

Press release

On the 3rd of October 2016 at 10 am the signal of the Kurdish Channel Med-Nuçe based in Belgium was removed by Eutelsat SA, a French satellite provider, on Turkey's request. Turkey claims that the content of our channel is not in the line with public order and with the laws which regulate TV distributions in Europe.

On the 29th of September our channel received the first email from Eutelsat asking to terminate broadcasting which is distributed by the Belgian Company BBS. On the 2nd of October we received the second email demanding to stop broadcasting on the 3rd October at 10 am. Eventually on October the 3rd the signal of Med-Nuçe was removed without any sufficient and legal reason.

Interrupting the spread of a TV channel reminds the repressive and arbitrary measures in Turkey. The Turkish government has recently shut down about twenty TV channel and Radio stations. Including Zarok TV, cartoon channel in Kurdish for children; TV 10, particularly targeting to the Alevi community; Jiyan TV, broadcasting in a particular dialect of Kurdish i.e., "kirmancki"; Hayat TV that reveals the working conditions and the workers' struggle in Turkey and IMC TV, pro-leftist channel with an alternative and independent editorial board. Besides interrupting the spread of these channels, the Turkish authorities have forcibly sealed the door and captured the goods of channels.

Med-Nuçe has been broadcasting since 2013 in Kurdish and Turkish. In 2015 the channel altered its format and became non-stop news channel. Since then it has been broadcasting only in Turkish. Till the day on which the stream was interrupted, Med-Nuçe started its broadcasting at 6:00 and continued its broadcasting in live till 00:00. The channel reported news every hour and had 26 genuine programs focusing not only on the Kurdish issues but also on women, labor's conditions, environment, different identities, local and international political discussions.

The Med-Nuçe TV channel broadcasts via satellite Hot Bird which is one of the few independent and alternative sources in the countries like Turkey where the majority of the media are under a great repression making Turkey one of the biggest prisons for journalists.

Since the declaration of Emergency Rule following the July 15th coup attempt, over 200 journalists have been targeted for detention, more than 100 journalists were arrested, dozens of media organizations were shut down and as a result of those actions at least 2,308 journalists have lost their jobs.

According to the 2016 World Press Freedom Index, released by RSF, Turkey is ranked 151 out of 180 countries. Under these conditions, the main motivation of the Turkish authorities is turning all alternative voices down and making the serious critics be invisible. Along with all other channels and media organizations, the interrupting the broadcasting of Med-Nuçe is just a reification of authoritarian course of Turkish Government.

After all, there are so many questions waiting for proper answers:

-Does The French company Eutelsat is really in line with European laws?

-Is the request of the Higher Council of Audio-visual in Turkey (RTÜK) is sufficient for the suspension of a TV channel that broadcasts from Europe?

We, the workers of the Med-Nuçe TV, strongly condemn the illegal and unacceptable suspension of our broadcast. Besides we powerfully declared that these repressions cannot turn our voices down. We will determinately continue revealing injustice, defending the freedom of the press and of expression, supporting plurality in democracy. We call especially the French and European media to take a clear and strong stand against injustices to freedom of the press, because this freedom is in danger for a long time in Europe.

We also call European institutions, including the European Parliament, to responsibility and to put pressure on Turkey by demanding respect for fundamental rights. Unfortunately, statements of goodwill are not enough to end injustice. We expect the actions by European leaders.

Med NUCE TV workers

