



## RESOLUTION

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### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY CORRESPONDENTS IN TAJIKISTAN

**November 30, 2016**

WHEREAS, the Tajik Service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), known in Tajikistan as Radio Ozodi, has provided fair and accurate news and information to Tajikistan since 1956 by shortwave radio, satellite, web and mobile sites and social networks;

WHEREAS, Radio Ozodi's reporting is highly valued by Tajiks and others interested in Tajik affairs, as indicated by millions of visits every month to its websites;

WHEREAS Tajikistan's government has increasingly attempted to impede Radio Ozodi's legitimate journalistic work;

WHEREAS, specifically, on November 25, 2016, the government of Tajikistan arbitrarily revoked the accreditations of six Dushanbe-based reporters of RFE/RL's Radio Ozodi;

WHEREAS, these revocations followed the Tajik government's demand that RFE/RL remove from Radio Ozodi's website a report that the daughter of President Emomali Rahmon had been appointed to a job at the Foreign Ministry, a fact revealed on the Foreign Ministry's own website and confirmed by a reliable source in the Foreign Ministry; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2016, Tajik authorities also demanded that RFE/RL remove from Radio Ozodi's website a factual account of a U.S. government warning to American citizens about traveling to Tajikistan.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors:

- condemns these attempts by the government of Tajikistan to impede the practice of professional, independent journalism;
- endorses RFE/RL's refusal to remove these factual reports from Radio Ozodi's website;
- demands the restoration of the accreditations of RFE/RL's correspondents;
- demands that Tajik authorities desist from using accreditation as a means of censoring independent journalism;
- calls on the government of Tajikistan to respect the fundamental human rights of free communication and expression; and
- directs RFE/RL's management to continue Radio Ozodi's fair and accurate coverage of events in Tajikistan.