

2007 Annual Report



Voice of America
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Office of Cuba Broadcasting
Radio Free Asia
Middle East Broadcasting Networks
International Broadcasting Bureau



Broadcasting
Board of
Governors

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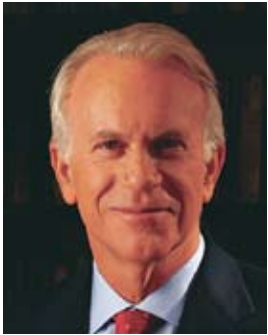
ON THE COVER: Kurdish women listen to the radio as they walk to work. (AP Photo/Ibrahim Usta)

An Afghan man brings his television to be repaired on the outskirts of Jalalabad, east of Kabul. Watching television had been forbidden under the Taliban. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)



Chinese Web surfers at an Internet café
in Yichang, Central Hubei province.
(Imaginechina via AP Images)





Letter from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors:

On behalf of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), and in compliance with Section 305(a) of Public Law 103-236, the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, I am pleased to submit the BBG's annual report for 2007.

This twelfth annual BBG report summarizes the activities of U.S. government-funded, nonmilitary international broadcasting, encompassing the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, Radio Free Asia, the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, and the International Broadcasting Bureau.

While freedom, overall, has progressed in the past 20 years, there still are huge expanses of the planet where governments keep the truth from their citizens. In its annual report on press freedom, Freedom House called 2007 one of "global decline." A total of 64 countries, one-third of those studied, had a press that was "not free," and for every advance up Freedom House's press freedom scale, there were two declines. Basic freedoms—including free access to information—are being denied by authoritarian and totalitarian regimes including those in Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

It is in these and other tough, inhospitable places where the Broadcasting Board of Governors operates—on the frontlines of freedom.

Statistics, words, and images are insufficient to capture the dedication, commitment, and courage of BBG journalists around the world, or the challenges they face in gathering accurate and reliable news and information in countries in conflict or hostile to the press. In the past year, four BBG journalists have been killed, several were kidnapped, and many arrested.

In a time of growing threats to democracy, it is vitally important to the interests of the United States to broadcast accurate, comprehensive news and information about the United States and the world to global audiences that often are denied free and open media. This report details how U.S. international broadcasting rose to this challenge in 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James K. Glassman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

James K. Glassman

*Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors
(June 2007-June 2008)*



Broadcasting
Board of
Governors

Overview

U.S. International Broadcasting More Important Than Ever In Delivering News and Information

Broadcasting in 60 languages, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) expanded audiences in 2007 as it continued to promote freedom and democracy and to enhance understanding through multimedia communication of accurate, objective and balanced news, information and other programming about America and the world to foreign audiences.

The BBG's success in reaching targeted audiences in remote or authoritarian states came as independent media monitors such as Freedom House called 2007 a "year of a notable setback for global freedom."

In 2007 the BBG, with a budget of about \$657 million and 3,100 employees, expanded its worldwide weekly audience to a record 155 million people, a 55 percent increase from 2003. By the middle of 2008, BBG's weekly audience reached 175 million.

BBG broadcasters—the Voice of America (VOA); Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (Radio and TV Martí); Radio Free Asia (RFA); and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (Radio Sawa and Alhurra TV)—achieved these successes by utilizing an increasingly sophisticated mix of radio, television, and Internet, including text-messages, Podcasts and RSS feeds (Real Simple Syndication).

The BBG's strategic plan, available at www.bbg.gov, affirms objective journalism as the BBG's core activity and emphasizes the importance of broadcasts in a world where extremism and authoritarianism

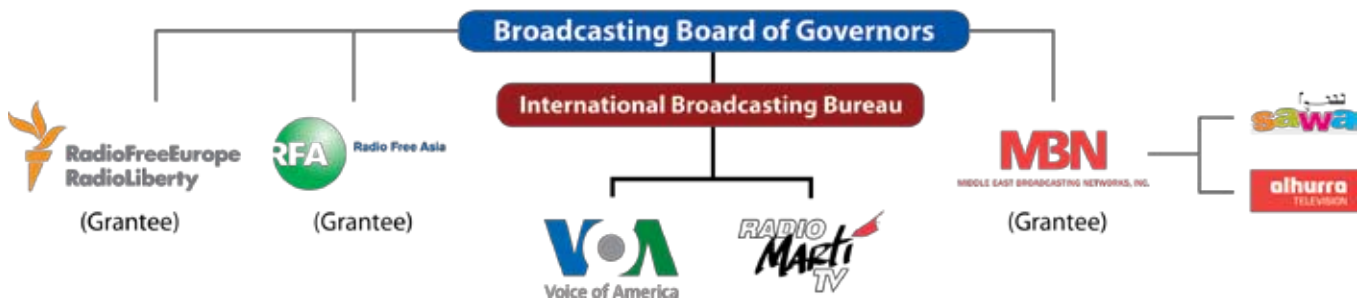
militate daily against freedom and democracy. BBG broadcasters strive to:

- Broadcast quality programming as a trusted source of news;
- Reach mass audiences, where possible, to achieve strategic aims;
- Serve as an example of a free and professional press;
- Focus on nations key to the struggle against extremism and where freedom and democracy are threatened;
- Communicate what America stands for, its policies, values and culture;
- Foster respect for human rights;
- Strengthen civil society, rule of law;
- Stem religious and ethnic intolerance; and
- Combat hate media.

To track the effectiveness of broadcasts and drive continuous improvements, the BBG expanded market and audience research and made numerous technological improvements during 2007.

Independent auditors gave the BBG an unqualified "clean" opinion for the fourth year in a row, reflecting the Agency's strong management and performance standards. Further details on the Agency's budget, strategic plan and programming can be found on page 30 of this report and at www.bbg.gov.

President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meet in the Oval Office in December with BBG Chairman James K. Glassman (third from right) and the directors (left to right) of OCB, RFE/RL, VOA, RFA and MBN, along with the MBN News Director.

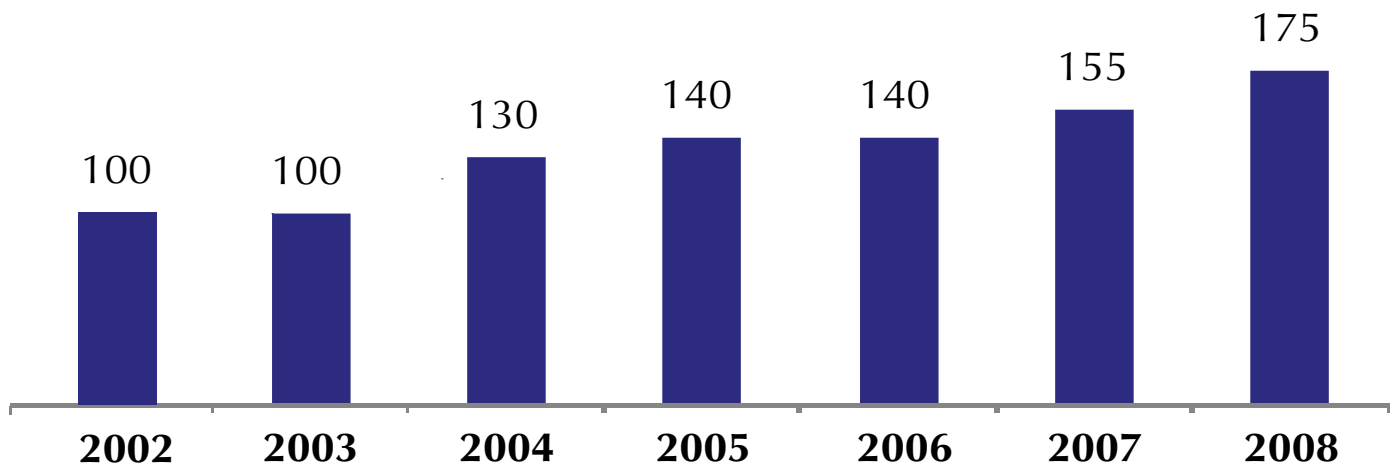


LEFT: Czech President Vaclav Klaus (right) meets in June at Prague Castle with BBG Governors (left to right): D. Jeffrey Hirschberg, Karen Hughes, Mark McKinnon, Steven J. Simmons, Edward E. Kaufman (hidden), Joaquin F. Blaya, Blanquita Walsh Cullum, James K. Glassman, along with RFE/RL Chief of Staff Elizabeth Portale and RFE/RL President Jeffrey Gedmin; RIGHT: BBG Chairman James K. Glassman appears on VOA's Persian daily call-in show *Roundtable with You*.



BBG Global Audience

(BBG unduplicated weekly audience in millions)



BBG Broadcasting Languages





Voice of America

Employees: 1,199 • FY 2007 Budget: \$172.8 million

Weekly Hours Broadcast: 1473 • Languages: 45



Danforth Austin
VOA Director

Since its first broadcast in 1942, the Voice of America (VOA) has been serving the long-range interests of the United States by providing accurate and objective news and information about the U.S. and the world.

VOA is a streamlined, multi-media organization, adopting the latest technologies in news-gathering and distribution to

deliver programming of the highest quality in 45 languages to audiences in the medium they prefer, whether on radio, television, the Internet, or other new media.

In 2007, VOA continued to attract audiences and to enrich programming in such strategically important countries as Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea, China, Indonesia, and Russia. For example, VOA expanded news and current affairs programming to Afghanistan, increasing Radio Deewa broadcasts to the volatile Afghan-Pakistan border region, and improved its offerings in Indonesia with a new talk show and cultural programs. VOA's weekly worldwide television audience increased from 10 million to 49 million between 2002 and 2007.

VOA has also responded rapidly to crises such as those in Pakistan, Kenya and Zimbabwe by increasing services to affected populations. VOA correspondents reported from dangerous and violent places throughout the year,

facing persistent risks and harassment in covering the news. Tragically, Alisher Saipov, a correspondent for both VOA and RFE/RL, was shot and killed as he left his office in Osh, Kyrgyzstan in late October.

In addition to focusing on traditional broadcasting, VOA expanded its use of digital platforms to reach a new, younger demographic. Overall Web traffic increased by 23 percent in 2007, from 42.8 million to 52.6 million visits, and the research firm Newsknife ranked VOA's site as the second most popular news source on Google News.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- In July 2007, VOA's Persian Service was officially named the Persian News Network (PNN), reflecting its new and expanded scope of operations. The new network broadcasts 24 hours a day, including acquired and repeated programs, to Persian speakers throughout Iran. VOA's Persian-language television continues to rank as one of the top international broadcasts in Iran, and in 2007 boasted interviews with top American and foreign officials, prominent Iranian-Americans, and Iranian student leaders. In 2007, PNN increased its daily TV broadcasts by adding three new hour-long programs, including *Today's Woman*, which features influential women from around the world discussing a full spectrum of contemporary women's issues.
- In October 2007, VOA expanded its broadcasts to North Korea from three-and-a-half to five hours daily. The Service also set up its Seoul News Center, which

VOA broadcast live TV coverage of the Dalai Lama receiving the Congressional Gold Medal. Tibetan broadcaster Pema Dorje films the crowd on the Capitol lawn.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Helmi Johannes anchors *Laporan VOA* (VOA Report), an Indonesian show that airs daily on Metro TV; English-to-Africa reporter James Butty with residents of Liberia's largest displaced persons camp; VOA's television programs are streamed on the Internet and many can be downloaded to portable devices; Reza Allahyari of VOA's Persian Service with Iranian refugees on the Jordanian/Iraqi border.



