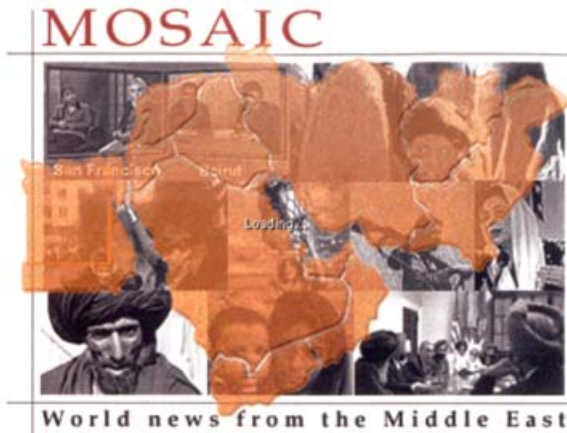




CJR CURRENTS



Mosaic

A Bridge to the Middle East

On April 8, the lead story on many of the Arab world's most prominent TV news outlets was how U.S. forces had fired on two Baghdad buildings containing journalists, killing a Reuters cameraman from the Spanish network, Telecinco, and an Al-Jazeera correspondent. These reports also led a two-year-old satellite program in the United States called *Mosaic*, which rebroadcasts (with English voice-overs) selected segments from the Arab news shows.

U.S. viewers may have bristled at the language in that day's program, which included references to the "martyred" Al-Jazeera reporter, and to the U.S. tank that "took its time and purposely shelled the media's headquarters." But *Mosaic's* creators say their mandate is to present an unfiltered glimpse of words and images from the Middle East. Now, *Mosaic* — which can be seen on the San Francisco-based satellite operation

WorldLink TV — is archiving its broadcasts on the Internet (worldlinktv.org/mosaic/streamsArchive), where anyone can access them for free. The full, two-year archive won't be available for at least several months, but many of this year's shows are already up.

While Al-Jazeera is the most recognized Arab network in the West, the fourteen Arab channels that *Mosaic* has deals with (Al-Jazeera isn't among them, but Abu Dhabi TV and Egypt's Nile TV are) beam their newscasts into millions of homes around the Middle East, giving them a collective influence that rivals Al-Jazeera's. *Mosaic* also has permission to rebroadcast Iran's state television and the Israel Broadcasting Authority's Arab-language newscasts.

Mosaic's staff began archiving the broadcasts during the Iraq war, when viewership spiked upward. "We used to get e-mails from people saying, 'I don't have a satellite, I can't watch you,'" says Jamal Dajani, *Mosaic's* producer and the director of Middle Eastern programming for WorldLink TV.

WorldLink TV — whose motto is "Television Without Borders" — was launched as part of a nonprofit effort in 1999 by Kim Spencer, a former ABC News producer, Jack Willis, the former president of PBS's affiliate in Minneapolis-St. Paul, KTCA, and David Michaelis, an Israeli journalist, to spotlight global stories that have been underreported in the U.S.

— Jonathan Curiel

Curiel is a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle.