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**LINK TV ANNOUNCES NATIONAL BROADCAST PREMIERE OF
AL JAZEERA ENGLISH SERIES *WITNESS***

International Emmy-nominated series hosted by Rageh Omaar

***WITNESS* to air weekly Thursdays at 8 p.m. ET/Mondays 6:30 p.m. PT
starting October 6**

New York, NY, September 24, 2008 — The International Emmy-nominated program *WITNESS* from **Al Jazeera English** will appear weekly in the U.S. on **Link TV**, it was announced today by **Link TV**'s Senior Director of Middle Eastern Programming **Jamal Dajani**. This marks the first major national television broadcast of **Al Jazeera English** programming in the U.S. since the launch of **Al Jazeera English** in 2006, and the channel's subsequent controversial search for national distribution in this country. This television event also marks **Link TV**'s commitment to giving viewers the opportunity to form their own opinions about controversial global issues by giving the public first-hand access to original programming from around the world.

Dajani states, "Many Americans have a distorted view of Al Jazeera and that's because very few in the U.S. have had the opportunity to experience the channel. *WITNESS* will shatter any misconceptions about the quality and diversity of programming **Al Jazeera English** has to offer." **Link TV** President Kim Spencer adds, "As a truly independent channel, **Link TV** can offer Americans the opportunity to witness Al Jazeera English programming for themselves because we are free of the corporate and political pressures that dictate decisions of many other media outlets." He continues, "*WITNESS* is a thoughtful, well-produced international documentary series that we think will surprise many viewers who may have preconceived notions about **Al-Jazeera English** based on the media hype they've seen."

Hosted by Rageh Omaar, *WITNESS* is a half hour documentary program that brings world issues into focus through courageous personal stories and provocative debate. Each report reveals the unknown lives of ordinary people, telling their stories and unraveling the challenges that confront them. The films cover conflict, belief, the past and the future, and in addition to exposing new global stories, they introduce a new breed of journalist – the multi-talented, frontline witness. In the studio, Rageh Omaar will further explore the issues raised in the films, with expert guests on

the subject matter and the film-makers themselves. Visit www.LinkTV.org/Witness for full program information and to view video clips. See below for full episode descriptions and airtimes.

About Rageh Omaar:

Before joining the **WITNESS** team at Al Jazeera English, Rageh Omaar worked for the BBC as Developing World Correspondent and most recently as Africa Correspondent. Rageh has covered stories ranging from drought in Ethiopia to devastating floods in Mozambique. His reports during the 2003 Iraq war made him a household name.

Rageh began his journalistic career as a trainee at *The Voice* newspaper in Brixton and worked for a short time on the magazine *City Limits* before moving to Ethiopia in 1991, where he was a freelance reporter for the BBC World Service.

More recently he wrote the biography *Only Half of Me: Being a Muslim in Britain* and told the human story of the Battle for Iraq in his book *Revolution Day*.

ABOUT LINK TV

Link TV is the nation's largest independent broadcaster, devoted to providing diverse global perspectives on news, current events and world culture not typically available on other U.S. networks. **Link TV** regularly airs a robust selection of award-winning films and documentaries that explore the human condition from different multi-cultural perspectives. **Link** supports the essential cultural role of world cinema by helping Americans better understand what is happening in the world.

Link introduced world music to American television, and is the only national network presenting **world music** videos and documentaries to its viewers on a daily basis. **Link** currently boasts the one of the world's largest libraries of carefully curated international music videos on the airwaves and the web, and shows world music from 97 different countries.

A pioneer in news and current affairs programming, **Link TV** has been recognized domestically and internationally for its original news programs including the Peabody Award-winning daily broadcast *Mosaic: News from the Middle East*, which monitors and airs unedited selections of news reports from more than 30 Middle-Eastern broadcasters; *Latin Pulse / Pulso Latino*, a half-hour, bilingual English/Spanish TV news magazine that examines Latin American issues as seen through the eyes of South and Central American broadcasters; and *Global Pulse*, which compares and contrasts news reports from around the world on critical issues. **Link** also offers its viewers original, innovative participatory programs promoting national and global citizen action. Most of **Link's** programs are available nowhere else on American television.

Link TV is a nationwide television network available in more than 31 million U.S. homes as a basic service on DIRECTV channel 375 and DISH Network channel 9410. Select programs

are shown on more than 50 urban cable systems, including New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. **Link TV**'s original programs, music videos, documentary clips and artist interviews are streamed on the Internet at LinkTV.org. The channel has garnered the support of **Bill Cosby, Dave Matthews, Cher, Danny Glover, Harry Belafonte, Charlize Theron, Willie Nelson** and others.

For complete background information, program schedule, and internet streaming, go to LinkTV.org.

ABOUT AL JAZEERA ENGLISH

Al Jazeera English is the first English language world news channel to be headquartered in the Middle East. Launched in November, 2006 Al Jazeera English is setting the global news agenda and acts as a bridge between cultures. With unique access as the channel of reference for Middle East events, and broadcast centers strategically placed around the world in Doha, Kuala Lumpur, London and Washington DC, Al Jazeera English is balancing the information flow from South to North, providing independent and impartial news for a global audience from a grass roots level, giving voice to different perspectives from under-reported regions around the world.

Al Jazeera English is available in over 100 countries and in over 120 million households worldwide, and was recently awarded "Best 24 Hour News Program" at the 48th Annual Monte Carlo Television Festival. The channel also recently received its first two International Emmy nominations in both news and current affairs, for its groundbreaking coverage of the military crackdown in Myanmar and for its Red Mosque coverage.

