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[New West Bank FM station focuses on women's issues](#)

June 20th, 2010 - 12:26 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[1 comment](#)

The new Arabic station, Nisaa (Women) 96 FM, will be run by men and women and aimed at a broad demographic, with programming focused on social issues as well as music and call-in shows with experts. “The broadcasts will focus on women’s issues, but they will also target men in order to influence them for the benefit of women,” Maysoun Odeh Gangat, the station’s founder, told reporters in Ramallah at the formal launch.

Palestinian women’s affairs minister Rabiha Diab, who also attended the launch, said the station would shed light on important social issues, including violence against women. “This is good news for Palestinian society and for Palestinian women everywhere, that there will be a radio station concerned with women and discussing changes in the prevailing cultural pattern,” she said.

The private station has received aid from the Smiling Children Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Switzerland and Britain. Women enjoy mostly equal rights across the Palestinian territories despite the patriarchal nature of traditional Arab society.

(Source: AFP)

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[India's Reliance Broadcast signs TV deal with CBS](#)

June 20th, 2010 - 12:22 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[No comments yet](#)

India’s Reliance Broadcast Network (RBN) has signed a deal with the US-based CBS network to launch TV channels across south Asia, the company said today. The two companies will first launch English-language entertainment channels and at a later stage explore channels in Hindi and other regional languages, it said in a press statement. “As currently proposed, the joint venture would include certain programming rights across the countries of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Maldives and Pakistan for now,” it said.

RBN and CBS will have equal 50 percent equity interest in the joint venture, but no other figures were available on the deal. “The agreement is subject to customary diligence, negotiation and execution of a definitive documentation, which are presently under way,” it said, adding it planned to complete the process in a month.

(Source: AFP)

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[Amnesty International launches radio campaign for Burma](#)

June 20th, 2010 - 12:05 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

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The UK branch of Amnesty International (AI) has launched an online campaign to collect enough money from donors to buy 4,000 radios to be

distributed in Burma [Myanmar] next month. “Burma is preparing for its first elections in two decades,” the statement reads. “By heavily censoring the media, the ruling military junta attempts to isolate the population from independent opinions. But you can help us beat the blackout.”

AI is calling on its readers and members to donate £12.50 (US \$18.50), which it says is the cost of one radio. Calling the campaign “Break the Silence,” AI said it hopes to collect enough donations to buy 4,000 radios, 60 walkie-talkie kits and six satellite kits. “About 12 people will use each radio, so if we reach our target, 50,000 more people inside Burma will have access to independent news broadcasts,” the statement reads.

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[Dhaka asks radio, TV channels to use ‘pure’ Bengali](#)

June 20th, 2010 - 11:47 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[No comments yet](#)

The Bangladesh government has asked private radio stations and television channels in the country to be ‘more neutral and pro-people’ and use Bengali language that is ‘pure’, a minister has said. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad told parliament yesterday that all private radio and television channels had been advised to ensure the proper use and application of Bangla language. ‘Some private radios have been using Bangla and another language, which the government considers a threat to the use of pure Bangla,’ *The Daily Star* quoted him as saying.

The state-run radio and television channels in Bangladesh adhere to what is called the Shantipur dialect - its name derived from a place in Nadia district on the Bangladesh-India border and located about 200 km from Kolkata. But, the private radio stations and television channels, have been using the language ‘Banga’, traditionally spoken in the rural areas of East Bengal.

Bangladesh has 15 private radio stations and television channels.

(Source: Indo-asia News Service)

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[Ethiopia expels VOA journalist](#)

June 19th, 2010 - 16:57 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

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On Thursday authorities in Ethiopia expelled an American journalist who had been reporting near a rebel area in the east of the Horn of Africa country, according to local journalists. Heather Murdock had been reporting with the Voice of America (VOA) in the eastern region of Harar, near an area where there was reported skirmishes between the army and rebels of the separatist Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), according to the same sources.

The Ethiopian government has denied journalists independent access to the restive Ogaden province, which neighbours the Harar region, and attempted to censor an exclusive report on the rebels last year, according research by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Under Ethiopia’s draconian anti-terrorism law, journalists risk as many as 20 years in prison if authorities deem their reporting favourable to armed rebels and banned opposition groups.