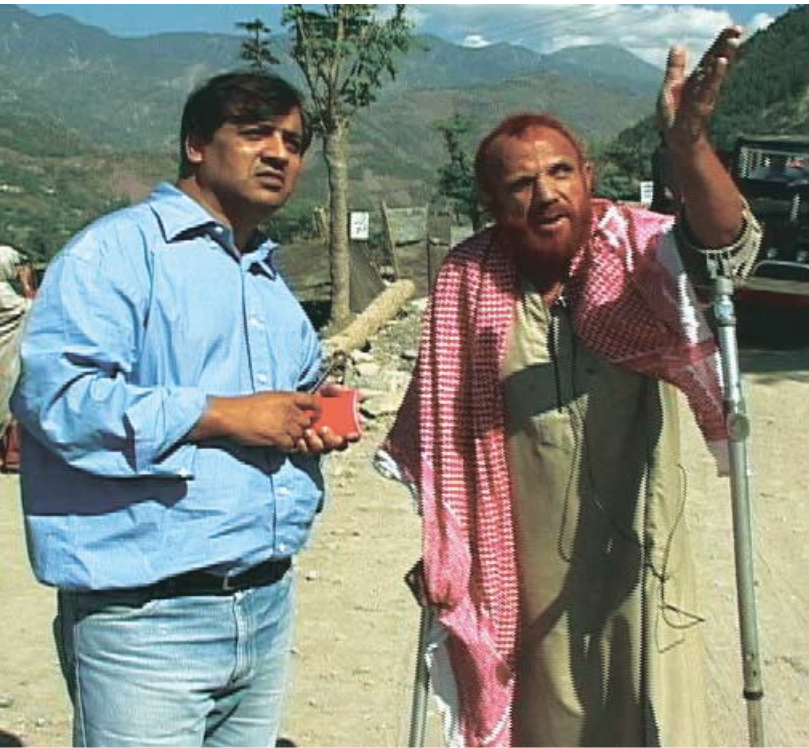
provides a steady stream of reports for use throughout VOA with expanded coverage of events in North Korea and other parts of Asia. As part of its enhanced programming aimed at North Korea, VOA established a listener hotline for people inside China, where hundreds of thousands of North Korean refugees are believed to be in hiding. A 2007 InterMedia survey of North Korean defectors affirmed VOA's impact: 12.7 percent of the defectors said they had listened to VOA at least once a week while still in North Korea.

- Broadcasting 12-hours of radio and one hour of TV daily in Pashto and Dari, VOA continues to rank as one of the top three international broadcasters in Afghanistan. Viewership jumped from 9 percent in 2006 to 20 percent in 2007. VOA also expanded its Radio Deewa broadcasts, aimed at the more than 40 million Pashto-speaking people living in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, to six hours daily. Radio Deewa's live call-in shows attract about 300 calls per day.
- Although the Pakistani government's "state of emergency" crackdown on private media in November 2007 temporarily bumped VOA Urdu TV programming off the airwaves, VOA responded by increasing its Urdu language radio news and information programming from five to twelve-and-a-half hours daily. The Urdu Service was able to engage its network of stringers throughout Pakistan to interview government officials and Pakistani opposition figures, including former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A VOA reporter's exchange with Benazir Bhutto, hours before her death, was picked up and rebroadcast by numerous media outlets.
- VOA also responded to election crises and controversies in Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Following the presidential election breakdown in Kenya, VOA's Swahili Service added a weekday radio broadcast via a popular FM station, as well as on shortwave and medium wave frequencies. In Nigeria, VOA's Hausa and English to Africa Services mobilized correspondents and stringers to provide comprehensive coverage of the controversial April presidential election. VOA responded to the deepening crises in Zimbabwe by expanding its *Studio 7* news and information broadcasts in Shona, Ndebele, and English languages. Activists cited VOA's broadcasts as a major factor in fostering democratic reform, given the exclusion of dissenting voices from state media.
- Massive demonstrations led by Buddhist monks and the ensuing crackdown by the military junta triggered a doubling of VOA Burmese daily radio broadcasts in September 2007. The Service's stringer network inside Burma provided exclusive video and photos via satellite and Internet. During the unrest, VOA Burmese was the first to air President Bush's announcement of new sanctions against the Burmese military regime. The Service also broadcast a Burmese language translation of the exclusive VOA Central News interview with First Lady Laura Bush in which she pleaded with Burmese troops not to fire on their own people.
- Amidst a continuing conflict, VOA established its Somali Service in February 2007, with an on-air promise to listeners that they would hear the voices of Somalis from all political persuasions and walks of life. What started as a 30-minute broadcast expanded to two hours by early December. The programs, rebroadcast on some of the most widely listened-to FM stations in Somalia and the region, have included interviews with transitional government President Abdullahi Yusuf and Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein, opposition figures, and U.S. officials.
- In October 2007, VOA's Tibetan Service broadcast live from the Capitol the Dalai Lama's Congressional Gold Medal ceremony—an event of tremendous signifi-

cance for Tibetans given that his image and voice are withheld from state media. Thousands of people gathered to watch the VOA telecast in Tibetan communities in India and Nepal, and group viewings were also reported in Tibet and China. In addition, in 2007 VOA broadcast a live TV show into Tibet—a VOA first—using a Web cam feed from the remote Himalayan region of Northern India.

