

06

Dec 2018

Lvl. 2

Resolved

France

Alert created on: 03 Oct 2016

French Satellite Provider under Pressure to Remove Kurdish Med Nûçe TV

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Non-state

CATEGORY  ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

Eutelsat SA, the French satellite provider hosting over 6000 television channels, has notified its intention “to remove immediately” Med Nûçe TV, a Kurdish language television channel broadcasting from Belgium, from its transponder because “the content is not in line with public order directives of the terms between us as well as with the laws which regulate TV distribution in Europe and surrounding countries”. According to EFJ sources, Eutelsat SA has been put under pressure by RTÜK (Turkish Radio Television Supreme Council) to remove the signal of Med Nûçe TV considered as a pro-PKK television channel by Turkish authorities. It follows on the banning by Türksat, at the request of the Turkish government, of around 20 TV channels and radio stations under the state of emergency.

RESOLVED

06 Dec 2018: On 6 December 2018, considering the fact that the Paris Commercial Court has ordered Eutelsat to re-establish the broadcasting of the TV channel Med Nûçe, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be “resolved”, concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATES

07 Jun 2017: Eutelsat, following on a request received from the Turkish Radio Television Supreme Council, has notified on 14 April 2017 its intention to remove the signals of Channel News, Ronahi TV and Sterk TV, three television channels broadcasting from EU countries to Kurdish-speaking audience from its transponder because “the content in which statements are made by the leaders of the terrorist organisation called as PKK/KCK”. In an urgent notice sent to the Slovenian service provider STN, Eutelsat writes "you shall stop any transmission within one hour of request of Eutelsat (...) we hereby officially request that you remove the television

channels 'Sterk TV and Ronahi TV' from the multiplex you operate in accordance with our agreement".

- ➔ Article published on Broadbandnews TV's website: " Turkey pressures Eutelsat to close three Kurdish" channels

22 Nov 2016: On 14 November 2016, the Paris Commercial Court ordered Eutelsat to re-establish the broadcasting of the TV channel Med Nûçe.

- ➔ Press Release from National Union of Journalists: "Turkey: Eutelstat ordered to re-establish the broadcasting of two Kurdish television channels" (in French).

18 Nov 2016: On 14 November 2016, the Paris Commercial Court condemned Eutelsat SA for removing the signal of Newroz TV, on 11 October 2016. The French satellite operator was ordered "to re-establish the broadcasting of programmes" under a penalty of 10.000 € per day of delay.

- ➔ Press Release from National Union of Journalists: "Turkey: Eutelstat ordered to re-establish the broadcasting of two Kurdish television channels" (in French).

11 Oct 2016: On 11 October 2016, Eutelsat removed the signal of Newroz TV, a Kurdish language television channel broadcasting from Sweden, after receiving a direct request from the Turkish Radio Television Supreme Council. Newroz TV is accused by the Turkish authorities of spreading propaganda for the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK). It is the second Kurdish TV channel to be dropped by Eutelsat in one week. On 3 October, the signal of Med Nûçe TV was also removed and the channel was no longer accessible to viewers.

03 Oct 2016: On 3 October 2016, Eutelsat removed the signal of Med Nûçe TV and the channel is no longer accessible to viewers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ Article published on New Europe website : "Turkey campaigns to close Swedish Kurdish-speaking channel".
- ➔ Statement from the EFJ: "French satellite provider under pressure to remove Kurdish Med Nuçe TV "

STATE REPLIES



 Letter from the Permanent Representation of France to the Council of Europe (in French only)