VOA confirmed to CPJ that Murdock had left the country. Assistants to Ethiopian government spokesmen Bereket Simon and Shemelis Kemal told CPJ the officials were not available for comment. The Ethiopian government announced plans to officially jam VOA in March, after reports that there had been electronic jamming of the station’s Amharic-language shortwave broadcasts and that its website had been blocked in the country.

“We condemn the expulsion of Heather Murdock,” said CPJ Africa Advocacy Coordinator Mohamed Keita. “Ethiopian authorities have for years used the threat of expulsion to induce self-censorship among foreign journalists working in the country.”

Murdock arrived in Ethiopia last month after she was expelled from Yemen in April following a reporting trip to strongholds of Yemen’s armed separatist Southern Movement, according to news reports. In Ethiopia, she covered the country’s general election and its aftermath, among other topics.

(Source: Committee to Protect Journalists)

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[WCBS-FM New York’s most listened-to station](#)

June 18th, 2010 - 17:51 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[2 comments](#)



[WCBS-FM 101.1](#) has returned to the top of the pile for the first time since the mid-1990s as New York's most listened-to radio station. The May listening figures from Arbitron show that the oldies station has increased its market share from 5.7% to 6.3%, and its weekly reach to 4.4 million, enough to push soft pop station WTLW (Lite FM) into second place.

WCBS-FM was replaced on 101.1 in 2005 by the non-stop rock music station Jack FM, but listening figures fell dramatically and in summer 2007 CBS Radio decided to re-launch the oldies format. The station quickly reached third place in the New York ratings, and had been in second place in recent months.

(Source: Radio.nl)

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[Arrow heard again on 828 kHz](#)

June 18th, 2010 - 16:47 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[3 comments](#)

My RNW colleague **Ehard Goddijn** writes: "NL.media.radio newsgroup reported yesterday that Arrow is back on 828 kHz. Today June 18th 2010 I started to listen at 1313 UTC on 828 kHz and indeed there is Arrow on 828 kHz with good signal (354) here in Almere with a Sony ICF7600 GR. May be back just to secure the licence for 828 kHz?"

Confirmed here at 1645 UTC, though appears to be using low power, which suggests Ehard's theory is correct. There is no mention of 828 kHz on the Arrow website.

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[Australian government invites industry submissions on future direction of Australia Network](#)

June 18th, 2010 - 12:01 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

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The Australian Government is inviting views on the future direction of Australia Network, the Government-funded international television broadcasting service. The Australian Government has funded an international television service since the early 1990s.

The service is currently provided under the terms of a contract between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation which expires in August 2011. The service aims to present a reliable Australian voice in the Asia-Pacific region and to promote Australia as a sophisticated, diverse, innovative and tolerant society.

The media broadcasting environment has experienced major changes in recent years. Digital and online platforms have expanded significantly and the communications market has become more contested. Advances in technology, media platforms and delivery methods are particularly evident in the Asia-Pacific region.

In light of these changes, interested broadcasting and media industry parties are invited to convey their views to government on the future direction of Australia's international broadcasting service. The Australian Government is interested in the views of interested industry parties. Submissions are invited to address the following issues:

- The future opportunities and challenges for a Government-funded international broadcasting service to effectively deliver a high quality, credible and reliable service in the Asia-Pacific region
- Options for the delivery and funding of an international broadcasting service in the Asia-Pacific
- Whether the service, when the current contract with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation expires in August 2011, should be the subject of a competitive tender process.

The deadline for submissions is Monday 19 July 2010.

(Source: Australian Ministry for Foreign Affairs)

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[Sarkozy in London for 70th anniversary of WWII appeal](#)

June 18th, 2010 - 11:55 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[No comments yet](#)

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and World War II veterans visited London today to mark the 70th anniversary of Charles de Gaulle's rousing radio appeal to his compatriots to resist the Nazi occupation. On 18 June 1940, four days after the fall of Paris and as the French government prepared to sign an armistice with Germany, the exiled military leader issued an impassioned appeal via the BBC to those back home. "Whatever happens, the flame of the French resistance must not and will not be extinguished," de Gaulle said, urging those who had escaped to Britain to join him in London and for those still in France to hold firm.

