

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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March 17, 2010

Michel de Rosen
Chief Executive Officer
Eutelsat Corporation

Dear Mr. de Rosen,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March in response to our request for clarification regarding the status of broadcasts to Iran through Eutelsat's facilities.

We are grateful for your offer to put us in touch with your interlocutors at the BBC and VOA regarding the jamming of BBC and VOA Persian news programmes by the Iranian government and the response of Eutelsat to this jamming. We would certainly like to organize a meeting with them.

We would also be grateful for further clarification on two points. First, you state in your letter that you have not suspended broadcasting of either the BBC or VOA. Indeed we always understood that to be the case. However, as we mentioned in our first letter on February 8, we received information that both BBC and VOA were suspended from one of the Hot Bird satellites operated by Eutelsat. Second, we further understand that this particular satellite is one of the most popular in Iran and that many Iranian viewers do not have the equipment to easily switch to the satellite on which BBC and VOA are available. Is this information correct? If so, can you explain the rationale for such a decision?

Finally, we would welcome further elaboration on whether the company has any policies or procedures to explicitly safeguard freedom of expression and how it ensures implementation of any such policies.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these points and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Middle East & North Africa division

Arvind Ganesan
Director
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