



# RESOLUTION

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## RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S KAZAKH SERVICE – RADIO AZATTYQ

**JUNE 6, 2018**

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Kazakh Service, known locally as Radio Azattyq, began broadcasting to Kazakhstan on March 18, 1953;

WHEREAS, the Kazakh Service has, for the past 65 years, been praised by human rights activists and international organizations for the vital role it has played in providing professional news and analysis that is otherwise unavailable within Kazakhstan, where free media is consistently suppressed;

WHEREAS, operating in a market with few independent media outlets, the Kazakh Service seeks to promote democracy and human rights and set the news agenda in a country where local media do not fully, or adequately, cover a range of topics, including such as land reform, human rights abuses, and persecution of civil society activists and journalists, due to their sensitive nature;

WHEREAS, the Kazakh Service produces compelling stories in both Kazakh and Russian and provides a platform for audiences in Kazakhstan to engage and share ideas, which helps bring real change into the lives of its audience;

WHEREAS, the Kazakh Service serves as a shining example of fair, balanced, and highly professional journalism in a country where Freedom House classifies the media environment as not free and authorities frequently target independent journalists; and

WHEREAS, the Kazakh Service and its journalists have often been recognized for their excellence, including the presentation of the International Women's Media Foundation's (IWMF) 2017 Courage in Journalism Award to journalist Saniya Toiken; the naming of journalist Sanat Urnaliyev's investigative TV documentary on the 2014 mass poisoning of children in Berezovka, Kazakhstan as a finalist in the 2017 New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards; and the presentation of the 2009 Online Journalism Award to the Kazakh Service for "standing in defense of citizen's rights to seek and receive information."

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 Kazakh Service.

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