



From: Board of Governors

Date: September 11, 2019

Subject: **Minutes of USAGM’s Board of Governors Meeting of September 11, 2019**

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

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Kenneth Weinstein
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner
Governor Karen Kornbluh
Governor Leon Aron
Governor Jeffrey Shell
Jennifer Hall Godfrey, Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and
Public Affairs

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 USAGM website. A digital recording of this meeting can be found at the agency’s website—www.usagm.gov.

The Chairman began with a moment of silence to remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and acknowledged that it was a day that forever changed America and certainly the work of USAGM.

The Chairman then turned to the topic of threats to press. He noted that every day oppressive regimes seek to control, distort, and hide information from their citizens. He also noted that USAGM’s journalists work hard to keep that from happening by providing the truth. He added that USAGM journalists are working twice as hard to shine a light on the truth. There followed a short video highlighting the following:

Vietnam

Truong Duy Nhat, an imprisoned blogger for Radio Free Asia’s (RFA) Vietnamese Service, was listed as one of the most urgent press freedom cases in the world, according to One Free Press Coalition – a global press freedom initiative in which all USAGM networks participate. Nhat was forcibly disappeared in January 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, where he had applied for refugee status. In March, RFA learned he was jailed without charge in a Hanoi. Nhat is one of three journalists working for USAGM-supported networks being held in Vietnam.

Nguyễn Văn Hoá, a citizen journalist who worked with RFA's Vietnamese Service as a videographer, is serving a seven-year for his reporting that was critical of the government. He has been beaten and harassed in prison.

Le Anh Hung, a blogger and political contributor to the Voice of America's (VOA) Vietnamese Service, was arrested in July 2018 and is being held in prison, while he awaits trial on charges of "abusing democratic freedoms." If convicted he could face seven years.

Cambodia

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court has postponed a verdict in the trial of former RFA Khmer Service journalists Uon Chhin and Yeang Sothearin. The two were arrested on wholly unsubstantiated espionage charges in the wake of RFA being forced to close its Phnom Penh bureau in the fall of 2017. Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, UNHCR Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and 25 members of Congress, have joined RFA and USAGM in calling for the charges to be dropped.

Iraq

Iraq's media regulator, the Communications and Media Committee, suspended the broadcasting license and activities of Al-Hurra Television, after an August 31 investigative report uncovered alleged corruption within the Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim endowments linked to senior religious authorities in Iraq. The report also implied ties between these state bodies and armed groups. The broadcasting suspension will last three months. However, the media regulator said Al-Hurra's activities were suspended until it "corrects its position" and broadcasts an official apology for tarnishing the reputation of Iraqi religious institutions and figures.

Zimbabwe

In June, VOA Zimbabwe stringer Nunurai Jena was detained after taking photographs at a police roadblock. He was released after three hours without charge.

South Sudan

VOA South Sudan stringer Viola Elias was detained by security officers after interviewing children shining shoes near the customs market for a story on child labor. Security officers released her after several hours but kept her recorder.

Kazakhstan

On June 9, Kazakh authorities detained two RFE/RL journalists and refused accreditation to seven more during a tightly controlled snap election intended to name a successor to former President Nazarbaev, who resigned in March.

On July 6 men in black masks appearing to be security agents tried to block Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Kazakh Service's reporters from filming the detention of protesters. The aggressors attacked RFE/RL reporter Orken Bissenov and cameraman Yerzhan Amirkhanov with gas spray, broke a camera tripod and lights, and used umbrellas to block their views. Police were on the scene but did not intervene despite the RFE/RL personnel asking for help. Additionally, on July 22, RFE/RL reporters and other journalists were covering a press

conference when an unknown group of women attacked them. Several women attacked RFE/RL reporter Nurgul Tapayeva and cameraman Tokmolda Kussainov, damaging the video camera.

