

TO DIRECT THE PRESIDENT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO OBTAIN OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION; THE GIRLS COUNT ACT OF 2015; THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2015; CONDEMNING THE APRIL 2015 TERRORIST ATTACK AT THE GARISSA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IN GARISSA, KENYA; AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE ON APRIL 25, 2015

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## MARKUP

BEFORE THE

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 1853, H.R. 2100, H.R. 2323, H. Res. 213 and  
H. Res. 235**

MAY 21, 2015

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**TO DIRECT THE PRESIDENT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO OBTAIN OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION; THE GIRLS COUNT ACT OF 2015; THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2015; CONDEMNING THE APRIL 2015 TERRORIST ATTACK AT THE GARISSA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IN GARISSA, KENYA; AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE ON APRIL 25, 2015**

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**THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:08 a.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ed Royce (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman ROYCE. This committee will come to order.

Pursuant to notice, we meet today to mark up several bipartisan measures that were provided to members earlier this week.

Without objection, all members may have 5 days to submit statements for the record and any extraneous material that they might want to include on today's business.

According to the expedited procedures shared with members yesterday, we intend to call up and approve today's measures en bloc at the outset because of the voting, and afterwards I will recognize myself and the ranking member and any other members who would like to make remarks on the record.

Members have all of the items, which were provided to your offices previously, in the packets in front of you. And so, without objection, the following items will be considered en bloc and are considered as read: H.R. 1853, this is regarding observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL; H.R. 2100, the Girls Count Act of 2015; H.R. 2323, the U.S. International Communications Reform Act of 2015, along with the following amendments to that bill: Castro Amendment 51, McCaul Amendment 33, Royce Amendment 41, Royce Amendment 901; House Resolution 213, condemning the terrorist attack at the university in Kenya and reaffirming U.S. support for Kenya; House Resolution 235, expressing condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastation that came with the recent quakes. And we have the Salmon Amendment 70 in the nature of a substitute, reflecting the subcommittee-adopted changes to House Resolution 235. We have the Connolly-Bass-Sherman-Lowenthal Amendment; that is Amend-

ment 54 to Salmon Amendment 70. And we have the Sherman Amendment 10 to Salmon Amendment 70.  
[The information referred to follows:]

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1853

To direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE INTER-**  
4 **NATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZA-**  
5 **TION.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
7 ings:

8 (1) Safety, security and peace is important to  
9 every citizen of the world, and shared information

1 ensuring wide assistance among police authorities of  
2 nations for expeditious dissemination of information  
3 regarding criminal activities greatly assists in these  
4 efforts.

5 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in the  
6 International Criminal Police Organization  
7 (INTERPOL) is beneficial for all nations and their  
8 police authorities. Internationally shared information  
9 with authorized police authorities is vital to peace-  
10 keeping efforts.

11 (3) With a history dating back to 1914, the role  
12 of INTERPOL is defined in its constitution: “To  
13 ensure and promote the widest possible mutual as-  
14 sistance between all criminal police authorities with-  
15 in the limits of the laws existing in the different  
16 countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declara-  
17 tion of Human Rights.”.

18 (4) Ongoing international threats, including  
19 international networks of terrorism, show the ongo-  
20 ing necessity to be ever inclusive of nations willing  
21 to work together to combat criminal activity. The  
22 ability of police authorities to coordinate, preempt,  
23 and act swiftly and in unison is an essential element  
24 of crisis prevention and response.



1           (5) Taiwan maintained full membership in  
2 INTERPOL starting in 1964 through its National  
3 Police Administration but was ejected in 1984 when  
4 the People's Republic of China (PRC) applied for  
5 membership.

6           (6) Nonmembership prevents Taiwan from  
7 gaining access to INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police  
8 communications system, which provides real-time in-  
9 formation on criminals and global criminal activities.  
10 Taiwan is relegated to second-hand information from  
11 friendly nations, including the United States.

12           (7) Taiwan is unable to swiftly share informa-  
13 tion on criminals and suspicious activity with the  
14 international community, leaving a huge void in the  
15 global crime-fighting efforts and leaving the entire  
16 world at risk.

17           (8) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Pol-  
18 icy Review, declared its intention to support Tai-  
19 wan's participation in appropriate international or-  
20 ganizations and has consistently reiterated that sup-  
21 port.

