

Rendon  
Group

## MEMORANDUM

To: DDIO  
From: The Rendon Group  
Date: 4 Augusts 2003  
Re: TV in Iraq

---

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to a request to provide information on eight Arabic language satellite TV stations: al Jazeera, MBC, Abu Dhabi TV, LBC, Al Arabiya, Al Manar, Nile TV, Emirates Dubai TV.

As always, we remain available to answer any questions you might have and to provide additional information.

### Al Jazeera

**Broadcast Origination:** Doha, Qatar  
Phone: 4890890  
Fax: 4885333  
Key Contacts: Pres: Hamad bin Thamer Ath-Thani;  
Director General: Mohammed Jassim al-Ali ; Editor  
in Chief: Saleh Nagm ; News Desk Chief: Ahmed  
al-Sheikh ; Washington Bureau Chief: Hafez al-  
Mirazi

**Broadcast schedule:** 24 h

**Website:** [www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net)

**Webcast:** No live webcast but contains daily news.

**Ties to Regional Governments:** It is owned by the government of Qatar and is run  
by the Qatari Prince, al-Thani.

**Bias (as viewed by populace):** It is an independent organization and critical of the  
government.

**Geographic Reach:** Free to air: Global

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** The Middle East is the primary audience and the  
reaches about 350,00,000 individuals. It is the  
number one channel in reaching Arab Males during  
prime time viewing.

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

**Other Information:**

- Viewed by 67% male and 33% female
- Key Personalities: Fasim al-Qasim (Host of station's most popular show The Opposite Direction -Crossfire with call-ins) ; Yusif Al-Qardhawi (Host of Islamic Law and Life, religious law's applications for daily life) ; Walid Al-Omari (Ramallah Correspondent)

**Middle East Broadcasting (MBC)**

**Broadcast Origination:** Headquarters: UAE  
Phone: +971 (0)4 391 9999  
Fax: +971 (0)4 391 8455  
Key Contacts: CEO: Assad Abu Aljadail; Chief Editor: Nakhle Elhage; News Director: Salah Negm

**Broadcast schedule:** 24 hours/day

**Website:** www.mbc1.tv

**Webcast:** MBC FM has a live broadcast of its radio programming, but not for TV. The web site just advertises it programming and has no daily news updates on the site.

**Ties to Regional Governments:** Owned by the Saudi government

**Bias (as viewed by populace):** Unknown

**Geographic Reach:** Free to air: Middle East, North Africa, Europe, North America, South America  
Pay: Australia, Asia

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** The primary audience is in the Middle East and can be viewed throughout most of the world.

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

**Other Information:** -Key personalities: Host of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire: George Kordahi ; Ramallah Correspondent: Nabil Khatib

## **Abu Dhabi TV**

**Broadcast Origination:** Headquarters: UAE  
Phone: + 971 (2) 452000  
Fax: +971 (2) 451470  
Key Contacts: Dir-Gen. Ali Obaid ; Director: Ismail Abdullah ; Deputy Director: Mohamed Dourrachad

**Broadcast schedule:** 24 hours/day

**Website:** [www.emi.co.ae](http://www.emi.co.ae) (currently under construction)

**Webcast:** No live broadcast of their feed, but does include daily top news with video clips.

**Ties to Regional Governments:** It is a subsidiary of the government-owned Emirates Media Inc.

**Bias (as viewed by populace):**

**Geographic Reach:** Free to air: Middle East, North Africa, Europe, North America, Australia

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** UAE

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

**Other Information:** -Key Personalities: Jasim Al-Azzawy (Anchor & Executive Producer, kicked out of Israel in 2002 for coverage)

## **Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC)**

**Broadcast Origination:** Beirut, Lebanon  
Phone: +961 (9) 850915  
Station Manager: Pierre Al Daher;  
News Director: Jihad Khazen; Tech. Dir. Nasim Boustany; Film Buyer Selim Al-Azar

**Broadcast schedule:** 22 h (0500-0300 GMT)

**Website:** [www.lbc.com.lb](http://www.lbc.com.lb)  
[www.lbcSAT.com.lb](http://www.lbcSAT.com.lb)

**Webcast:** News is available over the web live (1800 GMT) and archived for the past week

**Ties to Regional Governments:** Close to the anti-Syrian Christian opposition in Lebanon. Owner is Essam Fares, former Deputy Prime Minister

**Bias (as viewed by populace):** LBC has often been viewed as pro-Western. To counter this, in recent months the station has become much more critical of America and pan-Arab in tone.