In the US, Al Jazeera English is currently available on Buckeye Cable in Ohio, Burlington Telecom in Vermont, Washington Cable in DC and nationally via satellite provider Globecast WorldTV. Al Jazeera English's dedicated page on YouTube is the website's most watched international news channel, with 21 million videos viewed since its launch in April 2007.

The Arabic language Al Jazeera Satellite Channel is well known for changing the face of news in the Middle East, bringing independent and free speaking current affairs television to the region for the first time.

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Al Jazeera English *WITNESS* Episodes on Link TV

New documentary series on U.S. television, hosted by Rageh Omaar

Schedule and Film Descriptions

Link TV is available on **DIRECTV channel 375** and **Dish Network channel 9410**

Visit our website at LinkTV.org

Insuring Against Famine

Airs: Monday, October 6, 11:00pm ET/8:00pm PT
Wednesday, October 8, 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT

Insuring Against Famine tells the story of a man using an unusual approach - the tools of capitalism - to help some of the world's poorest people. Richard Wilcox and his team at the UN's World Food Programme work with 70 million Ethiopians to pioneer a radical new weather insurance project. Designed to plug the gap between crisis and aid relief, it allows Ethiopians to manage the risk of drought themselves.

Watch on YouTube, Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKY0w1EKe4E&feature=Playlist&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=52>

Watch on YouTube, Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVAFFKqoZOW>

The Singing Barber of Mosul

Airs: Monday, October 13, 11:00pm ET/8:00pm PT
Wednesday, October 15, 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT

It's not the safest job to be shaving beards and singing pop songs in the northern Iraqi town of Mosul. By day Mohamed Yunis is a barber, but he also loves to sing. Living with his mother and feeling stifled by restrictions, Mohamed decides to travel to compete in the Arabic Pop Idol competition. He hopes winning the competition will propel him into a glittering career in singing. In Beirut the pressure is on and the competition is tough. Will Mohamed make it? Will he succeed for himself? Will he be an Iraqi success story?

Watch on YouTube, Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1hno2FHnFc&feature=PlayList&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=94>

Watch on YouTube, Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoQgJuZJi4Y&feature=PlayList&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=95>

Caravan of Love

Airs: Monday, October 20, 11:00pm ET/8:00pm PT

Wednesday, October 22, 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT

In many of Spain's villages, there is a shortage of wives for lonely farmers. José and Josito are among a group of men who've heard about a caravan of women that visits villages in search of love. Now, after many discussions with the local town hall, a 'caravan of love' has been organized to visit Cabezuela. This film follows the women as they prepare to set out from Madrid, sees how the farmers get ready and build their expectations and records how successful both sides are in finding love.

Watch on YouTube, Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smVM0fC4skY&feature=PlayList&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=6>

Watch on YouTube, Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gaj0IK7qask&feature=PlayList&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=7>

Blind Cricket

Airs: Monday, October 27, 11:00pm ET/8:00pm PT

Wednesday, October 29, 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT

A girl stands in the middle of a large field grasping a cricket bat, listening intently as her opponent hurls a large rattling ball at her. This is cricket for the visually impaired - a modified version of South Asia's most popular game that's giving many blind people in Nepal a new lease on life. Its introduction into this mountain kingdom is due to former army captain Pawan Ghimire, who began promoting the game after being blinded in ambush by Maoist guerrillas and subsequently attending a training camp in Pakistan which changed his life. Ghimire now devotes much of his life to the cause, in a personal quest to show the blind aren't useless.

Watch on YouTube, Part 1

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Sl6s1_iL4U&feature=PlayList&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=150

Watch on YouTube, Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w8rer76pOE&feature=PlayList&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=151>

Gladiator Women

Airs: Monday, November 3, 11:00pm ET/8:00pm PT

Wednesday, November 5, 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT

During the day, 35-year old Carmen Rosa scrapes a living as a fruit seller in Bolivia's El Alto market. At night, she becomes "La Cholita" the town's most feared female Gladiator. She fights wearing the traditional long skirt and long ponytail of the Aymara Indian woman and prefers fighting against blonde women who, symbolically, represent the "Conquistador", the White enemy. In a city, and country, where social exclusion and ethnic division is the norm, the Gladiator Ring helps channel frustration about the status quo and gives the fighters the extra cash they need in order to make ends meet.

Watch on YouTube, Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLZ4fLINxs8&feature=Playlist&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=114>

Watch on YouTube, Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3dd8j0gLRA&feature=Playlist&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=115>

Banking on the Future

Airs: Monday, November 10, 11:00pm ET/8:00pm PT

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT

Ajay is 13 and homeless on the streets of New Delhi, after fleeing an abusive family. He's also a Bank manager. The bank he manages is a special kind of bank aimed at helping street children in India. The Butterflies Bank is a successful charity aimed at helping children find a way out - by teaching them to invest in their own future. Witness speaks to some of these unlikely entrepreneurs.

Watch on YouTube, Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zMV-NTsok&feature=Playlist&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=88>

Watch on YouTube, Part 2

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJGlX7MNC_s&feature=Playlist&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=89

Romance Chinese-Style

Airs: Monday, November 17, 11:00pm ET/8:00pm PT

Wednesday, November 19, 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT

In the 1960s, Diana Ross famously sang "You Can't Hurry Love". But in today's increasingly frenetic capitalist lifestyle, it sometimes seems there's hardly any time at all for love. Speed dating, online romance and love schools have all replaced party loyalty in China. This whimsical film by first time director Maggie Gu takes a wry look at dating schools in Beijing - also known as master classes in the art of seduction.

Watch on YouTube, Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVipggrV9B0&feature=Playlist&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=122>

Watch on YouTube, Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCu0Pq4-Jvo&feature=Playlist&p=6698BA1F3CDC7323&index=123>

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