



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ON INTERFERENCE WITH BBG BROADCASTS

March 11, 2011

WHEREAS, the Congress declared in the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended (the “Act”) – the law that established the Broadcasting Board of Governors as an independent federal agency – that:

“It is the policy of the United States to promote the freedom of opinion and expression; including the freedom ‘to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,’ in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

And furthermore that:

“Open communication of information and ideas among the peoples of the world contributes to international peace and stability and the promotion of such communication is in the interests of the United States.”

WHEREAS, BBG-sponsored U.S. international broadcasters face significant obstacles in implementing the principles underlying the Act, including the jamming of radio and television signals carried over terrestrial and satellite delivery systems, blockage of Internet-based program delivery; the refusal of foreign governments to allow placement of BBG programming on domestic media outlets and to grant visas to U.S. journalists; and harassment of, and violent attacks on, BBG journalists in countries to which we broadcast;

WHEREAS, deliberate interference and jamming of United States international broadcasting signals, cyber attacks against BBG-sponsored websites and restrictions on the use and availability of the Internet and social media tools has increased in nations in the Middle East, East Asia and elsewhere where citizens are demonstrating for institutional change;

WHEREAS, media organizations of those nations that jam or otherwise interfere with the free flow of ideas through broadcast media enjoy open access to U.S. media markets; and

WHEREAS, the BBG recognizes the need to articulate clearly the United States Government’s position that interference with free media and the free flow of information and ideas constitutes a threat to human rights and freedom and to the principles stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors hereby affirms its commitments to the following:

- To reach audiences in restricted media environments by the most effective means available.

- To oppose and overcome jamming and other deliberate means of interference with BBG broadcasts through all available technologies, as well as through diplomatic efforts by the U.S. Government.
- To protect BBG-sponsored journalists and assist their news-gathering and reporting activities throughout the world.

Walter Isaacson
Chairman
Broadcasting Board of Governors

DATE: March 11, 2011