



Radio Free Asia

 rfa.org

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 RFAVideo

FAST FACTS

HEADQUARTERS
Washington, DC

ANNUAL BUDGET
\$43.1 million

LANGUAGES
9

AUDIENCE
6.9 million

Since its inaugural broadcast in September 1996, Radio Free Asia (RFA), a private, nonprofit multimedia news corporation, brings award-winning, domestic journalism and uncensored content to people in six Asian countries that restrict free speech, freedom of the press, and access to reliable information beyond their borders.



PROGRAMS

Working in some of the world's harshest media environments, RFA utilizes on-the-ground reporters and stringers, as well as vast networks of cultivated in-country sources, citizen journalists, and eyewitnesses who provide leads, tips, images and video for RFA's reports. RFA broadcasts on shortwave and medium wave, as well as utilizing online and social media platforms to make its content available to audiences. RFA serves its audiences in China, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, and North Korea through its nine language services.

RFA's language services often focus on disinformation of state-sponsored media within its target countries. RFA's Korean, Mandarin, and Vietnamese have programming devoted to fact-checking state media reports and narratives, while RFA's Burmese Service examines the spread of online rumors that spark distrust and communal violence among the countries different ethnic groups.

RFA's Burmese and Cambodian Services have provided extensive coverage of elections to its audiences, including setting up and holding candidate forums, interviews with office holders, officials and rival candidates, on-the-ground interviews with ordinary citizens about issues that matter.

To counter Chinese disinformation, RFA Mandarin created programming addressing a host of big topic issues, including: a radio and web series on religions in China; explainers on China's implementation of security state measures and social rating system, #metoo movement in China and calls for equal treatment

14.2
MILLION

FANS ACROSS
FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE
AND TWITTER

for women in the workplace, series on sensitive anniversaries such as the Cultural Revolution, the Tiananmen Square massacre, and the 709 Human rights lawyer crackdown, featuring interviews with the families, wives, and mothers and their quest to find answers about their jailed relatives.

In addition to news, the Tibetan Service devotes more than seven hours each week of call-in programming, essentially creating a free-speech forum in which listeners share opinions and perspectives, and discuss issues with guest experts. The service also features Tibetan culture and music, discussion of women's issues, banned books reviews, roundtables on democracy and rule of law, and analysis of Tibetan issues in Chinese press.

MISSION

Radio Free Asia's mission is to provide accurate and timely news and information to Asian countries whose governments prohibit access to a free press.

IMPACT

Growing Social Media across all Language Services. Since 2015, RFA has added over 12.8 million fans on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter with a present day total of 14.2 million fans across these social platforms. In 2018, RFA Vietnamese Facebook views grew 113% to reach a total of 73 million (year over year) and its overall engagement rate grew by 25%. Where it previously produced content taken from long format TV news, the Vietnamese service now regularly creates digital native videos specifically format for social media. These social pieces top the list of top performing content for RFA Vietnamese on Facebook and were largely responsible for most of the video views on that platform.

RFA North Korea Forced Labor. In 2016, RFA's in RFA's in-depth multimedia series, "Human Capital: North Korean Workers Abroad Earn Hard Currency for the Regime" detailed North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's efforts to skirt sanctions by sending laborers to work in countries around the world. RFA tracked these workers in seven countries in four continents for the web series. Their reporting led to the closure of medical clinics doling out dubious care in Tanzania. The project was also cited by South Korean officials and in the United Nations, with the UN Security Council's implantation of NK Sanctions Resolution 2321.

First Reporting on the Internments of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. RFA Uyghur has been at the forefront of coverage of the massive incarceration of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, which today is estimated to exceed one million people since early 2017 — before the story was first reported by Western outlets. RFA's sources within Xinjiang provide a window into this most repressive corner of Chinese rule, not only to Uyghurs but to the world. RFA's reporting on official checkpoints, surveillance, biotracking of Uyghur citizens, facial recognition tracking and high tech cybercontrols has been widely picked up by the Western press, rights groups, the State Department and by academic experts on Uyghurs. Sadly, the daily work of documenting this extraordinary test ground for Chinese repression has made the families of RFA Uyghur reporters targets for the Chinese state. Today, dozens of their family members remain behind bars.

LANGUAGES

Burmese
Cantonese
Khmer
Lao
Mandarin
Tibetan
Uyghur
Vietnamese
Korean