



---

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors

Date: June 6, 2018

Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of June 6, 2018**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Kenneth Weinstein  
Governor Ryan Crocker  
Governor Michael Kempner  
Governor Karen Kornbluh (by telephone)  
Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Heather Nauert

Governors Leon Aron and Jeffrey Shell were not in attendance.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Chairman Weinstein called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

The Chairman began by welcoming Heather Nauert, Acting Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, who represents Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the Board. The Chairman noted that the Board has benefited from its strong partnership with the State Department and invited Heather to make brief remarks. Acting Under Secretary Nauert praised the BBG's first-rate journalists and acknowledged the importance of more collaboration and communication between the BBG and State.

Chairman Weinstein announced the appointment of Tomás P. Regalado as the new Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB). He noted that, for over 20 years, Mr. Regalado served the city of Miami, Florida, as a journalist, City Commissioner, and two-term Mayor. BBG Chief Executive Officer (CEO) John Lansing then performed a swear-in office ceremony for Mr. Regalado. At the Chairman's invitation, Mr. Regalado expressed his thanks for all the support and reaffirmed his commitment to creating a new era for the Martis.

The Chairman then pivoted to another personnel matter involving the departure of BBG Deputy Director Jeff Trimble. He thanked Mr. Trimble for his 21 years of dedication and service to U.S. international media and presented him with a career achievement award.

Chairman Weinstein said that the Board recognizes the difficult working conditions many of our journalists operate in, and the importance of highlighting incidents of threats to the journalist since the last Board meeting. He noted that the BBG had mourned the loss of a number of its journalists and welcomed the release of a contributor for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). There followed a video of current threats to press outlining the following: 1) In May, three RFE/RL journalists paid the ultimate price. All three, Sabawoon Kakar, Abadullah Hananzai, and Maharram Durrani were killed in a Kabul, Afghanistan terrorist attack targeting journalists; 2) While reporting on political events in Burundi, three VOA reporters were harassed by security officials; 3) On May 18, while reporting on a fatal plane crash in Cuba, independent journalists Cesar San Martin and Rudy Cabrera were detained by authorities for almost 24 hours; 4) In May, longtime RFE/RL Turkmen contributor Sultan Achilova was attacked despite a claim from the Turkmen government that RFE/RL can operate freely in the country; 5) Current Time journalist Alexei Aleksandrov and RFE/RL contributor Zosya Rodvevich were detained by police while covering political demonstrations on May 5; 6) Three RFE/RL Armenian Service staff, Naira Bulghadarian, Anatoly Yeghiazarian, and Arus Hakobian, were assault by government security forces on April 21 and 22 while reporting on massive government protests in the capital; 7) Radio Free Asia (RFA) Cambodian Service journalists Yeang Sothearin and Uon Cchin remain behind bars on trumped up charges; 8) In Vietnam, RFA contributor Nguyễn Ngọc Già and videographer Nguyễn Văn Hoá remain jailed for doing their jobs; 9) In Ukraine, RFE/RL contributor Stanislav Aseyev continues to be held in an undisclosed location by Russian-backed separatists; 10) In Syria, Alhurra correspondent Bashar Fahmi has been missing since August 2012; and 11) in Western China, 40 family members of six RFA Uyghur Service employees have been sent to reeducation camps. Their whereabouts and wellbeing are unknown.

Turning to Board business, the Chairman stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda on May 23, 2018. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Kempner moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Crocker seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Adam Clayton Powell, III, President of the Public Diplomacy Council and Director of Washington Programs for the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center, to address the Board for three minutes.

Chairman Weinstein asked CEO Lansing to report on agency operations since the last Board meeting.

CEO Lansing began by reiterating his appreciation of Emilio Vazquez for stepping in as Acting Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting and expressed his excitement for OCB's next chapter under Mr. Regalado's leadership.

Before inviting the U.S. International Coordinating Committee (ICC) to highlight their progress in several key strategic areas of the BBG, CEO Lansing pointed out that establishing the ICC was one of his first acts when he joined the BBG in 2015. Since then, the ICC has served as a force multiplier in the work that the BBG does around the world.

CEO Lansing recently asked the ICC to consider a global reporting project that all five BBG networks could collectively work on. The complex story they chose to tell is that of the rising power of China around the world. The project, called “Dragon’s Reach: Tracking China’s Economic Power Play,” shows how China is using soft power and economic might to influence the developing world and regional partners.

