

EBU news



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-EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL CET- World Broadcasters appeal for release of BBC journalist

Geneva, 11 April 2007– The European Broadcasting Union (EBU)*, together with the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU)** today launched an appeal for the immediate and unharmed release of BBC correspondent Alan Johnston abducted on 12 March 2007 in Gaza. The veteran reporter is now in his fourth week of captivity, the longest a kidnapped foreigner has been held in Gaza.

Broadcasters from all over the world recognise the fundamental value and importance of freedom of the media. Today's appeal for the immediate liberation of Alan Johnston, underlines their role in helping ensure press freedom everywhere.

Mr. Jean Réveillon, Secretary General of the EBU, declared that, "there can be no freedom without freedom to inform the public from wherever there is a story to tell." He went on to say that, "the media can exercise this freedom by giving voice and visibility to people in conflict zones but ***journalists must never become the victims of their own profession.***"

The EBU – operator of Eurovision, the world's largest provider of international transmission and production services for live news events – is committed to journalist safety. The organisation has successfully campaigned with the WBU, the International News Safety Institute (INSI) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) for the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution on journalist safety (Resolution 1738/2006).

Note to Editors:

***European Broadcasting Union (EBU)**

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is the largest association of national broadcasters in the world (74 active Members, 43 associate Members). It offers Members technical, operational and legal services, and coordinates a growing supply of quality content for radio, television and new platforms. The organisation works to secure recognition of the crucial role of public service broadcasters in the digital audiovisual landscape. The EBU also provides Members with information and analysis on media trends, and training designed to meet their needs. One of the training courses that the EBU provides is a Hostile Environment and Safety course for journalists operating in conflict zones. For more information:

<http://www.ebu.ch/>

****World Broadcasting Unions (WBU)**

The World Broadcasting Unions (WBU) is the coordinating body for broadcasting unions who represent broadcaster networks across the globe. The broadcasting unions who belong to the WBU are the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), the International Association of Broadcasting (IAB/AIR), the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the North American Broadcasters Association (NABA), the Organización de la Televisión Iberoamericana (OTI), and the Union des radiodiffusions et télévisions nationales d'Afrique (URTNA). More information on: <http://www.nabanet.com/wbuarea/>

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