Tajikistan

In a brazen example of the government's efforts to control independent press, Tajikistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has revoked the accreditation of RFE/RL video journalist Barotali Nazarov for his reporting.

In August, during a press conference in Dushanbe, the Foreign Minister remarked, "we will never close Radio Ozodi here, but we will probably not register those employees of Radio Ozodi who let in their articles even the smallest damage of the current state policy."

Russia

On August 19, the Russian Duma announced a commission to investigate "foreign meddling" in the internal affairs of Russia, following recent mass protests in Moscow over forthcoming city council elections. The Duma said the commission will summon foreign journalists for questioning, including those from "media affiliated with the State Department and USA funds." RFE/RL videos of the protests have garnered millions of views on social media. The Federal News Agency, sponsored by Russian billionaire and so-called "Putin's chef" Yevgeny Prigozhin, published a "Media Classifier" that considers Current Time, the Russian Services of RFE/RL and VOA, RFERL's Tatar-Bashkir Service, North Caucasus Service, and four of RFE/RL's Russian regional news sites, as "foreign media" publishing "anti-Russian content."

Recently, Tatar-Bashkir Service's journalists in Kazan, Tatarstan, were refused accreditation to cover the United Russia party primaries in Tatarstan, even though all necessary documentation had been provided. At the same time, Russia's federal government, formed by the same United Russia party and led by the head of that party, has for years refused to register RFE/RL to work legally on Russian territory.

Ukraine

USAGM and RFE/RL urges the release Stanislav Aseyev and Oleh Halaziuk, two RFE/RL Ukrainian Service contributors being held by Russia-backed separatists in Donetsk. Both men were taken separately and are held incommunicado.

The Chairman added that USAGM is proud and grateful for the sacrifices its journalists make every day.

Turning to Board business, Chairman Weinstein 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 August 28, 2019. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Kornbluh then made a motion to adopt 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 Anne Noonan of the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting to address the Board for three minutes.

Before moving to the CEO's report, Chairman Weinstein thanked outgoing CEO Lansing for the results achieved during his tenure and for his impressive leadership. All Governors present proceeded to comment on the CEO's departure and impart their gratitude.

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

CEO Lansing began with an announcement that Nasserie Carew was promoted to the position of the U.S. Agency for Global Media's (USAGM) Chief Global Communications Officer (CGCO). In this new role, she will continue to lead all internal and external communications for USAGM. He then announced that James "J.R." Reeves joined USAGM as Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Director of Information Technology (IT) Operations on August 18, 2019. As USAGM CIO, Mr. Reeves manages all IT policy and day-to-day IT operations for the Agency. CEO Lansing thanked Terry Balazs for serving as CIO since April 2018 and Peter Vaselopoulos for serving as Acting Director of IT Operations since November 2018. Finally, the CEO welcomed Jamie Fly as the new President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, effective August 1, 2019. Mr. Fly is a recognized foreign policy thought leader and proven manager and has served in many strategic roles across government and in the nonprofit sector.

CEO Lansing then turned to the ICC to report out on achievements at each of their networks. RFE/RL President Jamie Fly gave his initial impressions and talked about Russia protests, attacks on Kazakh journalists, and Farda's Instagram graphics. Mr. Fly also updated the Board on his recent visits to RFE/RL's bureaus in Tbilisi, Georgia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

VOA Director Amanda Bennett shared details about a partnership with Norfolk State University to host a live, internationally-broadcast, and well-received town hall commemorating the 400th anniversary of slavery in America called "Africa to America: The Odyssey of Slavery." Ms. Bennett also expressed sadness over the passing of VOA South and Central Asia Division Akbar Ayazi.

Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) Director Tomas Regalado discussed OCB's climate change series and a project on the history of Havana and Miami.

RFA Executive Editor Bay Fan presented a summary of a three-part video series looking at the history of the democracy movement in Hong Kong; the identity of Hong Kong youth and how it has evolved; and the protest movement there today. "The Resistance Series" is an answer to calls from mainland Chinese audience to explore the deeper context behind the protests.

Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, highlighted a series providing inside into America and American people, a project that aligns well with MBN's surrogate reporting role to tell America's story in the region. Eleven-part series

currently airing now called “My Story,” profiles Arab Americans who left their home and why they left.

Finally, Marta McLellan Ross, Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, summarized the July 10 hearing held by the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee about USAGM’s efforts to counter Russian propaganda and disinformation. CEO Lansing’s testimony highlighted the broad scope of USAGM’s work against Russian disinformation.

In closing, Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting will be held at USAGM headquarters in Washington, D.C., on November 14, 2019. 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 Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of June 5, 2019 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of June 5, 2019 Board Meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Ukrainian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Ukrainian Service as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution on David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards. The Board adopted the resolution on David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards as set forth in Attachment 4.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: CEO and Director John Lansing; General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Executive Director Oanh Tran; Deputy Director for Operations Matthew Walsh; Chief Global Communications Officer Nasserie Carew; Acting Chief Strategy Officer Shawn Powers; Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Chief Information Officer James “J.R.” Reeves; Acting Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Marta McLellan Ross; Senior Advisor to the CEO Steve Capus; Special Assistant Chelsea Milko; Special Assistant Yuna Jacobson; Writer-Editor Laurie Moy; Public Affairs Specialist Freshta Azizi; Art Director Jenny Ramsey; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Kelu Chao, VOA Director of Programming; Bridget Serchak, VOA Public Relations Director; Tomas P. Regalado, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Jamie Fly, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Martins Zvaners, RFE/RL Deputy Director of Communications; Bay Fang, Executive Editor of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); and Deirdre Kline, MBN Communications Director.

Kenneth Weinstein
Chairman

Witnessed:

David Kligerman
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the September 11, 2019 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of June 5, 2019 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Ukrainian Service
4. Resolution on David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

September 2019 Meeting Agenda

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

Wednesday, September 11

10:45 - 11:45 Board of Governors' Open Meeting (USAGM Conference Room)

- A. Chairman's Remarks
- B. Consent Agenda
 - Draft Minutes of June 5, 2019 Board Meeting
 - Draft Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service
 - Draft Resolution David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards
- C. Public Comment
- D. CEO & Director's Report
- E. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

From: Board of Governors
Date: June 5, 2019
Subject: **Minutes of USAGM’s Board of Governors Meeting of June 5, 2019**

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

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Kenneth Weinstein
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner (by telephone)
Governor Karen Kornbluh (by telephone)
Jennifer Hall Godfrey, Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

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 USAGM website. A digital recording of this meeting can be found at the agency’s new website—www.usagm.gov.

The Chairman began with the topic of threats to press. He noted that oppressive regimes regularly seek to control information and to keep their citizens in the dark by blocking content, harassing or jailing journalists, and going after the journalists’ families. He added that USAGM journalists are working twice as hard to shine a light on the truth. There followed a short video highlighting the following:

In March, the government of Burundi banned Voice of America (VOA) and expanded restrictions on its operations in the region. VOA reporters in Burundi are now forbidden to provide any coverage of any story on any platform.

On May 9, many social-media apps and news websites, including that of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s (RFE/RL) Kazakh Service, were inaccessible in Kazakhstan for most of the day following several protests and “unsanctioned” rallies on Victory Day. More protests were expected leading up to the June 9 presidential elections. During those same protests in Kazakhstan, the cars of two RFE/RL cameramen were broken into or blocked, effectively keeping both from documenting the rallies.

Stringers for VOA's Urdu service in Pakistan have been followed around by the Pakistan Intelligence Bureau.

In Tajikistan, Tajik students and educators have reported being forced to "troll" government critics, on "orders from their university administrations and the Education and Science Ministry, which they claimed in turn received instructions from law enforcement agencies."

