



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ON INTERFERENCE WITH BBG BROADCASTS January 13, 2012

WHEREAS, the Congress declared in the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended (the “Act”) – the law that established the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) as an independent federal agency – that:

“It is the policy of the United States to promote the freedom of opinion and expression; including the freedom ‘to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,’ in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

And furthermore that:

“Open communication of information and ideas among the peoples of the world contributes to international peace and stability and the promotion of such communication is in the interests of the United States;”

WHEREAS, BBG takes note of recent and substantial increases in the purposeful interference of broadcast transmissions over satellites carrying the programs of not only BBG broadcasters, but other international broadcasters as well;

WHEREAS, satellite operators have informed BBG that geo-location efforts have pinpointed the origin of recent interfering signals within the Islamic Republic of Iran;

WHEREAS, Iran has not been responsive to requests to end the practice;

WHEREAS, recent press reports have noted that Iran also leases satellite transmission time on a number of satellites, even while denying other users unimpeded access to these same satellites;

WHEREAS, a number of human rights, press freedom and non-governmental organizations have condemned such behavior;

WHEREAS, delegates from many of the world’s nations are convening at the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union, to discuss important issues concerning international communications policy; and

WHEREAS, the BBG strongly supports the United States Government’s position that interference with free media and the free flow of information and ideas constitutes a threat to human rights and freedom and to the principles stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors condemns purposeful interference of satellite communications, and calls upon assembled delegates at the World Radiocommunication Conference, as well as those in the satellite industry – including satellite operators and brokers – to repudiate this illegal behavior.