**Geographic Reach:** Free to air: Middle East, North Africa, Europe.  
Pay: Europe, Australia, Africa, North America, South America

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** Middle East's most watched TV outlet. Most popular in Lebanon and the Gulf, less so in North Africa. More popular for its programming than news, but lately has made great improvements and gains.

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

### **Al Arabiya**

**Broadcast Origination:** Dubai, UAE  
Dubai Media City  
Phone: ++971 (0)4 390 1000 / 391 9996 / 7 / 9  
Fax: +971 (0)4 391 8176/ 8455/ 6683  
Board Member & Spokesman: Salah al-Qalab;  
Director-General: Salah Kallab;  
News Director: Salah Nigm

**Broadcast schedule:** 24 h

**Website:** None so far

**Webcast:** Unknown

**Ties to Regional Governments:** Subsidiary of MBC and Aranet: Saudi Communications Group owned by Sheikh Walid al-Ibrahim, an in-law of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, & Prince Ahmad bin Salman bin Abdel Aziz

**Bias (as viewed by populace):** A common charge leveled against the station by its critics is that it is "another Radio Sawa" or pro-American.

**Geographic Reach:** Free to air: Middle East, North Africa, Europe, North America, South America

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** Saudi Arabia; however, as it debuted in February 2003, a study of viewership has yet to be undertaken.

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

### **Al Manar**

**Broadcast Origination:** Beirut, Lebanon  
Abed Al-Nour Street  
+961 (3) 217405, +961 (1) 276000  
Dir. Gen. Nayef Krayem

**Broadcast schedule:** 24 h

**Website:** [www.manartv.com](http://www.manartv.com)

**Webcast:** English news is webcasted  
All Arabic programming is webcasted

**Ties to Regional Governments:** Owned and operated by Hizbollah

**Bias (as viewed by populace):** Understood as an extension of Hizbollah

**Geographic Reach:** Free to air: Middle East, North Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Australia, Asia

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** Lebanon, West Bank

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

### **Nile TV**

**Broadcast Origination:** Cairo, Egypt  
Egypt Radio and Television Union  
TV Building, Comeigh el  
Key Contacts: CEO Hasan Hamed, President Hala Hashish, News Editor Hani Fathi

**Broadcast schedule:** 24 h

**Website:** [www.ertu.org/Nile.html](http://www.ertu.org/Nile.html)

**Webcast:** No

**Ties to Regional Governments:** Owned and operated by government-owned Egypt Radio and Television Union

**Bias (as viewed by populace):** Understood to show official Egyptian government position. News is often sanitized.

**Geographic Reach:** Free to air: Middle East, Europe, Africa, North America

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** Egypt

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

**Other Information:** -Key Personalities: Nihal Saad (chief political correspondent)

**Emirates Dubai TV (EDTV)**

**Broadcast Origination:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
PO Box 1695  
The UAE Radio & TV building, Bur Dubai  
+971 4 3077 245 / 210 / 3373 557  
Key Contacts: Director General Ahmed Al-Gaoud

**Broadcast schedule:** 24 h

**Website:** [www.dubaitv.gov.ae/edtv/](http://www.dubaitv.gov.ae/edtv/)

**Webcast:** Arabic news is webcasted

**Ties to Regional Governments:** Subsidiary of Government-owned United Arab Emirates Radio and Television Dubai

**Bias (as viewed by populace):**

**Geographic Reach:** Free: Middle East, North Africa, Europe, North America, Australia, Asia

**Areas of Largest Viewership:** UAE

**Reaction to Station in Iraq:** Unknown

**Other Information:** -Key Personalities: Ahmed al-Kubaysi (religious)