



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S TAJIK SERVICE – RADIO OZODI

JUNE 6, 2018

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

WHEREAS, the Tajik Service is one of the most trusted media outlets in Tajikistan, connecting citizens with political and civil society leaders in support of greater pluralism and better governance, playing an important and unique role in the advancement of better-informed public opinion in Tajik society by having the courage to openly raise sensitive and relevant issues;

WHEREAS, for 65 years the Tajik Service has produced mission-oriented journalism, promoting democratic values in all fields – politics, economy, human rights – and above all, the right to freedom and a decent life;

WHEREAS, the Tajik Service offers audiences unbiased, fact-based reporting as an alternative to both Russian disinformation and extremist propaganda which is prevalent in the region, serving a critical role in U.S. national security;

WHEREAS, the Tajik Service was the first local media organization to report openly and comprehensively about the role of the Islamist State (ISIS) militant group in the region, documenting dozens of cases of Tajik-born “jihadists” who joined the ranks of ISIS to fight in Iraq and Syria;

WHEREAS, the Tajik Service's excellence in reporting has been recognized by external organizations including the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, which in 2017 recognized two Tajik Service correspondents for excellence in reporting on Islamic extremism; YouTube's recognition in November 2017 of the Service's page exceeding 100,000 subscribers; and the UN Development Agency's 2015 recognition of the Service's reporting on the rights of the disabled; and

WHEREAS, with its professional reporting on local and regional issues, the Tajik Service's coverage of sensitive political, economic, social and cultural issues has helped widen the space for freedom of speech in Tajikistan.

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 Tajik Service.

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