Voice of America (VOA) Director Amanda Bennett spoke about “Dragon’s Reach” and VOA’s leading coordination role to make this first-of-its-kind project possible. VOA’s project lead, Yolanda Lopez, spoke about how the multiple components of this project came together seamlessly and proceeded to show a short video clip.

Acting OCB Director Emilio Vazquez showed a video that highlighted some of the unique and creative content the Martis are producing and distributing to Cuban audiences despite the challenging operating environment on the Island.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) President Tom Kent described the network’s coverage of protests and political unrest in both Russia and Armenia. In both examples, RFE/RL served as trusted surrogate media when the official state-run media remained largely silent and could not or would not tell the truth.

Radio Free Asia (RFA) President Libby Liu gave an update on the threats and intimidation that RFA’s Uyghur Service journalists face in reporting about China. Despite the persecution faced by their families back in China, the Uyghur Service’s journalists continue to report on the repression of their people by Chinese authorities as well as the continued development of government surveillance tactics.

Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, spoke about the network’s engaging coverage of important events in Arab-speaking regions, including recent elections in Iraq. In its reporting, MBN aimed to highlight topics that were not well-covered by other media outlets, including corruptions and citizens’ hopes for the future.

In closing, CEO Lansing updated the Board on the 2018 Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholarship recipients. The Nathanson Scholarship, funded by former BBG Chairman Marc Nathanson and his wife, Jane Nathanson, identifies emerging leaders and middle management officials in areas related to public diplomacy and international media for participation in executive training at the nonpartisan Aspen Institute.

In a final comment, Governor Kempner noted the BBG’s extraordinary arc of success over the years made possible by improvements in collaboration, quality of content, and coverage.

Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at MBN headquarters in Springfield, VA, on August 29, 2018. He said that the Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of March 14, 2018 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Armenian Service – Azatutyun Radiokayan. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Armenian Service – Azatutyun Radiokayan as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Georgian Service – Radio Tavisupleba. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Georgian Service – Radio Tavisupleba as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kazakh Service – Radio Azattyq. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Kazakh Service – Radio Azattyq as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kyrgyz Service – Radio Azattyk. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service – Radio Azattyk as set forth in Attachment 6.
6. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tajik Service – Radio Ozodi. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Tajik Service – Radio Ozodi as set forth in Attachment 7.
7. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Uzbek Service – Radio Ozodlik. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Uzbek Service – Radio Ozodlik as set forth in Attachment 8.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Matthew Walsh; General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Managing Director Oanh Tran; Director of Global Communications and Office of Public Affairs Nasserie Carew; Chief Strategy Officer and Acting Director of the Office of Internet Freedom Haroon Ullah; BBG Special Communications Advisor Matt Schuck; BBG Deputy Director Jeffrey Trimble; Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Congressional Liaison Marta McLellan Ross; Research Analyst Pradeep Mistry; Special Assistant Chelsea Milko; Special Assistant Yuna Jacobson; Writer-Editor Laurie Moy; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Associate Director for Program Support; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Kelu Chao, VOA Program Director; Yolanda Lopez, VOA Director of Central News; Tomas P. Regalado, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Emilio Vazquez, OCB Staff Director; Thomas Kent, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Chief of Staff; Stephanie

Schmidt, RFE/RL Budget Director; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Pam Goodnow, RFE/RL Chief Financial Officer; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Bay Fang, RFA Executive Editor; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Deirdre Kline, MBN Director of Communications; and Stephanie Forman Morimura, Special Assistant, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

---

Kenneth Weinstein  
Chairman

Witnessed:

---

David Kligerman  
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the June 6, 2018 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of March 14, 2018 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Armenian Service – Azatutyun Radiokayan
4. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Georgian Service – Radio Tavisupleba
5. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kazakh Service – Radio Azattyq
6. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kyrgyz Service – Radio Azattyk
7. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tajik Service – Radio Ozodi
8. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Uzbek Service – Radio Ozodlik

## BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### June 2018 Meetings Agenda

(ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE COHEN BUILDING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.)

