

Paris, March 21st, 2025

Dear Staff of Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Radio Free Asia,

I am writing on behalf of my team at Reporters sans frontières (RSF), also known internationally as Reporters Without Borders, to express our most sincere solidarity during this difficult time as you have been abruptly silenced and blocked from doing your work. We are here for you, and we are ready to fight for you.

We know what the commitment these media represent personally for you all, what it means for colleagues at risk, what it implies for the hundreds of millions of people who will be deprived of reliable information.

Let us be clear: Trump administration's decision is an abandonment of US's historic role in championing press freedom and negates 80 years of American history in supporting a free flow of information.

We appreciate the immediate risks facing USAGM staffers around the world, including your colleagues who are currently imprisoned abroad for their work. This sudden cancellation of funding has also left thousands more reporters jobless and potentially in danger because of their past collaboration with the agency's outlets. RSF has called on the international diplomatic community to immediately mobilize to obtain the release of those imprisoned and ensure the safety of all USAGM journalists worldwide.

As an organization devoted to the safety, pluralism, and independence of journalism, we defend reporters and media outlets who embody those ideals. No one knows better than us that your work provides crucial independent news in environments particularly hostile to press freedom, and without it, authoritarian regimes will be able to spread their propaganda unchecked.

This latest action of the Trump administration is morally wrong and is a geopolitical mistake. We are currently seizing various options to support you all and restore your ability to report on news around the world. We cannot sit idly by as the presidential administration dismantles the US Agency for Global Media and its institutions that have for decades provided critical coverage around the world.

RSF therefore joined today VOA employees and their unions in filing a legal complaint against the US Agency for Global Media (USAGM) — the federal agency that oversees VOA — as well as USAGM Senior Advisor Kari Lake and CEO Victor Morales. RSF demands an immediate halt to the dissolution of VOA and the prompt reinstatement of its employees.



RSF also advocates at EU level for full support for RFE/RL in the European Parliament, urges the European Commission and member states to urgently secure temporary funding for RFE/RL, as proposed by the Czech Republic.

Although the present situation has left many confused and without hope, I wanted you to know, on behalf of the whole RSF team worldwide, that we will not let you face this fight alone and we admire your courage in adversity.

Sincerely,

Thibaut BRUTTIN
Director General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thibaut Bruttin', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.