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“In Cuba, the news is under a tremendous level of censorship, so that the spectrum of news given is very narrow and the news is totally biased in favor of the interests of the government.”

2009 InterMedia Monitoring Panel

## Quick Facts

Headquarters: **Miami, Florida**  
Budget: **\$30.5 million in FY 2010 (estimated)**  
Employees: **136**

Language: **Spanish**  
Target Audience: **Cuba**  
Media: **Radio, TV and Internet**  
Established: **1983–Radio Martí (first transmission 1985)**  
**1990–OCB, TV Martí**

## Overview

Through uncensored, comprehensive, and objective reporting broadcast on Radio and TV Martí, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) strives to fill the information gap caused by more than five decades of Cuban government censorship.

Radio and TV Martí provide balanced news on local, regional and international events, as well as roundtable discussions and expert analysis of issues of importance to the Cuban people. Programming includes vital information on science, technology, health and culture.

Cuba has one of the world's most restrictive media environments - in the bottom 10 of the Freedom of the Press rankings by Freedom House and among the 10 worst countries to be a blogger according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. OCB broadcasts across multiple media platforms to combat the massive jamming efforts of the Cuban government.

Radio and TV Martí staff maintains daily contact with a large network of dissidents, independent journalists and citizens from across Cuba, giving Cubans unique insights into what is happening within their own country. They are also increasingly connected with Cuba's burgeoning blogger community, helping Cubans access a range of viewpoints outside the official media.

## Mission

**To promote freedom and democracy by providing the people of Cuba with objective news and information.**

## Media & Programming

A mix of media and frequencies, including cross-border shortwave, AM, direct-to-home satellite and the Web help get OCB programming to its audience in Cuba.

Broadcasts concentrate coverage on the Cuban economy, news relating to the independent human rights and dissident movements, U.S.-Cuban relations, and international stories, such as elections. Programming also includes reporting on the development of civil society, democratic institutions in Cuba, and freedom of the press.

### TV Martí

TV Martí programming airs on DirecTV, reportedly increasingly available in Cuba, from 10:00 – 11:00 pm and from midnight – 2 am five days a week.

In addition, TV Martí broadcasts 24 hours a day on the direct-to-home Hispasat satellite television system, available within Cuba via small, inexpensive home receivers.

Also, TV Martí reaches Cuba on channels 13 (VHF) and 20 (UHF) from the AeroMartí airborne transmission platform.

### Radio Martí

With an all news format, Radio Martí programs air 24 hours a day Tuesday through Sunday, and 18 hours on Monday on shortwave and AM frequencies. Approximately 70% of the broadcast hours are live newscasts.

Three daily half-hour programs are dedicated to information and reports from dissidents, independent journalists, independent librarians and pro-democracy advocates within Cuba.

### Online

Radio and TV Martí programs are also available live and on demand online at [www.martinoticias.com](http://www.martinoticias.com). The Web site also offers additional features, such as in-depth analysis of top Cuban and international news, and a section dedicated to highlighting Cuban bloggers.

“I am impressed at learning how many things occur in the Island which I did not know. It is good that Cubans can see TV Martí.”

TV Martí viewer in Havana



Broadcasting Board of Governors

OCB is overseen by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), an independent federal agency that supervises all US government-supported civilian international broadcasting.

The bi-partisan BBG is composed of nine members appointed by the President and confirmed by the

Senate, including the Secretary of State who serves *ex officio*.

One of the Board's most important functions is to act as a “firewall” against political interference in the journalistic output of its broadcast entities.