



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO MASHAAL OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY

December 18, 2014

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal was launched on January 15, 2010, is part of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Inc. and will be celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2015;

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal has served as an essential broadcast and online source of news, information and entertainment for the Pashto-speaking peoples of Pakistan and the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan;

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal was created as a response to “Mullah Radios” set up by Islamic extremists to recruit young people for suicide squads and to spread anti-U.S. hatred;

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal’s dedicated and talented staff of journalists in Pakistan’s long-neglected Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province risk their lives every day to provide its listeners and visitors up-to-the-minute news;

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal has earned a reputation for professionalism and a focus on local issues, such as the impact of natural disasters in 2010, 2013 and 2014 and by providing award-winning coverage of the plight of Pashtun families displaced by the Pakistani Army’s ongoing anti-extremist military operation;

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal expands the spectrum of ideas, opinions and perspectives available in the region and has facilitated the growth of democracy by organizing election debates in 2013 among candidates to represent the FATA in the Pakistani parliament;

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal emphasizes in its programs the importance of access to modern health care and education for all, without regard to gender or economic situation; and

WHEREAS, Radio Mashaal is returning the Pashtun tradition of tolerance to this war-torn region, hosting cultural programs by popular entertainers forced to flee by Islamic extremists.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the fifth anniversary of Radio Mashaal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board applauds and thanks current and former members of the Radio Mashaal team for their dedication to professional journalism.