year and thanked them for their support.

But 76er's J.J. Redick's greeting became a highly controversial issue as he added in a racial slur in midst of his greeting.

"I wish all of the NBA chink fans of China a very happy Chinese new year." — J.J. Redick

The word "chink" is racial slang for the term "Chinese". Not only is it inappropriate but offensive to the ethnic race.

"The NBA has millions of loyal fans in China. They're our heroes for a lot of young people in China, including me. But yet, during the most celebrated holidays in our culture, we still have to go through racism."

Fans were not happy, taking to Twitter to show their displeasure with the shooting guard.

Please give our Chinese NBA fans an explanation for JJ Redick the insult to China, It's unbearable for us especially in Chinese New Year. This is serious racial discrimination.
pic.twitter.com/Erpv8DWgWx

— Mr.Gao (@Gao990204) February 18, 2018

You must give your explanation and <https://t.co/HmSFgYNZuT> excuse. pic.twitter.com/jPMKswxeFH

— kevinyoung (@Yangcan320) February 18, 2018

JJ Redick is a racist, and he must be responsible for his own words!!! @NBA @NBACOM @sixers pic.twitter.com/P34L74kUHZ

— 李添雄 (@litianxiong07) February 18, 2018

@AdamSilverNBA Dear Mr.Silver, There is a video about the new years greetings from NBA players. 76ers guard J.J.Redick said the word "chink" in the interview. All of us know how disrespectful it is to Chinese. I hope NBA can give us an official statement regarding the above.

— jh13sth (@jh13sth) February 18, 2018

Seriously? JJ Redick used the racist word "Chink" in the official NBA video for celebrating Chinese New Year to Chinese fans. We all know what that means and how disrespectful and insulting it is to Chinese. And we need an official explanation to this. @NBA @espn

— Liao Kuo (@kevinkuo528) February 18, 2018

Redick has originally acknowledged the incident on Twitter but didn't really clear up the situation.

Just saw a video that is being circulated of me wishing a happy new year to NBA fans in China. Clearly I was tongue tied, as the word I purportedly said is not in my vocabulary. I'm disappointed that anyone would think I would use that word. I love & respect our friends in China.

— JJ Redick (@JJRedick) February 18, 2018

He later issued a longer statement and an apology on Twitter.

Please read. Thank you. pic.twitter.com/phL6v7Voeb

— JJ Redick (@JJRedick) February 19, 2018

“To all our NBA fans in China and everyone celebrating the Chinese New Year, I want to sincerely apologize to anyone I may have offended. After a recent 76ers game, I was asked by the NBA and Tencent to record a video wishing our NBA fans in China a Happy New Year. I was glad to do it, I was intending to say “NBA Chinese fans” but it sounded weird in my mind so I changed it mid-sentence to “NBA fans in China.” It came out the wrong way. At the time we recorded it, no one in the room — not Tencent, not the 76ers PR team and certainly not myself heard the word that I purported to say. Had I known it sounded anything like that, I would have been mortified and recorded the greeting over again. That is not a word in my vocabulary but I now understand how it sounds on the video. That is not who I am — as a person, a player, a husband and a father. I have been fortunate to play in two NBA Global Games in China (2007 & 2015). I loved the experience, the culture, the history, and most all, the people. I ask your forgiveness. This should be a time of celebration. I am so sorry for upsetting anyone.” —@JJRedick

The video had since been taken down, replaced with an edited version that doesn't include J.J. Redick.

But netizens have captured and uploaded the original versions themselves to spread awareness.

Watch: J.J. Redick Appears to Use Racial Slur While Wishing Fans Happy Chinese New Year

A video has surfaced on the NBA Reddit thread in which 76ers guard J.J. Redick appears to use a racial slur while wishing a happy Chinese New Year to NBA fans in China.

The video features a collection of players wishing a happy Chinese New Year and when it gets to Redick, he appears to say, "I just want to wish all of the NBA c---k fans in China, a very happy Chinese New Year."

The video was made by the Chinese media company Tencent and another version of the video without Redick was released. Chinese New Year was Feb. 16.

You can see the video featuring Redick and the video without Redick below.

Redick has since commented, saying that he was "tongue tied" and he has "love and respect" for the NBA fans in China.

Reddick issued a longer statement on Sunday night:

"To all our NBA fans in China and everyone celebrating the Chinese New Year, I want to sincerely apologize to anyone I may have offended. After a recent 76ers game, I was asked by the NBA and Tencent to record a video wishing our NBA fans in China a Happy New Year. I was glad to do it, I was intending to say "NBA Chinese fans" but it sounded weird in my mind so I changed it mid-sentence to "NBA fans in China." It came out the wrong way. At the time we recorded it, no one in the room -- not Tencent, not the 76ers PR team and certainly not myself heard the word that I purported to say. Had I known it sounded anything like that, I would have been mortified and recorded the greeting over again. That is not a word in my vocabulary but I now understand how it sounds on the video. That is not who I am -- as a person, a player, a husband and a father. I have been fortunate to play in two NBA Global Games in China (2007 & 2015). I loved the experience, the culture, the history, and most all, the people. I ask your forgiveness. This should be a time of celebration. I am so sorry for upsetting anyone."

Redick, 33, is in his 12th season in the NBA and his first with Philadelphia. He is averaging a career-high 16.9 points on 40.3 percent shooting from three to go with 3.3 assists and 2.8 rebounds for the 30-25 76ers.