



Black Youth Coalition Against Violence  
21 Sussex Avenue, Suite 611  
Toronto, ON M5S 1J6

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907 Alness Street

Toronto, Ontario

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Attention: Mr. Slava Levin

Email: [slavalevin@ethnicchannels.com](mailto:slavalevin@ethnicchannels.com)

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Re: Approval of Al Jazeera English as received by the CRTC from ECGL

On behalf of the Black Youth Coalition Against Violence members, directors and anti-violence coalition members, I'm writing in support of the approval of the Al Jazeera English Channel. As Canadians of African and Caribbean heritage, we strongly welcome Al Jazeera English's presence in Canadian airwaves as they have taken extraordinary steps to cover African affairs since the channels inception.

Al Jazeera English went the extra mile to provide award-winning coverage of African stories not taken by the major Canadian and American news broadcasters. Al Jazeera's Editorial highlights include its coverage of Zimbabwe Elections, South African Elections, Kenya Elections, Saving the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto- South Africa, "Africa Uncovered" Series, Struggle for Somalia, Nigeria's War, Darfur Conflict, 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rwanda Genocide and "21<sup>st</sup> Century Piracy" in Somalia- all news stories which in one way or another effect Canadians of African Heritage that still have rooted interests in stories that effect their families and friends back in Africa.

Al-Jazeera's commitment to diversity having the world's most diverse newsroom and 69 international news bureaus that are mostly in the "Global South" show their genuine commitment to covering stories that are often neglected. It is important that we stress that these are more than

“stories” because many Canadians of African Heritage are still connected to their native homeland and provide economic support in the form of monetary remittances. As such, it is important that this vital information is provided to keep the community connected.

As an organization that is at the forefront of addressing the issue of violence in Toronto, we emphasize the importance of having a 24 hour news channel that provides adequate coverage of African affairs. Africa is home to some of the youngest democracies, promising economies and emerging nations- a message that has been neglected by the CBC, BBC and CNN. It is more than a continent that has been plagued by generations of wars and poverty. There is a direct link between the self-esteem of the African Canadian community and the media clips and sound bites that are recycled in the monopolistic Canadian media. Our youth members demand us to support all endeavours that give justice to the news stories that affect Africans and Canadians of African heritage which is why we strongly support Al Jazeera English’s presence in Canada.

Thank you for reviewing our letter of support.

Regards,

Taha Othman

**BYCAV Chairperson**

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