In Zimbabwe, VOA's Harare-based stringer Godwin Mangudya received a threat from a coal mining company contractor who was under investigation for bribery. After reporting on the investigation, Mangudya received a phone threat to his life.

RFE/RL Kyrgyz Service investigative reporter Ydrys Isakov was harassed physically and legally this past month in retaliation for his in-depth reporting on the corruption in Osh.

The families of several Radio Free Asia's (RFA) reporters in China are facing tremendous pressure in retaliation for their reporting. Six RFA Uyghur Service reporters have family members detained in a growing network of political re-education camps throughout the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. They are unreachable and in many cases, their conditions are unknown.

On June 2, RFE/RL Ukrainian Service freelancer Stanislav Aseyev began his third year of detention by Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine's so-called Donetsk People's Republic. Aseyev was last seen publicly in a "highly questionable" video confession that aired on Russian state TV.

In Vietnam, three separate USAGM journalists remain wrongly imprisoned. VOA contributor Le Anh Hung continues to be held after being detained in July 2018, after writing about a new cybersecurity legislation that would significantly expand the state's power to censor and control the internet. His family is also being harassed and there is no word on a release date. Meanwhile, Truong Duy Nhat, a weekly contributor for RFA Vietnamese Service's blog section, was being held in a Hanoi prison. He had gone missing on January 26, after writing a commentary on the growing opposition movement in Venezuela and the prospects of change in Vietnam. Additionally, Nguyen Van Hoa, a videographer and blogger for RFA's Vietnamese Service, was serving a seven-year sentence in Vietnam's An Diem Prison and being held in solitary confinement after being beaten and choked by prison guards earlier last month.

The Chairman added that USAGM is proud and grateful for the sacrifices its journalists make every day. He also thanked Senator Edward Markey (MA) and Representative Alan Lowenthal (CA) for their recent letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo highlighting the number of troubling cases of arrests and detentions of independent journalists in Vietnam.

Turning to Board business, Chairman Weinstein 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 22, 2019. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Crocker then made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Jennifer Hall Godfrey 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 Anne Noonan of the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting and Assem Tokayeva, a former editor for RFE/RL, to address the Board for three minutes.

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

CEO Lansing began by updating the Board on the agency's response to the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) Soros issue. In May 2018, OCB aired a blatantly anti-Semitic video segment that was deeply offensive and wholly inconsistent with USAGM's professional standards and ethics. He directed a review of OCB, including a panel of independent experts to examine an extensive sample of OCB content to identify and address any patterns of unethical, unprofessional, biased, or sub-standard journalism. He noted that the report from that independent panel was published a couple of weeks ago and posted on the USAGM.gov website. He then thanked the independent experts for their thorough review and emphasized that Tomas Regalado, OCB Director, will remain a key driver of the reform efforts. He then invited Mr. Regalado and the other USAGM networks to highlight their progress in several key strategic areas.

Mr. Regalado said that he and the rest of OCB take the reform recommendations seriously and are actively implementing them. He then went on to brief the Board on OCB's "The Church that Grew-up with the Exile" reporting project. The investigative and historic series looks the last 60 years of the Roman Catholic diocese in Miami and how the church was instrumental in helping Cubans who came to Miami after 1959.

RFA President Libby Liu presented a summary of a video series commemorating the 30th anniversary of the brutal suppression of the Tiananmen Square student protest in Beijing – one of the most significant human rights and democracy movements. President Liu also highlighted a joint Mandarin and Uyghur Services project entitled, "Three Things You Should Know about Xinjiang." The series is particularly timely and valuable, providing context to the issue of growing Uyghur repression and detentions in Western China.

VOA Director Amanda Bennett joined the meeting by phone to tell the Board about a VOA Learning English team that traveled to the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to conduct training for a group of 100 English teachers. This was part of VOA's larger goal to bring their Learning English products to information-starved refugee camps around the world.

