



USA vs AL-ARIAN

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LINK TV PRESENTS *USA vs AL-ARIAN*

DOCUMENTARY TRACKS ARREST, IMPRISONMENT AND TRIAL OF ARAB-AMERICAN SAMI AL-ARIAN

Exclusive footage includes in-depth interviews with Al-Arian, his wife and children

U.S. television premiere Monday, April 7 at 9:00 p.m. ET/6:00 p.m. PT, repeating Saturday, April 12 at 8:00 p.m. ET/5:00 p.m. PT and Sunday, April 13 at 11:00 p.m. ET/8:00 p.m. PT,

Documentary viewable in its entirety online starting Monday, April 7 at LinkTV.org

New York, NY, April 3, 2008 — **LINK TV** presents the U.S. television premiere of *USA vs AL-ARIAN*, an intimate documentary portrait of an Arab-American family facing terrorism charges laid by the U.S. Department of Justice. In February 2003, the FBI arrested university professor and political activist Sami Al-Arian in Tampa, Florida. Charged with supporting the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, classified by the U.S. Department of State as a terrorist organization, he was placed in solitary confinement for two and a half years before receiving a trial. Today, Al-Arian, who is diabetic, is on a hunger strike in protest of his continued imprisonment beyond his scheduled release date, despite being acquitted in a jury trial. His health is deteriorating rapidly, as his food and water strike nears the one-month mark. This timely documentary premieres on U.S. television on the five-year anniversary of Al-Arian's incarceration.

On December 6, 2005, Al-Arian was acquitted in a jury trial on eight of 17 counts, and the jury voted 10 to 2 to acquit on all remaining charges. Accepting a plea bargain to end his ordeal, Al-Arian plead guilty to one count of conspiracy in aiding Palestinian Islamic Jihad associates in nonviolent ways in return for receiving the minimum prison sentence, including time served, and to be deported from the country upon his release. According to his defense lawyers, the plea agreement stipulates that he would not be subject to any further prosecution or called upon to cooperate with the government on any matter, thus concluding once and for all, all business between the government and Al-Arian.

Yet, Al-Arian remains in prison today, a year beyond his scheduled release date of April 13, 2007. The Department of Justice is now holding Al-Arian in civil contempt for refusing to testify

in March before a grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia against others – like him – accused of supporting Muslim charities that in turn, allegedly, funded terror organizations.

USA vs AL-ARIAN is the personal story of the Al-Arian family, who like many Muslims in the U.S. today, are navigating the new laws and political climate of post-9/11 America. The film follows Al-Arian, his wife Nahla and their five American-born children throughout the trial and its aftermath as they fight terrorism charges. This powerful documentary also explores themes of freedom of speech, civil liberties and the right to a fair trial. It is an up-close family portrait that documents a battle waged both in court and in the media.

Program will be streamed in its entirety from April 7 to May 7 at www.LinkTV.org/USAvsAlArian. Photography and background information available at these links: www.USAvsAlArian.com and www.dalchowsverden.no/presskit_uvsa.

ABOUT LINK TV

Link TV is a nationally broadcast television channel 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.

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*, which presents an array of unedited news reports from Latin American broadcasters; and, *Global Pulse* which compares and contrasts a selection of reports from around the world on specific issues. **Link** offers viewers original, innovative participatory programs promoting national and global citizen action. Most of **Link**'s programs are available nowhere else on American television.

Link supports the essential cultural role of world cinema by helping Americans to better understand what is happening in the world. **Link** introduced world music to American television, and presents a carefully curated library of world music videos and documentaries from 97 different countries to viewers on a daily basis.

Link TV is a nationwide television network available in more than 30 million U.S. homes as basic service on DIRECTV channel 375 and DISH Network channel 9410. Select programs are shown on cable systems in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. **Link TV**'s original programs, world 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, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson** and others.