- As of 2007, VOA was the only international broadcaster offering programs in the Kurdish language, providing four hours of daily radio programming in the two main Kurdish dialects, Sorani and Kurmanji. An InterMedia survey in September 2007 showed that VOA Kurdish broadcasts reach 11.7 percent of adult Kurds in Iraq.
- In June 2007, responding to the closing of Venezuela's oldest and most popular broadcaster—RCTV—by the Chavez Government, VOA Spanish launched *VOA Noticias* (VOA News), a daily 22-minute live television newscast aimed at audiences in the Andean region. The new program provides credible news and information in the face of the crackdown on free media that sparked mass protests in the Venezuelan capital.
- Despite the Chinese government's tightening control of the media, 12 television stations and more than 70 radio stations in China now carry VOA's programming, and branded multimedia VOA Mandarin English teaching programs are widely sold throughout China.
- VOA Beijing bureau chief Luis Ramirez won first prize in the radio category at the 11th Annual Human Rights Press Awards in Hong Kong. Ramirez was recognized for his series "China Unrest," which detailed how government policies, illegal land seizures, and rising pollution are causing increasing turmoil. VOA Mandarin's joint program with Radio Taiwan International, *Freedom Wind*, won a Golden Bell prize, considered among the most prestigious awards for radio broadcasters in Taiwan and in Chinese communities worldwide.
- In October, longtime Voice of America stringer and veteran journalist Peta Thornycroft received the International Women's Media Foundation's (IWMF) Lifetime Achievement Award for courage in reporting. Cited by IWMF as "one of the few remaining independent journalists in Zimbabwe," Thornycroft has provided groundbreaking reports including coverage of elections, human rights abuses, and government repression.
- Expanding into new technologies, VOA in June 2007 launched *Daily Download*, a personality-driven Web video program offering news and feature stories entertainment webcast, through podcasts, mobile phones, YouTube, and iTunes. In addition, the long-running shortwave English program *Talk to America* was converted into a web-based chat called *T2A*, featuring prominent guests answering questions in a live online discussion program.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Urdu Service stringer Ayaz Gul reports on rebuilding efforts in the region of Pakistan hit by an earthquake in 2005; a billboard in Kabul, Afghanistan advertises VOA's TV *Ashna*; Yulia Tymoshenko, a leading politician in Ukraine (center) following her interview with Adrian Karmazyn (left) and Zorislav Baydyuk (right) of VOA's Ukrainian Service; VOA Somali broadcaster Fadumo Ali at VOA's Washington, D.C., headquarters.



Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Employees: 497 • FY 2007 Budget: \$75.1 million
Weekly Hours Broadcast: 1013 • Languages: 28



Jeffrey Gedmin
RFE/RL President

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) delivers radio, television, and Internet content to unfree or newly free countries in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Audiences depend on RFE/RL to provide objective news and in-depth analysis of events in their countries, their regions and the world that are not available from, or are under-

reported by, domestic media. RFE/RL produces more than 1,000 hours of programming a week from its operations center in Prague, Czech Republic, and 19 bureaus in its broadcast region. Its corporate headquarters are located in Washington, D.C. Construction continued on a new, state-of-the-art broadcast center in Prague, scheduled for completion in 2008.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- RFE/RL's emphasis on reporting domestic issues regularly draws the ire of repressive governments and terrorist groups. Two Radio Free Iraq correspondents, Khamail Khalaf and Nazar Abdulwahid Al-Radhi, were slain in Iraq in 2007. A third, Jumana Al-Obaidi, was kidnapped for nearly two weeks before being released. Her driver was shot and killed during the attack. A similar situation unfolded involving the kidnapping and subsequent release of a correspondent for Radio Free Afghanistan. Prague-based Radio Farda correspondent Parnaz Azima was held for
- eight months against her will in Iran, where the government had seized her passport. RFE/RL's freelance correspondent Ilgar Nasibov was jailed on trumped-up libel charges because of his reporting on corruption and human rights violations in the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan.
- A would-be suicide bomber from western Afghanistan telephoned Radio Free Afghanistan's Kabul bureau to thank the station for saving his life. He said he was offered \$10,000 and given equipment to carry out a suicide bombing but changed his mind after listening to Radio Free Afghanistan. The man said he was a regular listener and had heard a series on suicide bombing, hearing about the victims, history, perpetrators, and the considerations of Islamic law regarding suicide attacks.
- In February, Radio Farda added 30 minutes to its main evening news program, increasing its daily news and information programming to Iran to eight and a half hours. Radio Farda covered a host of important stories in 2007: the ongoing international standoff over Iran's nuclear program; the Iranian government's intensifying crackdown on students, women's rights activists, labor leaders, and journalists; the seizure in March of 15 British sailors; the riots in Tehran sparked by gasoline rationing; and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's controversial visit to New York.
- The Turkmen Service provided extensive coverage of the first presidential election in Turkmenistan. Correspondents talked to multiple candidates as well

RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan reporting on displaced Afghans in Lashkar Gar, the capital of Helmand Province.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan interviews Afghan President Hamid Karzai; U.S. Representatives (from left to right) Albio Sires (D-NJ), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) take questions in an RFE/RL studio; RFE/RL Ukrainian correspondent Volodymyr Prytula covering a demonstration for land rights by Crimean Tatars; Georgian Parliament Speaker Nino Burjanadze (left) and RFE/RL Associate Director of Broadcasting Nenad Pejic (right) participate in a briefing at RFE/RL's Prague headquarters.



as voters at polling stations around the country in spite of the dangers they faced.

- The Belarus Service used multiple media and audience interactivity to deliver comprehensive coverage of the largest opposition rally to take place in 2007. Dispatching four stringers to report from the March protest in Minsk, the service preempted regular programming to broadcast their live accounts. When asked their help in describing what was happening, the audience responded by sending in more than 200 photos of the rally. Although the Service's Web site was blocked in Belarus until after the protests had ended, the number of visitors to the site tripled, and content was widely reproduced by other Belarusian sites.
- In April, the Russian Service covered live an opposition rally in Moscow that turned violent when police intervened and arrested more than 100 participants. Russian domestic media gave only limited coverage of these events. Former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov was harassed while talking to a RFE/RL Russian Service correspondent. Within hours of the violent crackdown, the Service aired interviews with human rights advocates to assess the importance of the day's events and followed up on stories of the arrest of several activists.
- In June, RFE/RL published a widely-cited special report on "Iraqi Insurgent Media: The Virtual Network Behind the Global Message" by analysts Daniel Kimmage and Kathleen Ridolfo. U.S. and international media covered the report's findings. RFE/RL also briefed U.S. and foreign officials on the document.
- When the Georgian government declared a state of emergency and banned all independent media broadcasts in November, RFE/RL's affiliate partners in Georgia were silenced. RFE/RL immediately responded by securing shortwave and cross-border medium wave frequencies to maintain news programming into Georgia. In addition, RFE/RL reconfigured its Georgian-language Web site, implemented an e-mail alert system, and used mobile phone Short Message Service (SMS) alerts to keep its audience informed of breaking news.