Acting RFE/RL President Daisy Sindelar reported on a Current Time documentary on the Russian Internet.

Finally, Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, discussed Alhurra's new investigative unit and some of the stories they have uncovered.

CEO Lansing moved to press freedom highlights, which included a video from USAGM's Media for Democracy Forum held on May 7 at the U.S. Institute of Peace. He then closed with an announcement of this year's Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholars, who will attend the Aspen Institute Socrates Seminars held from July 5 to July 8 in Aspen, CO.

In closing, Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting will be held at USAGM headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2019. 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 Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of March 6, 2019 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the March 6, 2019 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Social Media Policy. The Board adopted the Social Media Policy as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Smith-Mundt Guidelines. The Board adopted the Smith-Mundt Guidelines as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Belarus Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Belarus Service as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks' Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks' Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television as set forth in Attachment 6.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: CEO and Director John Lansing; General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Managing Director Oanh Tran; Director of Global Communications and Office of Public Affairs Nasserie Carew; Acting Chief Strategy Officer Shawn Powers; Associate Director for Program Support Gary Thatcher; Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Acting Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Marta McLellan Ross; Office of Congressional Affairs Intern Andrea Heyward; Special Assistant Chelsea Milko; Writer-Editor Laurie Moy; Public Affairs Detailee Freshta Azizi; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA) (by telephone); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Bridget Serchak, VOA Public Relations Director; Tomas P. Regalado, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Daisy Sindelar, Acting President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); and Deirdre Kline, MBN Communications Director.

Kenneth Weinstein
Chairman

Witnessed:

David Kligerman
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the June 5, 2019 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of March 6, 2019 Board Meeting
3. Social Media Policy
4. Smith-Mundt Guidelines
5. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Belarus Service
6. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks' Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF
RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY’S UKRAINIAN SERVICE – RADIO SVOBODA**

September 11, 2019

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s (RFE/RL) Ukrainian-language broadcasts – known as Radio Liberty (Radio Svoboda) – have spoken with, and for, the people of Ukraine since its first broadcast;

WHEREAS, since its first broadcast at the height of the Cold War, Radio Svoboda has earned the trust and gratitude of its audience by promoting the fundamental human rights to freedom and democracy, helping build national identity, and sending a strong signal of international solidarity and hope to the people of Ukraine;

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda provided a lifeline of news and open debate for all who desired greater political, religious and cultural freedom in Ukraine, and was the first to inform its audience of the threat posed by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda has, since Ukraine declared its independence in 1991, served as a catalyst for public dialogue and democratic change, helping to uncover the governmental abuses that led to the 2004 Orange Revolution, and broadcasting many of the iconic video images of the 2014 “Revolution of Dignity;”

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda – winner of the David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award in 2014 (Kyiv Bureau) and 2016 (Crimea.Realities) – continues to provide the people of Ukraine accurate and balanced coverage of local, regional, and national news and events; to serve as the voice of free Ukrainian people in Russia-annexed Crimea and the war-torn eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk via its “Crimea.Realities” and “Donbas.Realities” video and radio programs; and to promote greater public accountability with its investigative TV program “Schemes,” whose high-impact reporting on corruption among the country’s political elites has informed official investigations and led to high-level dismissals; and

WHEREAS, Radio Svoboda reporters face considerable risk as working journalists, as demonstrated by RFE/RL contributors Stanislav Aseyev and Oleh Halaziuk, detained and kept incommunicado by pro-Russia separatists in eastern Donetsk since mid-2017; RFE/RL contributor Mykola Semena, convicted by a Russian court in forcibly-annexed Crimea on charges of “separatism” In September 2017; Semena’s colleagues on the Crimea Desk, intimidated and harassed by Russian authorities since the desk was created in 2014; and members of the Schemes team, who have been subjected to verbal abuse, physical assault, and legal jeopardy for their work.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the U.S. Agency for Global Media that we celebrate and commemorate the 65th

anniversary of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the Ukrainian Service for their commitment to their audiences and their dedication to professional journalism.

