

**REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS**
FOR PRESS FREEDOM

Michel de Rosen
Director-General
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Paris, 19 March 2010

Dear Director-General,

Reporters Without Borders, an organisation that defends press freedom worldwide, would like to express to you its incomprehension at Eutelsat's decision to suspend broadcasting of *Radio Kalima* on its Hotbird satellite yesterday.

We would like to know the reasons for this sudden suspension. As the clauses governing a break in service do not seem to have been respected, it constitutes a violation of Eutelsat's contractual obligations towards *Radio Kalima*.

Launched on 25 January 2010, *Radio Kalima-Algérie* ended the broadcasting monopoly that the Algerian state has exercised since the country gained independence in 1962. Suspending its broadcasts censors Algeria's first independent radio station and does great harm to news media diversity.

One can only wonder about Eutelsat's motives, especially as it has just asked the International Telecommunication Union to take measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran following the jamming of TV stations carried on Eutelsat's satellites. We remind you that satellite operators are supposed to resist pressure from governments that seek to control news and information.

We therefore urge you to ensure that broadcasting of *Radio Kalima* on the Hotbird satellite resumes as soon as possible.

I thank you in advance for the attention you give to this request.

Sincerely,

Jean-François Julliard
Secretary-General