Although very few French actually heard his words, the speech has come to be seen as a founding act of the French resistance to the Nazis and Sarkozy paid tribute today to his countrymen who never gave up. "At a time when there are fewer and fewer living witnesses from the era, this anniversary is a chance to pay tribute to the first members of the resistance, to those who never stopped believing in France and who served it with honour," he said in a statement.

Sarkozy is the first French president to travel to London to mark the event, which comes at the end of a week of commemorations across France. He will meet with both the British prime minister and Prince Charles. His first stop was the BBC studio where de Gaulle made his address, an idea that was initially opposed by the British cabinet but was championed by prime minister Winston Churchill, who persuaded them to agree.

It was the first of a number of radio messages de Gaulle and his followers would send via the BBC, which also played host to coded messages from the exiled French to the resistance fighters across the English Channel. For example, the use of the phrase "the tall blond man is called Bill" meant fighters should stand by for a parachute drop of weapons near a certain area. The most famous messages were variations on the first six lines of Paul Verlaine's poem "Chanson d'automne" (Autumn Song) which were transmitted ahead of the D-Day invasion in 1944 and triggered acts of sabotage across France.

There are no recordings of the 18 June appeal, but the full text is inscribed on a bronze plaque at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and was read out to Mr Sarkozy today by a student at the French Lycée in London.

(Source: AFP)

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[2010 declared Radio Year in Pakistan - minister](#)

June 18th, 2010 - 11:47 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

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Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Qamar Zaman Kaira, said this week that radio is still an effective medium of information and source of entertainment of the people. He said the past government ignored radio but the present government is giving much importance to this medium. He said the government has declared 2010 as Radio Year to highlight its importance.

The minister said equipment at Radio Pakistan is very old; some is obsolete and is being replaced, including transmitters in Karachi, Gwadar, Hyderabad and Multan. He hoped that with the replacement of transmitters the coverage area of broadcasts will be widened. He said there is a need of hard work and investment to improve it.

Director General of Radio Pakistan Murtaza Solangi said there was a plan to set up five FM stations at Fort Minroe, Rajanpur, Layyah, Rahimyar Khan and Jhang. These would help expand coverage area of Radio Pakistan, he added.

(Source: Associated Press of Pakistan)

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[Polish radio to stream live election night special](#)

June 17th, 2010 - 14:22 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[No comments yet](#)



Polish Radio's English section will be streaming a live election night special on Sunday 20 June from 1930 UTC. The programme, presented by John Beauchamp and Peter Gentle, will have pundits trying to make sense of the results, vox pops from outside polling stations and all the latest presidential election news. The live audio stream will be accessible from the [Home Page](#) of the website.

(Source: Polish Radio)

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[North Korea moves quietly onto the Internet](#)

June 17th, 2010 - 13:52 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[7 comments](#)

In the past few months, a block of 1,024 Internet addresses, reserved for many years for North Korea but never touched, has been registered to a company with links to the government in Pyongyang. It is unclear how the country's secretive leadership plans to make use of the addresses. It seems likely they will be assigned for military or government use, but experts say it is impossible to know for sure.

- [Read more from goodgearguide.com.au](#)

Andy Sennitt comments: While it's unlikely that this move heralds the beginning of a new openness, I hope that the official external service, Voice of Korea, will at last get its own website.

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[Tougher action against Dutch pirate radio stations](#)

June 17th, 2010 - 12:52 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[2 comments](#)

The Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands (AT) is stepping up action to prevent illegal radio radio broadcasts. The agency will not only close down stations that are on the air without permit, but will also target aerial towers "obviously intended for illegal broadcasts".

As a first step, AT inspectors will pay warning visits to land and home owners on whose premises suspicious constructions are spotted. "If these are used illegally, they will be fined 2,500 euros plus a conditional fine of 2,250." The total fine that illegal broadcasters risk "can total up to 33,750 euros", according to AT spokesman Gernant Deekens.

The new approach will first be used in the relatively rural northeastern province of Drenthe. Pirate stations are often run from hideouts in sheds and barns, playing popular music to a local audience for a couple of hours a day. It is often felt that "official" radiostations are catering insufficiently for regional tastes, prompting enterprising individuals to set up their own transmissions on AM or FM. The quality of the transmitters is often such that the broadcasts are causing interference on other channels, often without the pirates even being aware of it.