Radio Free Asia

Radio Free Asia

Employees: 254 • FY 2007 Budget: \$31.5 million

Weekly Hours Broadcast: 266 • Languages: 9



Libby Liu
RFA President

Radio Free Asia (RFA) is a private, non-profit news organization broadcasting daily in nine languages to listeners in Asia whose governments restrict media. RFA broadcasts accurate and timely news and information, along with a range of voices and opinions from within Asia, to demonstrate freedom of expression over the airwaves and online.

RFA focuses on news and features of unique and specific relevance to its target areas. Through shortwave, medium wave, satellite transmissions and the Internet, RFA broadcasts in Mandarin, Cantonese, Uyghur, three dialects of Tibetan, Burmese, Vietnamese, Korean, Lao, and Khmer. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., RFA has seven overseas bureaus and a vast network of stringers around the world. News reports and call-in programs allow listeners to express views and exchange ideas.

RFA maximizes use of new and emerging technologies to expand its reach. Daily, major media cite and reproduce RFA news stories. Following strict journalistic standards of objectivity, integrity and balance, RFA serves as a model for its market countries' emerging journalistic traditions. Reaching East Asian listeners from all social strata and maintaining credibility is RFA's top priority.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Burma's "saffron revolution" dominated news coverage from Southeast Asia in 2007. RFA played a unique and critical role in bringing both the peaceful uprising and the junta's deadly crackdown to world attention. RFA Burmese broke news of the initial violence, which sparked escalating protests and led ultimately to a crackdown in September in which dozens were killed, thousands taken into custody, and many tortured. RFA relied on a wide network of sources inside Burma; many risking their lives to transmit images and audio.
- RFA's Tibetan Service—broadcasting in Uke, Amke, and Khamke—distinguished itself through its comprehensive, authoritative coverage of China's relentless assault on Tibetan Buddhism. In October 2007, RFA Tibetan obtained an internal Chinese Communist Party memo detailing a sharply more restrictive police effort toward the region of Tibet.
- RFA's Uyghur Service—which targets millions of Muslims in China's northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region—broadcast an exclusive series in 2007 on the trafficking of girls and young women into forced labor in coastal China.
- RFA's Cantonese Service, targeting China's roughly 80 million Cantonese speakers, led world media in covering a mass forced-abortion campaign in Guangxi province where authorities forced dozens of pregnant women to undergo abortions, some as late as nine months into their pregnancies.

A banner displayed at a pro-government rally in Rangoon, Burma reads, "BBC lying, VOA deceiving, and RFA (Radio Free Asia) setting up hostilities. Beware don't be bought by those slickers." (MYANMAR OUT/AFP Photo)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Burmese monks march in Rangoon during the Saffron Revolution; the RFA Cantonese Service wins a bronze medal in the 2007 New York Festivals Radio Programming Competition; Lao Hmong children in a refugee camp at the Thai border; RFA President Libby Liu (left) appears on a Mandarin Service call-in show.



- RFA's Mandarin Service provided exhaustive coverage of the Chinese government's crackdown on media and dissent in the run-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Dissidents were harassed, detained, beaten, and tried, even as authorities pledged greater openness for the 2008 games. RFA reported on disputes between local governments and citizens over land appropriated for development, with citizens complaining about low compensation as officials pocketed resale proceeds.
- RFA Korean doubled its broadcasts to North Korea in 2007, following Pyongyang's detonation of a nuclear weapon. Highlights included a 10-part investigative series on the trafficking of North Korean women inside China; a survey of North Korean defectors' challenges after fleeing their homeland; Pyongyang's crackdown on South Korean TV programs and films; and an exposé of traffickers' use of addictive drugs to sedate abducted North Korean women.
- RFA Vietnamese began the year with reports on dissident Catholic priest Nguyen Van Ly's public sentencing to eight years in prison for "spreading propaganda." The service continued extensive coverage of Hanoi's crackdown on dissidents as well as Buddhists and Catholics, in what Human Rights Watch called "one of the worst crackdowns on peaceful dissidents in 20 years."
- RFA Lao produced a series revealing that countless Lao women seeking an escape from poverty end up as sex workers in Laos and neighboring Thailand. Experts say many are children themselves and aim to support their impoverished families. Coverage also included the ongoing persecution of minority Hmong and Christians in Laos.
- RFA Khmer produced a series on Khmer Rouge history ahead of the long-awaited international trial of the brutal regime's aging leaders. In October, the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists published a special report "Cambodia's Battling Broadcasters: Radio Free Asia tackles tough stories despite threats," stating: "RFA journalists have fashioned a grassroots style of reporting that includes on-the-ground sound bites from citizens and undercover reports on illegal activities-techniques that are rare in the rest of Cambodia's news media."
- RFA's award-winning Web site experienced rapid growth during 2007, fully integrating broadcast material with multimedia content and expanding blogs and podcasts. Slideshows, user-generated video and photographic content, and multilingual message boards helped expand RFA's share among younger users, who persist in fighting heavy online censorship through the use of proxy servers and other means.



Office of Cuba Broadcasting

Employees: 159 • FY 2007 Budget: \$33.9 million
Weekly Hours Broadcast: 330 • Languages: Spanish



Pedro Roig
OCB Director

The Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) oversees the operations of Radio and TV Martí from its headquarters in Miami, Florida. Radio and TV Martí serve as consistently reliable and authoritative sources of accurate, objective, and comprehensive news to the people of Cuba.

