



**Annual Abu-Ghazaleh Award for Excellence in  
Intellectual Property**

**Honoring AlJazeera Satellite Channel**

**Opening Statement by  
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**Doha-Qatar  
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**Your Excellencies  
Honored Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

With enormous grief, I was shocked to learn upon my arrival in Doha that our dear brother, friend and comrade, Prime Minister Mr. Rafiq Hariri has passed away. I was quite hesitant to complete my trip, but made the decision to attend because of my knowledge –through my personal relationship with Mr. Hariri- of his respect for objective Arab media. I feel, with him being ever the guardian of the public interest, I feel him inspiring me to tell you that what lives on are the institutions, and he is a man who built many that will indeed live on and continue with his message of goodwill.

From this perspective, I feel as if he –may God have mercy on him- is recommending that the message of Al-Jazeera imposes that we declare to the world that our institutions will remain and lighten our skies.

May God have mercy on Rafiq Hariri who dedicated himself and his life to Lebanon, and other Arab countries in the fields of economy and education and serving the civil society.

I know that I am expressing what is in all your fine and pure souls and therefore ask, in your name, that we all stand to honor, salute and mourn the great man we lost.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With great pride, I stand before this outstanding elite group of leaders in the fields of intellect, politics, economy and the media, and during an occasion that is very dear to my heart, which is quite unique and carries great meaning.

How wonderful it is to honor a creative intellectual, author, teacher, politician, athlete and so on.

And how much greater is that honor when there is an institution that gathers all these creative individuals together, such as a giant Arab media establishment that has proven its presence on both the Arab and international arenas, and confirmed through years of giving the Arab individual's capabilities in innovating, competing and standing above the rest. This establishment has taken the throne away from the major satellite channels worldwide, and according to public opinion polls has the fifth most recognizable trademark in the world.

Today we honor AlJazeera Satellite Channel, and present it with the Abu-Ghazaleh Annual Award for Excellence in Intellectual Property. This is the first time the award is granted to an institution since this initiative began over a year ago, and the first award of its kind in the Arab world that is granted annually according to standards, rules and principles characterized by their integrity and uniqueness.

Therefore, AlJazeera was chosen for the first such award, according to the following criteria:

### **First: Registering the logo in 120 countries:**

The channel has become unique, and succeeded in registering and then protecting the logo's trademark from violations and infringements and unauthorized use in 120 countries with the management of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP). This was done throughout numerous phases, as follows:

#### **Phase One:**

56 countries: The AlJazeera logo was filed and registered in all Arab countries (19 nations), in addition to those of the European Union (14 nations), and Australia, Iran, New Zealand, Russia, Yugoslavia and African countries (13 nations), in addition to Turkey, the USA, Pakistan, the Comoros, and Djibouti.

#### **Phase Two:**

36 countries: These were Afghanistan, Bolivia, China, Mexico, Venezuela, Bosnia Herzegovina, Colombia, Serbia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, El Salvador, Joanna, India, Kenya, Nicaragua, South Korea, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, North Korea, Tajikistan, Taiwan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Nigeria, Panama, Puerto Rico, South Africa, and Suriname.

#### **Phase Three:**

26 countries: These were Bangladesh, Switzerland, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brunei, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Estonia, Grenada, Indonesia, Cambodia, Liberia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

### **Second: Stopping infringements and unauthorized use:**

The Channel –in cooperation with AGIP- was able to stop numerous violations, infringements and unauthorized use of the Channel's logo, whether inside the state of Qatar or abroad. It did so based on the soundness of the registrations globally, whereas most violating parties responded either voluntarily after being warned by the Channel, or through legal avenues in certain instances.

### **Third: Classes where the AlJazeera logo has been registered:**

The Channel has –under AGIP's management- registered the logo in five different classes which are class 9, 16, 35, 38, and 41. It also filed an application for copyrighting the Arab calligraphy that's unique to it, and this was also done in collaboration with AGIP-Qatar.

We detail these classes here:

**Class 9:** Apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; video tapes, visual discs, magnetic data carriers, sound recordings, communications via electric or electronic apparatus such as fax, telex, phone, systems and devices related to transfer of information and ownership of items required for treatment, display, reception input

and output of information and/or printing it, recording discs; video display units, other data processing equipment and related devices.

**Class 16:** All products related in class 16 and in particular brochures, booklets, letterhead, and stationery with the exception of paint brushes.

**Class 35:** All services listed in this class and especially advertising through TV and radio, advertisement agencies, ad/commercial broadcast, commercial advertisement, and ads/statements via TV in class 35.

**Class 38:** All services listed in this class, and in particular services of journalism and media agencies, news broadcast via TV programs, TV broadcasts, news broadcasts, TV program services.

**Class 41:** All services listed in this class and especially entertainment services, TV entertainment, film production and especially TV films, TV program editing, renting of film, renting of cinematic and TV films, artistic agencies.

#### **Fourth: Calligraphy special to AlJazeera Channel:**

AlJazeera was quite creative and successful in designing Arab calligraphy known as Aljazeera's calligraphy that appears on its screen, and it has been registered as a copyright in the state of Qatar.

The calligraphy consists of alphabetic characters designed in a special way that is considered innovative, and the Channel uses it in all its offices, internal and external correspondences and on-screen and during its televised news.

AGIP has worked to file the logo's copyrights, so that Aljazeera's ownership to this calligraphy becomes factual and has the exclusive right to use it.

#### **Fifth: Worldwide Recognition for AlJazeera Channel:**

You may have followed the results of a worldwide poll conducted by "Brand Channel" magazine, which included approximately 2000 intellectual property experts and trademarks registrars globally, where the Channel was classified as having the fifth most recognizable and most influential trademark in the world.

AGIP – which also happens to be among the top 5 companies globally in the field of intellectual property (IP)- takes pride in this significant global achievement. The filing of applications for registering the trademark abroad throughout the world had a remarkable effect in this outcome, which coincides with the presentation of the Abu-Ghazaleh award to AlJazeera Channel.

### **Sixth: Intellectual Property in the Arab World:**

Moving on to talk about IP rights in the Arab region, I can say that the level of awareness and understanding to the concepts, benefits and conventions of IP rights (IPR) has improved dramatically in the Arab states, even though it varies from one state to the next.

This occasion and this ceremony actually reflects the attention that Arab officials are paying to the topic of protecting IP rights. Numerous laws and legislation have been issued by Arab countries in this field, and AGIP, in addition to the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP) which I'm proud to chair, helped formulate many of these laws and regulations. We've also assisted in translating many of these into English and helped build Arab capabilities in this field.

We've also issued the first Arab dictionary in IP, and are currently working on a program to qualify IP experts in the Arab world.

The Arab region has witnessed many conferences, seminars and workshops that we've been a part of, and which addressed IPR issues while establishing a growing awareness of the significance of IPR and their protection, to allow for progress and serve the society at large.

Needless to say that protecting IP cultivates the environment, which encourages creativity and leads to growth and prosperity.

**We look towards the AlJazeera Satellite Channel through this window that emanates light and plants in us hope that there is goodness surrounding us, and that in our Arab region there are many entities able to innovate and stand above the rest.**