"Pirate radios are causing a lot of trouble in the north and east of the Netherlands," according to AT Chief Inspector Peter Spijkerman. "Their illegal broadcasts are interfering with legal radio stations here and in neighbouring Germany. Air traffic communication, too, is disrupted by illegal transmissions. This can lead to dangerous situations. We primarily want to take preventive action, but if people break the law, we'll give the pirates tit for tat," Mr Spijkerman warned.

(Source: RNW News)

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[Irish commercial TV ad time set to increase](#)

June 17th, 2010 - 12:36 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

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The amount of advertising permissible on independent commercial television in Ireland looks set to be increased under draft broadcasting rules published by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI). If adopted, the rules will see the maximum amount of advertising permitted rise to 12 minutes per hour from the current maximum of 10 minutes per hour. In addition, the maximum amount of advertising permitted per day would increase from 15 per cent of daily broadcasting time up to 20 per cent.

If adopted, the rules will apply only to independent commercial television channels licensed in the Republic of Ireland such as TV3, Setanta Ireland and City Channel. Public service television stations RTÉ and TG4 will not be affected by the rules.

“The BAI’s proposal to increase the permitted daily and hourly advertising limits is informed by an awareness of the need to ensure that the independent commercial television sector in Ireland competes effectively with competitors in the wider European commercial television sector including UK channels targeting Irish audiences” BAI chief executive Michael O’ Keefe said.

“The BAI is also of the view that the proposed increases in advertising limits will help to protect and stimulate Irish employment and sustain Irish programme content in a context where the television sector has suffered a significant decline in commercial revenue.”

The authority has begun a public consultation on the draft rules. It is anticipated that all responses to the consultation on the draft rules will be considered by the BAI at its meeting in July and that the finalised BAI Rules on Advertising and Teleshopping will be introduced in August 2010.

(Source: Irish Times)

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[Kenyan broadcaster loses frequencies in ownership battle](#)

June 17th, 2010 - 12:33 UTC

by [Andy Sennitt](#).

[No comments yet](#)

A Kenyan broadcaster has lost four radio frequencies after the High Court ruled they were obtained illegally. Countryside Broadcasting Company Limited which operates four FM stations in Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri and Meru under Countryside FM has now been switched off.

Lady Justice Martha Koome said the court would be perpetuating an illegality by granting Countryside Broadcasting an injunction restraining Go Communication Ltd from withdrawing its frequencies. Countryside had moved to court accusing Go Communication and Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) of taking away its frequencies in breach of an oral partnership agreement.

Countryside pleaded for restraining orders or Go Communication be asked to pay Sh110 million, claiming they entered into an oral partnership in which Smart Media Institute Ltd operated Bahasha FM. In the alleged partnership, Countryside submitted that it contributed the broadcasting equipment while Go Communication provided frequencies.

Bahasha FM went on air in September 2007 under Smart Media Institute until February 2009 when the business was taken over by Countryside Broadcasting. Countryside told the court that soon after the business changed hands, it incurred costs to market its FM station as a new brand.

Trouble started in December 2009 when a director of Go Communication Henry Otiende informed the broadcaster he had sold the frequencies. Aggrieved, Countryside sought for restraining orders, insisting it had paid Sh4 million to Mr Otiende for the frequencies. But Mr Otiende contested, saying Countryside entered into an illegal agreement with a third party, Smart Media Institute and proceeded to use the frequencies without authority.

In regard to Sh4 million, Mr Otiende said the money was paid to him by Countryside Suppliers Ltd to assist in procuring communication equipment and denied the money was paid for the use of frequencies. Go Communication further submitted that it solely operated the radio station under the banner Bahasha FM but decided to suspend its operations “so as to re-invent and plan a major re-launch.”

They argued that Countryside had no right over the frequencies since Go Communication had no statutory authority to assign, trade in or transfer frequencies without consent from CCK. “Countryside acted illegally by using the frequencies without consent from the regulator,” said Go communication.

(Source: Business Daily)

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