Radio Martí broadcasts news and a variety of features and news analysis programs seven days a week, 24 hours a day. TV Martí broadcasts 24 hours per day, seven days a week on Hispasat; five hours per day, six days a week on AeroMartí including two 30-minute live newscasts each day, and one hour per day, five days a week on DirecTV satellite.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- In October, Radio and TV Martí provided live coverage of U.S. President George W. Bush's major address on U.S.–Cuba policy, during which he declared strong U.S. support for a transition to democracy in Cuba.
- TV Martí produced and aired Willy Chirino's 35th Anniversary Live concert. It was later converted to a DVD and nominated for a Latin GRAMMY award for Best Salsa Album, the only non-studio recording nominated in the category.
- In September 2007, Radio Martí broke the story of a significant dissident protest petitioning the Ministry of Justice in Havana for the release of political prisoners. Dissident Barbara Jiménez Contreras told Radio Martí she got numerous calls "because they had heard the news on Radio Martí and wanted to join the dissidents in front of the Justice Ministry."
- Radio Martí provided comprehensive coverage of the December human rights day protest staged by opposition leaders in Cuba to call for the release of political prisoners and free elections including live up to the minute information on arrests and protests staged on the island.
- Christina Sanson, Chief of Radio and Television Martí Programs, received the Dag Hammarskjöld Security and Peace Award from Jackson State University in recognition for contributing to Jackson State and the Mississippi Consortium for International Development's efforts to promote leadership and enterprise development in Cuba.
- TV Martí further enhanced its ability to reach the Cuban people by broadcasting several hours per day via UHF TV and DirecTV/Dish Network satellite systems.
- In February, the U.S. Interests Section sponsored an Internet teleconference between independent journalists in Havana and media and human rights activists at the OCB studios in Miami, broadcast live on Radio Martí and later on TV Martí.
- Radio Martí covered the first Spanish-language debate between Democratic Presidential Candidates aired on the Spanish-language network Univisión.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A boy in Havana, Cuba, watches TV Martí's *Nuestra America* (photo courtesy of Miscellaneous de Cuba); Senator John McCain with TV Martí reporter Alvaro Alba, producer Tomas Regalado looks on; Radio and TV Martí reporter Damaso Rodriguez in studio with actor Andy Garcia; (left to right) Margarita Rojo, Vicky Ruiz and Michelle Sague during a taping of Radio Martí's daily program *Con Voz Propia*.





MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS, INC.

Middle East Broadcasting Networks

Employees: 356 • FY 2007 Budget: \$93.2 million

Weekly Hours Broadcast: 672 • Language: Arabic



Brian Conniff
MBN President

The Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. (MBN) is a non-profit grantee of the Broadcasting Board of Governors that operates Alhurra Television and Radio Sawa. MBN is a multi-media organization that enables the U.S. to communicate to the Middle East via television, radio and the Internet.

Alhurra Television broadcasts objective and accurate Arabic-language news and information to 22 countries throughout the Middle East on the Nilesat and Arabsat satellite systems. In addition to reporting on world events, Alhurra provides context and analysis to give viewers a broader understanding of the events impacting the region. The network broadcasts discussion programs that examine political and social issues of interest to the audience. Through correspondents at the State Department, White House, Congress and Pentagon; as well as guests from American think tanks and U.S. officials, Alhurra provides a comprehensive view of U.S. foreign policy.

MBN also broadcasts a channel specifically for Iraq. Alhurra-Iraq is available via satellite, as well as via terrestrial transmitters in Baghdad, Mosul, Tikrit, and Basra. Alhurra-Iraq's news and current affairs programs concentrate on issues facing Iraqi viewers as they move into a new era, rebuilding their country.

In 2006, MBN launched a new channel on the Hotbird satellite system, Alhurra Europe, which brings the best programming from Alhurra and Alhurra Iraq to Arabic speakers in Europe.

Radio Sawa broadcasts more than seven hours of news and information each day, reaching a significant portion of the influential under-30 population of the Middle East. Broadcasting 24/7, mostly on FM, Radio Sawa provides its audience with reliable and objective up-to-date news, interesting information and an upbeat blend of mainstream Western and Arabic popular music.

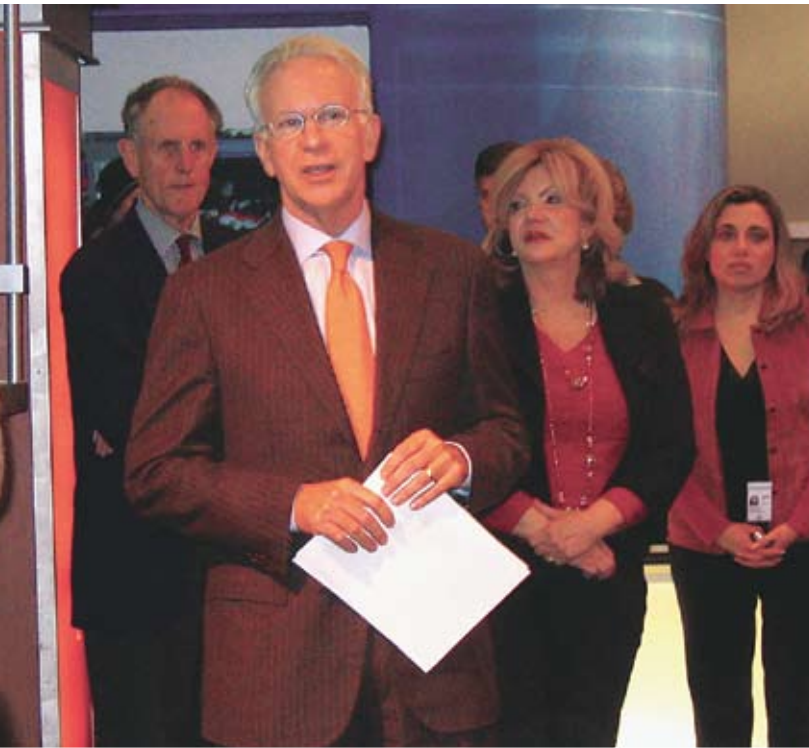
2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- Radio Sawa's all news Web site, www.RadioSawa.com, was awarded the prestigious Silver Award at the third annual UAE Web Awards in the category of media and the press. The site provides the most up-to-date news and information, as well as Radio Sawa's live audio streams.
- Independent research firms such as ACNielsen show that Alhurra is reaching 26 million viewers throughout the Middle East. In Iraq, where Alhurra has a dedicated channel, an equal or larger number of people are tuning into Alhurra than Al-Jazeera.
- Alhurra and Radio Sawa had extensive coverage of elections throughout the Middle East, including elections in Mauritania and Jordan. Comprehensive coverage included 19 hours of live continuous news during the September Moroccan parliamentary