**Wednesday, June 6**

---

#### **12:30 - 1:30 Broadcasting Board of Governors' Open Meeting**

- A. Chairman Remarks
- B. Consent Agenda
  - Draft Minutes of March 14, 2018 Meeting
  - Draft Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Armenian Service – Azatutyun Radiokayan
  - Draft Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Georgian Service – Radio Tavisupleba
  - Draft Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kazakh Service – Radio Azattyq
  - Draft Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kyrgyz Service – Radio Azattyk
  - Draft Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tajik Service – Radio Ozodi
  - Draft Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Uzbek Service – Radio Ozodlik
- C. Public Comment
- D. CEO & Director's Report
- E. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting



## ATTACHMENT 2

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors  
Date: March 14, 2018  
Subject: Minutes of the BBG Meeting of March 14, 2018

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Kenneth Weinstein  
Governor Leon Aron (by telephone)  
Governor Ryan Crocker  
Governor Michael Kempner  
Governor Karen Kornbluh

Governor Jeffrey Shell and the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs were not in attendance.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Chairman Weinstein called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

The Chairman began by acknowledging that BBG journalists risk their lives and livelihoods every day to report the truth. He said that, since the last Board meeting, there have been many disturbing attacks on our journalists and their families. The Chairman then played a video about BBG's current threats to press highlighting the following:

### China

In China, relatives of six U.S.-based journalists with Radio Free Asia's (RFA) Uyghur Service have been detained and disappeared by Chinese authorities. These relatives living in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are being held in re-education camps, which act as open-air detention facilities holding thousands of Uyghurs at a time. The staff members with relatives being held are: Shohret Hoshur, Gulchehra "Guli" Hoja, Kurban Niyaz, Eset Sulaiman, Jelil Kashgary, and Mamatjan Juma. Four of these six RFA staff members are U.S. citizens.

## Cambodia

In Cambodia, pressure continues and restrictions are increasing after media crackdowns that led to the closure of RFA's Phnom Penh bureau in September. Two former RFA journalists Uon Chhin and Sothearin Yeang were arrested in November and charged with espionage. They have been denied bail twice, and their families are worried about the appalling conditions in prison. The government has stopped renewing Voice of America (VOA) press credentials and VOA Khmer stringer Reaksey Hul was recently escorted off the parliament premises.

## Vietnam

In Vietnam, two RFA contributors are being held. Nguyễn Ngọc Già, a blogger and contributor, was sentenced to a four-year prison term with another three years on probation for carrying out "propaganda against the state." Videographer and contributor, Nguyễn Văn Hoá, was being held for "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe on the interests of the state," an offense that carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison.

## Nigeria

The wife and son of a VOA Hausa stringer Nasiru Yakubu were kidnapped on February 28, when attackers stormed their Kaduna home. A neighbor who tried to help was killed in the process. Thankfully, on March 2, Mr. Yakubu confirmed that his family was released.

## Burundi

VOA Central Africa stringer Eloge Kaneza learned he had been added to the kill list. He has since been evacuated out of the country.

## Egypt

In Egypt, the state-run media have led organized attacks on local and foreign press, including Alhurra. In the attack, they try to discredit the network by erroneously describing it as the television channel sponsored by the Pentagon and intelligence agencies.

## Ukraine

Mykola Semena, a contributor for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), continues to be prohibited from working as a journalist after he was convicted of "separatism" last year. On December 18, the Russia-controlled Supreme Court of Crimea upheld those charges. While Mr. Semena still faces a suspended 2½ year prison sentence, the court shortened, from three years to two, the period during which Mr. Semena is prohibited from working as a journalist. Blogger and contributor for RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, Stanislav Aseyev, has been missing since June 2, 2017. He was forcibly disappeared by Russia-backed separatists in Ukraine's war-torn eastern Donetsk region. Elsewhere in Ukraine, reporter Serhii Nuzhnenko was pepper-sprayed by a police officer, a correspondent's apartment was vandalized, and a stringer was detained and interrogated by border guards.

## Pakistan

The Islamabad bureau of RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal was forced to close on Jan 19 after government intelligence accused RFE/RL of airing programs "against the interest of Pakistan."

Authorities have tried to force Radio Mashaal staff to make statements against RFE/RL. Meanwhile, VOA reporters in Lahore, Peshawar and Islamabad are taking precautionary measures after a variety of threats have come in.

#### Turkmenistan

Saparmamed Nepsukliev, a photographer and contributor for RFE/RL's Turkmen Service, continues to be held after he was detained by agents of Turkmenistan's National Security Ministry on July 7, 2015, in Avaza. No one has seen or heard from him since.

