



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S ARMENIAN SERVICE – AZATUTYUN RADIOKAYAN

JUNE 6, 2018

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Armenian Service, known locally as Azatutyun Radiokayan, began broadcasting to Armenia on March 18, 1953;

WHEREAS, the Armenian Service has for 65 years produced high quality journalism that promotes transparency, accountability, and pluralism in Armenia – and has been praised not only by human rights activists and international organizations for its work, but also by heads of U.S. and EU diplomatic missions in Armenia;

WHEREAS, despite constitutional guarantees, media freedom remains a significant challenge for Armenia, as international watchdogs such as Freedom House and Reporters Without Borders place the country in the Not Free/Partly Free category;

WHEREAS, Armenian Service's journalists have been attacked while covering street protests and elections in three consecutive years (2015 -2017), but have bravely continued their work and stayed on-air in the face of attacks and violence;

WHEREAS, with its technological edge, RFE/RL and its Armenian Service have modeled journalistic innovation in Armenia, and become the country's leader in online video reporting, with its YouTube video channel surpassing 32 million views in 2017, while Facebook video views exploded to 105 million in the same year;

WHEREAS, the Armenian Service features live TV coverage of all major events in the country that is regularly re-broadcast by other media outlets in Armenia, including two weeks of non-stop coverage of the July 2016 capture of the police headquarters building in Yerevan by gunmen and ensuing hostage situation that resulted in over 5.6 million visitors during that period, a record-breaking number for the Service's website; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Service reaches audiences not only in Armenia, but among the eight million members of the worldwide Armenian diaspora community

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) that we celebrate and commemorate the 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the Armenian Service for their dedication to its audiences and to the mission of providing independent information and reporting to audiences in Armenia.