On the set of *Gulf Talks*, Alhurra's weekly talk show that examines the most important political and social issues facing the Gulf region.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BBG Chairman James K. Glassman, with Governors Edward E. Kaufman (left) and Blanquita Walsh Cullum (right), addresses the Alhurra staff during a BBG meeting at the network; one of the many Alhurra correspondents in Iraq interviews a member of the U.S. Armed Forces; panelists on Alhurra's weekly discussion program, *All Directions*, discuss U.S. policies and their impact in the Middle East; Alhurra's state-of-the-art control room.



elections, the second parliamentary elections under King Mohammed.

- Alhurra launched a one-hour weekly magazine program, *Women's Views*, bringing together four lively, engaging women to discuss social and political issues that are largely regarded as sensitive in the region.
- As part of its mission to explain American policy, Alhurra interviewed numerous newsmakers including President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates on U.S. policy towards the Middle East.
- In November, Alhurra television and Radio Sawa provided comprehensive coverage of the U.S.-arranged Middle East peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland, to millions of viewers and listeners.
- Alhurra gave viewers a look at a terrorist attack inside the Iraqi Parliament in April. Alhurra reporters were filming when a bomb was detonated in the building; they kept their cameras rolling to document the chaotic and destructive scene.
- In addition to AM transmitters throughout Sudan, Radio Sawa can now be heard on FM in Khartoum.
- Alhurra broadcast a Town Hall Meeting from George Washington University with representatives of the Palestinian-American community to discuss the Palestinian political situation and the debate over power between Fatah and Hamas.
- Alhurra launched a talk show, *Gulf Talks*. The program addresses topics such as politics, culture, education, and social issues facing the Gulf on a weekly basis.

International Broadcasting Bureau

Employees: 707 • FY 2007 Budget: 250.9 million (includes IBB and BBG)

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) provides personnel, equal employment opportunity, procurement, security, information technology, public affairs, administrative, research, and program evaluation services. It also provides marketing and program placement and transmission services for BBG broadcast organizations, managing a global network of transmitting sites and an extensive system of leased satellite and fiber optic circuits, along with a rapidly growing Internet delivery system. The IBB Office of Policy produces U.S. government editorials broadcast daily on VOA.

2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- IBB directed the ongoing effort to circumvent Internet censorship of Agency broadcasters' news sites by authoritarian countries, using proxy servers, mirror sites and other techniques, including expanding the distribution of VOA, RFE/RL, and RFA electronic news updates for China and Iran.
- IBB continued to shift its investments in transmission assets from shortwave to the more popular media of AM, FM, television, and the Internet.
- IBB made major technical and infrastructure enhancements to VOA-TV production capabilities in Washington.
- A new, high-power leased medium wave transmitting service from the United Arab Emirates significantly improved VOA radio transmissions to Pakistan.
- IBB diversified support for new media transmissions, adding podcasts, webchats, and blogs for VOA.
- Programming of the newly-launched VOA Somali Service was placed with three broadcasters—Radio HornAfrik in Mogadishu, Radio Daljir in Puntland, and Frontier FM in northeast Kenya.
- Program placements were negotiated with two FM affiliates in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which will help VOA attract more of the nation's large youth audience.
- In November 2007, BBG Chairman James Glassman dedicated transmitting facilities in Kuwait as the George A. Moore, Jr. Transmitting Station, in memory of the late IBB Acting Deputy Director.
- IBB continued to assist in reshaping and increasing the agility of the workforce. Broadcast training was tailored to support television and Internet initiatives.
- The Office of Contracts processed more than 3,651 actions to award approximately \$148 million in contracts, purchase orders, grants, leases and assistance agreements.
- IBB research oversaw approximately 140 separate research projects, including surveys, focus groups, and monitoring panels around the world on behalf of VOA, OCB, and MBN to help develop and improve programming and contribute to management decisions on a broad array of strategic issues.

IBB technicians maintain transmission facilities worldwide, including this satellite dish antenna in the Philippines.





Broadcasting Board of Governors

The BBG is a bipartisan board comprised of nine members: eight are appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and the ninth is the Secretary of State, who serves ex officio.

James K. Glassman is Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. He served as BBG Chairman from June 2007 until June 2008. Prior to his appointment, Glassman was a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and editor-in-chief of *The American*,

AEI's bimonthly magazine. Glassman is the former president of The Atlantic Monthly Co., publisher of *The New Republic*, Executive Vice President of *U.S. News & World Report*, editor-in-chief and co-owner of *Roll Call*, host of *Capital Gang Sunday* and *Washington Post* columnist. Glassman served on the Congressionally-mandated Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World.

Joaquin F. Blaya is chairman of Blaya Media Inc. Since emigrating

to the U.S. from Chile, where he worked in marketing and media, he has held a number of senior management positions with media companies. He served as chairman of Radio Unica, a Spanish-language radio network, and as CEO of the Telemundo Group, Inc., the nation's second-largest Spanish-language television network. He also served as president of Univision Holdings, Inc., the nation's largest Spanish-language media company. He is on the Boards of Trustees of the University of Miami and the Smithsonian Institution.

TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Chairman James K. Glassman, Governors Joaquin F. Blaya and Blanquita Walsh Cullum; CENTER ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Governors D. Jeffrey Hirschberg, Edward E. Kaufman and Mark McKinnon; BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Governor Steven J. Simmons, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Chairman Kenneth Y. Tomlinson.

Blanquita Walsh Cullum is founder and president of the Young American Broadcasters, a nonprofit dedicated to cultivating the next generation of journalists. Cullum is chairwoman of the Talk Radio First Amendment Committee and served as president of the National Association of Radio Talk Show Hosts. She hosts a podcast for *TALKERS* and is the annual emcee for the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. *Vista Magazine* awarded Cullum the Corporate Achievement Award for paving the way for Hispanics in Broadcasting. Her 25-year career includes serving as anchor/on-air talent, syndicated radio talk show host, producer and reporter.

D. Jeffrey Hirschberg is a partner in Kalorama Partners, a consulting firm. He retired from Ernst & Young in 1999 as vice chairman/governmental affairs. Previously, Hirschberg worked for the U.S. Justice Department as deputy chief of the criminal division's special litigation section, where he was responsible for investigations and prosecutions under the pre-Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He also prosecuted civil and criminal matters as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Milwaukee. Hirschberg is a director of the U.S.-Russia Business Council, and a former director of the Center for Democracy.

Edward E. Kaufman is president of Public Strategies, a political and management consulting firm. In 1995, he was appointed a charter member of the Broadcasting Board

of Governors. Kaufman is a senior lecturing fellow at Duke University's School of Law, Fuqua School, and Sanford Institute. He is a trustee of Christiana Care Corporation and on the board of directors of Children and Families First. Kaufman was formerly Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE). Previously, he worked in various technical, financial, and marketing positions with the DuPont Company.

Mark McKinnon is vice chairman of Public Strategies and president of Maverick Media. McKinnon is an award-winning media producer and communications strategist who has served as principal media adviser for hundreds of corporate and political campaigns in the United States, Latin America and Africa, including President George W. Bush's 2000 and 2004 presidential campaigns and John McCain's primary campaign in 2007-2008. He currently serves on the board of the Lance Armstrong Foundation and lectures at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Steven J. Simmons is Chairman and CEO of Simmons Patriot Media and Communications, LLC, which manages cable TV/internet/digital phone companies. In 2006, he was named Independent Cable Operator of the Year by *Cable World*. Simmons served on the board of the National Cable Television Association, and co-founded and chairs the Cable

Entrepreneurs Club. Simmons previously served as an Associate Director on the White House's Domestic Policy Staff and was an Associate Professor at The University of California. His writing includes *The Fairness Doctrine and the Media*, a number of articles on communications law, and the best-selling children's book, *Alice and Greta*.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice serves as the ex-officio member of the Board. Rice previously served as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, commonly called the National Security Advisor. She also served in President George H.W. Bush's administration as Director, and then Senior Director, of Soviet and East European Affairs in the National Security Council, and as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson is former director of the Voice of America and has more than 35 years of journalistic experience. He served as BBG Chairman from August 2002 to June 2007. He began his journalism career with the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and in 1968 joined *Reader's Digest*, where he served in Washington, Vietnam and Paris. After his tenure at VOA, Tomlinson returned to *Reader's Digest* and was eventually named editor-in-chief. Tomlinson served as chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and as a member of the Board for International Broadcasting.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FY 2007

The BBG summary financial statement for Fiscal Year 2007 is presented below. The independent accounting firm, Leonard G. Birnbaum and Company, LLP conducted the BBG's FY 2007 financial statement audit and issued an unqualified ("clean") opinion on the BBG's Principal Financial Statements. This is the best possible audit result.

Preparing these statements allows the BBG to improve financial management and provide accurate and reliable information to Congress, the President and

U.S. taxpayers. BBG management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the financial information presented in the statements.

The financial data presented in this report have been prepared from the accounting records of the BBG in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). In addition, standards as prescribed by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) have been applied.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS		
(Dollars in Thousands)		
	2007	2006
At End of Year:		
<i>Condensed Balance Sheet Data:</i>		
Fund Balance with U.S.	\$199,002	\$195,076
Accounts Receivable	3,088	2,122
Property, Plant, and Equipment	213,470	231,737
Other	<u>1,591</u>	<u>1,279</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$417,151</u>	<u>\$430,214</u>
Accounts Payable	9,476	6,755
Retirement and Payroll	<u>29,940</u>	<u>28,403</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$39,416</u>	<u>\$35,158</u>
Unexpended Appropriations	157,510	165,908
Cumulative Results of Operations	<u>220,225</u>	<u>229,148</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$377,735</u>	<u>\$395,056</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Position	<u>\$417,151</u>	<u>\$430,214</u>
For the Year:		
Total Cost	688,370	673,999
Total Earned Revenue	<u>(2,883)</u>	<u>(2,601)</u>
Total Net Cost of Operations	<u>\$685,487</u>	<u>\$671,398</u>

VOICE OF AMERICA

330 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20237
Telephone: 202-203-4959; Fax: 202- 203-4960
www.voanews.com

RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY

1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-457-6900; Fax: 202-457-6992

BROADCAST HEADQUARTERS:

Vinohradska 1
CZ-110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic
Telephone: 420-221-121-111
Fax: 420-221-123-013
www.rferl.org

OFFICE OF CUBA BROADCASTING

(Radio and TV Martí)
4201 NW 77th Avenue
Miami, FL 33166
Telephone: 305-437-7000; Fax: 305-437-7016
www.martinoticias.com

RADIO FREE ASIA

2025 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-530-4900; Fax: 202-530-7794
www.rfa.org

MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS

(Alhurra and Radio Sawa)
7600 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153
Telephone: 703-852-9000; Fax: 703-852-9002
www.alhurra.com; www.radiosawa.com



330 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20237
Telephone: 202-203-4400
Fax: 202-203-4961
E-mail: publicaffairs@bbg.gov
www.bbg.gov