

New Al Jazeera Series Gives Viewers Exclusive Access to World's Largest Hospital

January 8, 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa: Saving Soweto, a new eight part series on Al Jazeera English, goes behind the scenes of the largest hospital in the world. Chris Hani Baragwanath (or Bara) Hospital in Soweto, South Africa, occupies more than 173 acres with 3,200 beds and 6,670 staff members.

Mike Dillon, Head of Current Affairs at Al Jazeera English, and Executive Producer of the series, commented "The film-makers have gained unprecedented and exclusive access to the hospital over a period of many months. And they have succeeded in capturing the fortitude of both staff and patients as they face life-or-death situations on a daily basis, against a constant backdrop of overcrowding and acute resource shortages. The results are, I believe, unique."

"We are very pleased to share this insightful series with the world", Thembisa Fakude, Al Jazeera Network's Johannesburg Bureau Manager, added.

The new Al Jazeera series interviews members of the medical staff and examines how they deal with the task of treating the two thousand patients who check in daily. The ground-breaking content of Saving Soweto gives Al Jazeera viewers a window into a previously unseen and unexamined world.

Saving Soweto Premieres on Friday, January 9, 2009 at 22.30 GMT

The series repeats on Saturday, January 10 at 07.30 & 19.00 GMT; Sunday, January 11 at 01.30 & 12.30 GMT; Monday, January 12 at 06.30 & 14.30 & 22.30 GMT; Tuesday January 13 at 10.30 GMT; and Thursday, January 15 at 03.30 GMT.

Viewers in South Africa can watch the series on Al Jazeera English on DSTv.

To see where you can watch Al Jazeera in your region go to:

<http://english.aljazeera.net/aboutus/2008/07/2008717114526698333.html>

You can also watch Al Jazeera online at www.livestation.com/aje

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Al Jazeera English, which was launched in November 2006, is the world's first English language news channel to be headquartered in the Middle East. With unique access to Middle East events, and broadcast centres strategically placed around the world in Doha, Kuala Lumpur, London and Washington DC, Al Jazeera English aims to balance the information flow from South to North. The channel, now accessible to 130 million households globally, is providing independent and impartial news for an international audience giving voice to different perspectives from under-reported regions around the world. The channel has already garnered multiple awards including awards from the Royal Television Society, Amnesty International, YouTube, and two Emmy nominations for international news.

Al Jazeera started out in 1996 as the first channel in the world dedicated to providing comprehensive, independent television news and live debate for the Arab world. The Channel now has an estimated audience of over 50 million viewers and was ranked by Interbrand brandchannel.com's Reader's Choice award as the most impactful television news brand globally.

As a natural extension of its spirit and mission, Al Jazeera has over the years created a number of other channels and services. As a result, in March 2006, Al Jazeera was formally named the Al Jazeera Network, transforming its operation into an international media corporation. The Al Jazeera Network now consists of the flagship Al Jazeera Satellite Channel (Arabic), Al Jazeera English, Al Jazeera Documentary, Al Jazeera Sport, Al Jazeera.net (the English and Arabic web sites), the Al Jazeera Media Training and Development Center, the Al Jazeera Center for Studies, Al Jazeera Mubasher (Live), and Al Jazeera Mobile.

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