The BBG demands a stop to the systematic harassment of our journalists, and that those who are being unlawfully held be released immediately.

Turning to Board business, the Chairman stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda on February 23, 2018. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Crocker moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Kempner seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Ann Noonan of the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting to address the Board for three minutes.

Chairman Weinstein asked CEO Lansing to report on agency operations since the last Board meeting.

CEO Lansing stated that the BBG unveiled its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan on February 12, 2018, timed with the release of the President's FY 2019 Budget Request. He said that the Plan is a comprehensive roadmap for moving the agency's priorities forward, including significantly increasing BBG's audience reach. He noted that, while the agency remains independent, it had chosen to align its Plan with the new National Security Strategy and the Administration's management priorities of effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. He added that the BBG networks are operationalizing the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan through their own engaging, cross-platform content.

The CEO then invited the U.S. International Coordinating Committee (ICC) to highlight their progress in several key strategic areas of the BBG.

VOA Director Amanda Bennett spoke about VOA's new weekly program, Plugged in with Greta Van Susteren, and introduced Ms. Susteren to the Board. Director Bennett continued by saying that Ms. Susteren is working for VOA on a pro bono basis because she is passionate about the work of the network and favors the neutral, issues-oriented, serious journalism that it delivers. RFE/RL President Tom Kent described the network's new projects to help counter violent extremism in Central Asia and the Balkans. The projects are designed to be highly agile in order to engage audiences on highly relevant issues as soon as they emerge in the news. President Kent

also touched on RFE/RL's cross-platform, all-sides coverage in the run-up to the Russian presidential elections.

Andre Mendes, Acting Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, highlighted some of the unique and creative ways that the Martis get their content on the island despite the challenging operating environment. Acting Director Mendes showed a video featuring improvements to programming and the distribution of news and information denied to the Cuban people by their government.

RFA President Libby Liu discussed the network's coverage of the development of facial recognition software that ostensibly boosts the power of the Chinese surveillance state. She also described the threats and intimidation that RFA journalists face in reporting about China.

Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, spoke about the network's smart, fresh programming that stems from his new strategy for targeted broadcasting in the pan-Arab media space.

In closing, CEO Lansing pointed out how the ICC was breaking new ground and that he was pleased with the first-rate quality work from the networks.

Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at BBG headquarters in Washington, D.C., on June 6, 2018. He said that the Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of November 15, 2017 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring 75th Anniversary of Voice of America's Serbian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 75th anniversary of Voice of America's Serbian Service as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring 60th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bangla Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 60th anniversary of Voice of America's Bangla Service as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring 5th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bambara Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 5th anniversary of Voice of America's Bambara Service as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Azerbaijani Service – Azadliq Radosu. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Azerbaijani Service – Azadliq Radosu as set forth in Attachment 6.
6. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Russian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Russian Service as set forth in Attachment 7.

7. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Turkmen Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Turkmen Service as set forth in Attachment 8.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Matthew Walsh; General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Managing Director Oanh Tran; Director of Global Communications and Office of Public Affairs Nasserie Carew; Chief Strategy Officer and Acting Director of the Office of Internet Freedom Haroon Ullah; BBG Special Communications Advisor Matt Schuck; BBG Deputy Director Jeffrey Trimble; Acting Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Deputy Chief Financial Officer John Barkhamer; Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Congressional Liaison Marta McLellan Ross; Public Affairs Specialist Chelsea Milko; Amanda Bennett, VOA Director; Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Kelu Chao, VOA Program Director; Bridget Serchak, VOA Director of Public Relations; Andre Mendes, OCB Acting Director; Thomas Kent, RFE/RL President; Libby Liu, RFA President; Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Deirdre Kline, MBN Director of Communications; and Stephanie Forman Morimura, Special Assistant, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

---

Kenneth Weinstein  
Chairman

Witnessed:

---

David Kligerman  
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for March 14, 2018 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of November 15, 2017 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring 75th Anniversary of Voice of America's Serbian Service
4. Resolution Honoring 60th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bangla Service
5. Resolution Honoring 5th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bambara Service
6. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Azerbaijani Service – Azadliq Radiosu
7. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Russian Service
8. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Turkmen Service

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> 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.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S GEORGIAN SERVICE – RADIO TAVISUPLEBA**

