

October 30, 2012

Daniel S. Goldberg
President and Chief Executive Officer
Telesat
1601 Telesat Court
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1B 5P4

Re: Telesat and Iran

Dear Mr. Goldberg,

United Against Nuclear Iran (“UANI”) is writing to express its concern about Canadian satellite services operator Telesat’s ongoing business activities in Iran’s telecommunications sector. As part of our “Tech and Telecom Campaign,” UANI is calling on telecommunications companies to take responsible action and end all business in Iran. Accordingly, UANI calls on Telesat to end all business activities in Iran and specifically cease the broadcast of all Iranian regime transmissions via the Telstar 12 satellite, including that of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (“IRIB”), the Islamic Republic of Iran News Network (“IRINN”), and their affiliates. Telesat must also stop facilitating the broadcast and dissemination of regime-sponsored propaganda into Iran itself.

The reasons for this are manifold. First, Iran has established itself as a clear threat to international peace and security. For years, Iran has been pursuing an illegal nuclear weapons program in defiance of the international community. In addition to its nuclear activities, Iran remains the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism and has sponsored well-known terrorist groups like Hamas, Hezbollah and al-Qaeda.

While these nuclear and terrorist activities should serve as sufficient justification for a corporation to pull out of Iran, the regime's serious human rights abuses and neglect of basic freedoms should also be of concern to Telesat. Put bluntly, by providing services to the Iranian state-owned IRIB, Telesat is working directly with the brutal Iranian regime. IRIB is an integral part of the Iranian intelligence and security services, which are largely responsible for ongoing persecution and repression in Iran. Specifically, IRIB is notorious for broadcasting libelous programs and disseminating hate speech against religious minorities, peaceful dissidents and civil society activists in Iran. IRIB is also responsible for producing and broadcasting various “show trials” of Iranian prisoners. IRIB camera crews have reportedly acted as interrogators in Iranian prisons and recorded prisoner “confessions” for later broadcast. These televised “show trials” reportedly resulted in the conviction of over 100 Iranian activists in August 2009 alone. (*Wall Street Journal*, “[Broadcasting Tehran's Repression](#),” 12/9/2011) By irresponsibly

facilitating the dissemination of such programming, Telesat is directly furthering the Iranian regime's campaign of persecution and repression against its own citizens.

Telesat should also be aware of legislation that could directly impact its business. For example, Section 106 of *The Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010* ("CISADA") requires the U.S. to ban the "procurement of goods or services with a person that exports sensitive technology to Iran." CISADA defines sensitive technology as "hardware, software, telecommunications equipment, or any other technology" that is used to "(A) to restrict the free flow of unbiased information in Iran; or (B) to disrupt, monitor, or otherwise restrict speech of the people of Iran." In addition, the President has initiated a program of sanctions aimed at those who facilitate serious human rights abuses in Syria and Iran. The White House has stated, "The same Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communications, mobile phone, and Internet technology employed by activists across the Middle East and North Africa and around the world is being used against them in Syria and Iran, as the world has witnessed particularly clearly in Syria in recent weeks." (Office of the Press Secretary, the White House, ["Fact Sheet: Sanctions Against Those Complicit in Grave Human Rights Abuses Via Information Technology in Syria and Iran,"](#) 4/23/2012) By broadcasting Iranian regime propaganda, Telesat could be sanctioned for contributing to the restriction of the free flow of unbiased information and limiting the speech of Iranian citizens by broadcasting their coerced statements.

Most recently, the *Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012* specifically calls on "satellite service providers and other entities that have direct contractual arrangements to provide satellite services to the Government of Iran or entities owned or controlled by that Government" to "cease providing broadcast services to that Government and those entities unless that Government ceases activities intended to jam or restrict satellite signals."

Notwithstanding the potential legal ramifications of Telesat's actions in Iran, the people of the U.S. and the international community find Telesat's actions galling. Telesat must understand why groups such as UANI will join together to shine a light on Telesat's callous and highly irresponsible business practices by educating U.S. policy-makers and the American public alike.

It is time for Telesat to follow the lead of its counterparts such as Eutelsat and Intelsat, and end its business activities in Iran, particularly in light of the fact that services and technologies provided by Telesat are being used to perpetrate terrible crimes against the people of Iran and deny them basic freedoms. The Iranian regime is imperiling the long-term stability of the region, the security of the international community and its own citizens as well as the entire nuclear nonproliferation regime. Canada has long been at the fore of international efforts to isolate the Iranian regime, most recently by closing its embassy in Iran and expelling all remaining Iranian diplomats in Canada. UANI hopes that Telesat, as a Canadian company, will further augment Canada's laudable actions. It is incumbent on all of us, governments, private citizens and corporations alike, to take concrete steps to oppose this ongoing and dangerous threat.

Please let us hear from you by November 7, 2012 regarding Telesat's existing and future business plans in Iran.

Very truly yours,



Ambassador Mark D. Wallace

- cc: The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security &
Governmental Affairs
- The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security &
Governmental Affairs
- The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- The Honorable Richard Lugar
Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
- The Honorable Peter T. King
Chairman, United States House Committee on Homeland Security
- The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Homeland Security
- The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman, United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs
- The Honorable Howard Berman
Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs
- The Honorable Howard P. McKeon
Chairman, United States House Armed Services Committee
- The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Steve Israel
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Ted Deutch
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Nita Lowey
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Gary Ackerman
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Rob Andrews
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Chabot
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry Cueller
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan Davis
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Tim Griffin
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim Himes
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Rush Holt
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerry Nadler
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Bill Owens
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Betty Sutton
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Bob Turner
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense, United States Department of Defense

The Honorable Daniel M. Tangherlini
Administrator, General Services Administration

The Honorable David S. Cohen
Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, United States
Department of the Treasury

Adam Szubin
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control

Ambassador Guillermo E. Rishchynski
Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN

Ambassador Gary Doer
Ambassador of Canada to the United States

Shirin Ebadi
Defenders of Human Rights Center

David Kramer
Executive Director, Freedom House

Gissou Nia
Executive Director, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center

Patrick M. Enright
Vice President of Network Operations, Telesat

Chris Difrancesco

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Telesat

Gordon J. Fyfe

President and CEO, Public Sector Pension Investment Board (“PSP Investments”)

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Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer,
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Stéphanie Lachance

Vice President, Responsible Investment and Corporate Strategy, PSP Investments

Cheryl Barker

Chairman of the Board, PSP Investments

Avi Katz

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Loral Space &
Communications Inc.