RESOLUTION DAVID BURKE DISTINGUISHED JOURNALISM AWARDS

September 11, 2019

WHEREAS, the David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award was named after David W. Burke, who was the founding chairman and leader of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for its first three years;

WHEREAS, the award recognizes courage, integrity and originality in reporting by journalists within the USAGM networks;

WHEREAS, the journalists' stories enlighten and inform listeners and exhibit a commitment to the free exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, the submissions for the David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award met the following established criteria:

- Individual's or team's performance in any area of U.S. international media: reporting, broadcasting, writing, editing, filming, producing stories or reports across various platforms.
- An individual or team can be nominated for a single story, a body of work or exceptional performance, such as extreme bravery or hardship in reporting a story.
- The work must inform and enlighten audiences, impacting their lives in a meaningful way. It must exhibit originality.
- The work should exhibit a commitment to the cause of democracy and the free exchange of ideas.
- Employees or contractors working for the U.S. Agency for Global Media and its networks.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors grants an award to the following individuals who demonstrated exceptional performance:

Voice of America (VOA): VOA's Kurdish Service Qamishli-based reporter Faheem Omer, who uses the professional name Zana Omar, has shown consistent bravery and journalistic integrity in his ongoing coverage of the war in Syria and other geo-political stories in the region. His reporting in 2018 centered on the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces' operation to clear eastern Syria of ISIS.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL): RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan, locally known as Radio Azadi, is a leading media outlet in Afghanistan and one of the most listened to on the radio, reaching 25 percent of the adult audience nationally. In one of the worst attacks on journalists in Afghanistan, Radio Azadi suffered a devastating loss, with multiple journalists killed in a targeted suicide bombing in Kabul on April 30, 2018. The journalists were covering an earlier suicide attack when a second bomber, disguised as a reporter, approached them and

detonated his explosives. RFE/RL [lost three young colleagues](#) in the attack, which killed two RFE/RL journalists and a trainee less than a kilometer away from RFE/RL's Kabul bureau.

Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB): Award winning documentarian and former Miami Herald columnist Joe Cardona for producing and hosting *Arcoiris (Rainbow)*, the first and only program in Radio Marti's history to address LGBT issues. Arcoiris, which premiered on July 28, 2018, provides the LGBT community in Cuba a voice to express their goals and concerns and connect them with the Cuban-American and LGBT communities in the U.S. and the world.

Radio Free Asia (RFA): RFA's Uyghur Service was the first to report on the implementation of a vast, high-tech security state in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) and the mass arbitrary detentions there sweeping up the mostly Muslim Uyghur population and other ethnic groups in the region in early 2017, when much of the world was unaware of the situation. Since then, RFA Uyghur has diligently and tirelessly continued to break key stories that bring to light major events, aspects, and developments of a massive humanitarian crisis, despite risks and threats. Many of the staff, if not all, have China-based relatives detained in these facilities and, in at least six cases, in retribution by Chinese authorities for these staff members' work at RFA. However, the service embraces its role in being a trustworthy conduit of in-depth, investigative journalism – not just for the Uyghur population in China, but fellow journalistic peers that cite and confirm RFA's reports, and by extension, the world.

Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN): MBN's Creative Services Team, led by Fadi Izzidin, is recognized for their innovative, resourceful and impactful efforts toward the successful relaunch of Alhurra Television. After several months of planning and thousands of hours of hard, relentless work and dedication by a brilliant team of graphic designers, scriptwriters, and promotion producers, the channel introduced one of the most innovative, crisp, and contemporary visual styles seen anywhere on Arab television. Most notably, the team implemented the most advanced broadcast technology, augmented reality, which uses cutting edge, real-time 3D graphics to combine real-time data visualization and live virtual sets into a seamless mixed-reality broadcasting experience for viewers.