**JUNE 6, 2018**

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Georgian Service, known locally as Radio Tavisupleba, first started broadcasting on March 18, 1953 to provide accurate, fact-based, professional reporting to the people of Georgia;

WHEREAS, with its reporting the Georgian Service has served as a rare source of balanced journalism in a country where much of the press openly supports, both editorially and through the selection of news, either the government or the opposition;

WHEREAS, the Georgian Service has expanded from a radio operation to a modern multimedia broadcaster, diversifying its media mix with popular TV programs and social media reporting;

WHEREAS, the Georgian Service is a critical source of information for audiences in Georgia who seek objective reporting and analysis about what is happening in their country and in the region;

WHEREAS, Georgian Service journalists have been lauded for reporting that reflects the highest journalistic standards and contributed to human understanding and peace, with many of the honors recognizing the service's attention to the role of gender in society, issues of domestic violence, and minority rights;

WHEREAS, the Service's daily one-hour Russian-language program "Ekho Kavkaza" (Echo of the Caucasus), launched in November 2009 and targeting audiences in Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, has firmly established itself as a trustworthy, impartial, and informative media outlet, bridging the gap of mistrust between the ethnic groups living in the conflict zones; and

WHEREAS, the Georgian Service's broadcasting promotes U.S. interests by showcasing the importance of Western values, democratic ideals, and inclusivity via informative, professional, and engaging programming.

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 Georgian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the Georgian Service for its high-quality, professional reporting.

**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.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S KYRGYZ SERVICE – RADIO AZATTYK**

**JUNE 6, 2018**

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

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service has for 65 years produced journalism that bridges divides within Kyrgyz society by providing influential audiences with informed reporting and balanced debate on topics that other media ignore, including minority rights, government corruption, and Islamic radicalism;

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service continues to offer its audience a unique and alternative media platform covering both domestic and international events on TV, radio, internet, and social media in Kyrgyzstan, where objective news, open discussion, and responsible debate are in high demand as civil society and free media in the country experience growing pressure;

WHEREAS, due to the Kyrgyz Service's openness to change and constant innovation across platforms, it has experienced positive growth and success, including expanded viewership and audience engagement, with a measured reach of some 40% of the general population of Kyrgyzstan and garnering more than a million subscribers on social media;

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service provides an invaluable contribution to U.S. international media and press freedom, with its Bishkek Bureau serving as a news hub for RFE/RL's Central Asia reporting and allowing the Service to bring on-the-ground reporting to its audiences in the region;

WHEREAS, many external organizations have recognized and reinforced the Kyrgyz Service's excellence in reporting, with the Service winning numerous awards including a 2016 Webby People's Choice Award and a Silver Medal at the 2017 New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards; and

WHEREAS, the Kyrgyz Service strengthens democratic values and institutions in Kyrgyzstan by emphasizing objectivity and serving as a model of professional journalism, providing original, mission-oriented reporting, analysis, and critical coverage of events in the country and throughout the world.

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 Kyrgyz Service.

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



**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> 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.



**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S UZBEK SERVICE – RADIO OZODLIK**

**JUNE 6, 2018**

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

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service has for 65 years produced journalism that shines a light into Uzbek society, exposing news and information that would otherwise not be reported by state-controlled media in Uzbekistan;

WHEREAS, despite operating in one of the most restricted societies in the world, the Uzbek Service has successfully cultivated a wide network of contacts and sources inside of Uzbekistan to uncover news and engage with audiences, pursuing constant innovation and dedication to its mission;

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service circumvents government restrictions upon access to its content via the use of modern anti-censorship tools as well as a focus on news-gathering and content distribution across mobile and social media platforms;

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service has demonstrable impact within Uzbekistan, addressing issues that would otherwise be absent from the media market in Uzbekistan, engages in accountability journalism by exposing both disinformation and corruption at all levels of Uzbek government, and empowers people to take an active role in addressing their issues directly to the government via several popular programs; and

WHEREAS, the Uzbek Service has garnered trust among its audiences in Uzbekistan, leading to millions of views of the Service's reporting and record-breaking levels of audience engagement across social media. The Service's work was recognized via YouTube recognizing the Service with a silver plate for surpassing 100,000 subscribers.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO celebrate and thank current and former members of the Uzbek Service for their dedication to the mission of providing independent news, context and analysis to audiences in Uzbekistan.