



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S KURDISH SERVICE

June 14, 2017

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in Kurdish on April 25, 1992 to provide accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to the Kurdish people;

WHEREAS, VOA's Kurdish Service has served for the last 25 years as a vital communications link with the Kurdish people in support of freedom and democracy;

WHEREAS, VOA Kurdish primarily targets a mass audience of Radio, TV and web news consumers, with a focus on policy makers, journalists (the media) and those who are interested in international news and U.S. policies and perspectives toward Iraqi Kurdistan and the region. Although the original target audience is the Iraqi Kurdish population, the Service also produces special programming on issues relevant to Kurds in Turkey, Syria and Iran which are not covered by local media;

WHEREAS, VOA's Kurdish Service is the only international broadcaster that speaks to the Kurds of the Middle East in their main dialects, Sorani and Kurmanji. VOA Kurdish primarily targets a mass audience of Radio, TV and web news consumers, with a focus on policy makers, journalists (the media) and those who are interested in international news and U.S. policies and perspectives toward Iraqi Kurdistan and the region. There is a hunger for American perspectives. Now that the Kurds are U.S. partners in the fight against ISIS, the need is more vital. In their continuous fight against ISIS, Kurdish forces took control of many areas in the region from ISIS. People want to know where the U.S. government stands on issues related to the Kurds such as their future as a nation without a country. ISIS in its videos has used Kurdish speaking members to convey their messages. VOA Kurdish needs to communicate with Kurds on extremism;

WHEREAS, VOA Kurdish is a unique source of news and information for Kurds about American society and its achievements in democratic governance, business, medicine, science, technology and the arts, which can serve as an inspiration and a model for Kurdish people;

WHEREAS, VOA Kurdish Service is viewed as a reliable source with comprehensive discussions on daily issues;

WHEREAS, VOA's Kurdish Service continues to broadcast daily to more than 30 million people in Iraq, Middle East and around the world; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Kurdish Service is among the leading international broadcasters in Kurdish and, surpassing its competitors with audience reach on Radio, Internet, three weekly TV shows and mobile, with arguably the most popular and influential radio and programs in the Kurdish language.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) that we celebrate and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Voice of America' Kurdish Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors and CEO commend and congratulate both the current and former members of the Voice of America's Kurdish Service for their dedication in serving the Kurdish people and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.