

Michel de Rosen
Directeur Général

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4th March 2010

Ms Sarah Leah Whitson
Director – Middle East & North Africa division
Mr Arvind Ganesan
Director – Director – Business & Human Rights
Human Rights Watch
1630 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC, 20009
USA

Dear Ms Whitson,
Dear Mr Ganesan,

Thank you for your correspondence of February 8 requesting further information concerning transmissions of BBC Persian and the Voice of America via the HOT BIRD™ satellites operated by our company. The objective of our response below is to set out the facts for your organisation and issue an unambiguous denial of programme censorship and suspension of satellite transmissions.

Since May 2009, Eutelsat has worked closely with broadcasters, who include the BBC, Voice of America and Deutsche Welle to deploy technical solutions capable of restoring an interference-free signal of these channels broadcasting through our satellites over Europe, the Middle East and Iran. These efforts have been required as a result of repeated and deliberate jamming of satellite transmissions, with the apparent aim to prevent reception in Iran of certain channels broadcasting in Farsi.

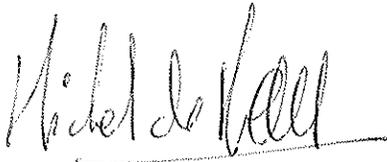
In addition to close collaboration with channels to deploy methods that circumvent jamming, Eutelsat has renewed its complaints on repeated and deliberate interference to the ANFR (the French national frequency agency). Our most recent complaint (12 February 2010) asks the ANFR to renew its objections to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and for this case to be addressed at the next meeting of the Radiocommunications Regulations Board, scheduled in

March. The official release on this subject is posted in Eutelsat's website (www.eutelsat.com).

In response to your letter we can unequivocally reassure you that Eutelsat has not suspended broadcasting of either BBC Persian or Voice of America. We continue, on the contrary, to broadcast both channels, and other Farsi channels on a Eutelsat satellite that is configured in such a way to resist jamming attempts. We would be happy to arrange for you to speak to representatives at the BBC and Voice of America if you wish further clarification on this issue and confirmation of the joint efforts undertaken to preserve signal transmissions.

Finally, as an independent, commercial company, Eutelsat does not respond to political or ideological pressure of any kind in the conduct of our activity. Our policies and procedures are to provide the best technical quality of service possible to our clients.

We remain at your full disposal for any further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michel de Rosen", written over a horizontal line.

Michel de Rosen