



Intelligence and Terrorism  
Information Center at the Israel  
Intelligence Heritage  
& Commemoration Center (IICC)

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## Terrorism and the media: Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV no longer broadcasts via the European Eurobird satellite.



Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV announces it has begun broadcasting via a European communications satellite. Less than 24 hours later, its broadcasts were removed from the air shortly after the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center's bulletin and as a result of the intervention of the French authorities.

1. On January 5, 2009, the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center revealed that Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV had begun broadcasting via a European communications satellite called **Eurobird**, which belongs to **Eutelsat**, a company whose head offices are in Paris.<sup>1</sup>
2. Following the publication of the ITIC information and after appeals by many factors, the French authorities instructed **Eutelsat** to remove Al-Aqsa TV's broadcasts from its European

<sup>1</sup> For further information see our January 7, 2009 Bulletin entitled "Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV broadcasts via a European satellite operated by a corporation whose head offices are in Paris" at [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/English/eng\\_n/pdf/hamas\\_e030.pdf](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/hamas_e030.pdf)

satellite. On the morning of January 11, an ITIC examination showed that **the broadcasts had in fact been removed from Eurobird.**

3. According to official sources in the French satellite industry, Al-Aqsa TV was taken off the air less than 24 hours after it started broadcasting. According to the same sources, the French broadcasting regulator CSA (*Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel*) wrote to Eutelsat and warned them that much of Hamas's programming contravened French laws against **incitement to hatred and violence** (Agence France Presse, January 9, 2009).

4. Eutelsat, which operates the Eurobird satellite, claimed it had not signed a contract with Hamas but had rented space on one of its satellites to a Bahrain-based communications provider named **Noorsat**. It was Noorsat, claimed Eutelsat, that provided space for Al-Aqsa TV and made it possible for it to broadcast on Eurobird. Noorsat was then informed that it was obliged to respect French law, and Al-Aqsa TV broadcasts halted (Agence France Presse, January 9, 2009).



**The Bahraini Noorsat's homepage. The company enabled Al-Aqsa TV to use the space allotted it by the Eurobird satellite, resulting in a warning from the French authorities (Agence France Presse, January 9, 2009).**