22           (9) Following the enactment of Public Law  
23 108-235, a law authorizing the Secretary of State to  
24 initiate and implement a plan to endorse and obtain  
25 observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of

1 the World Health Assembly and subsequent advo-  
2 cacy by the United States, Taiwan was granted ob-  
3 server status to the World Health Assembly for six  
4 consecutive years since 2009. Both prior to and in  
5 its capacity as an observer, Taiwan has contributed  
6 significantly to the international community's collec-  
7 tive efforts in pandemic control, monitoring, early  
8 warning, and other related matters.

9 (10) INTERPOL's constitution allows for ob-  
10 servers at its meetings by "police bodies which are  
11 not members of the Organization".

12 (b) TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERPOL.—The  
13 President shall—

14 (1) develop a strategy to obtain observer status  
15 for Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other related  
16 meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter; and

17 (2) instruct INTERPOL Washington to offi-  
18 cially request observer status for Taiwan in  
19 INTERPOL and to actively urge INTERPOL mem-  
20 ber states to support such observer status and par-  
21 ticipation for Taiwan.

22 (c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR  
23 TAIWAN IN INTERPOL.—Not later than 30 days after  
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall  
25 transmit to Congress a report, in unclassified form, de-

1 scribing the United States strategy to endorse and obtain  
2 observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other  
3 related meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter.  
4 The report shall include the following:

5           (1) A description of the efforts the President  
6       has made to encourage INTERPOL member states  
7       to promote Taiwan's bid to obtain observer status in  
8       INTERPOL.

9           (2) A description of the actions the President  
10      will take to endorse and obtain observer status for  
11      Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other related meet-  
12      ings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter.

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2100

To authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Girls Count Act of  
5 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) According to the United States Census Bu-  
2           reau's 2013 international figures, 1 person in 12—  
3           or close to 900,000,000 people—is a girl or young  
4           woman age 10 through 24.

5           (2) The Census Bureau's data also asserts that  
6           young people are the fastest growing segment of the  
7           population in developing countries.

8           (3) Even though most countries do have birth  
9           registration laws, four out of ten babies born in  
10          2012 were not registered worldwide. Moreover, an  
11          estimated 36 percent of children under the age of  
12          five worldwide (about 230 million children) do not  
13          possess a birth certificate.

14          (4) A nationally recognized proof of birth sys-  
15          tem is important to determining a child's citizenship,  
16          nationality, place of birth, parentage, and age. With-  
17          out such a system, a passport, driver's license, or  
18          other identification card is difficult to obtain. The  
19          lack of such documentation can prevent girls and  
20          women from officially participating in and benefit-  
21          ting from the formal economic, legal, and political  
22          sectors in their countries.

23          (5) The lack of birth registration among girls  
24          worldwide is particularly concerning as it can exacer-  
25          bate the disproportionate vulnerability of women to

1 trafficking, child marriage, and lack of access to  
2 health and education services.

3 (6) A lack of birth registration among women  
4 and girls can also aggravate what, in many places,  
5 amounts to an already reduced ability to seek em-  
6 ployment, participate in civil society, or purchase or  
7 inherit land and other assets.

8 (7) Girls undertake much of the domestic labor  
9 needed for poor families to survive: carrying water,  
10 harvesting crops, tending livestock, caring for young-  
11 er children, and doing chores.

12 (8) Accurate assessments of access to edu-  
13 cation, poverty levels, and overall census activities  
14 are hampered by the lack of official information on  
15 women and girls. Without this rudimentary informa-  
16 tion, assessments of foreign assistance and domestic  
17 social welfare programs are difficult to gauge

18 (9) To help ensure that women and girls are  
19 considered in United States foreign assistance poli-  
20 cies and programs, that their needs are addressed in  
21 the design, implementation, and evaluation of for-  
22 eign assistance programs, and that women and girls  
23 have the opportunity to succeed, it is important that  
24 girls be counted and have access to birth certificates  
25 and other official documentation.

1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States to—

3 (1) encourage countries to support the rule of  
4 law and ensure girls and boys of all ages are able  
5 to fully participate in society, including by providing  
6 birth certifications and other official documentation;

7 (2) enhance training and capacity-building in  
8 key developing countries, local nongovernmental or-  
9 ganizations, and other civil society organizations, in-  
10 cluding faith-based organizations and organizations  
11 representing children and families in the design, im-  
12 plementation, and monitoring of programs under  
13 this Act, to effectively address the needs of birth  
14 registries in countries where girls are systematically  
15 undercounted; and

16 (3) incorporate into the design, implementation,  
17 and evaluation of policies and programs measures to  
18 evaluate the impact that such policies and programs  
19 have on girls.

20 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT COUNT-**  
21 **ING OF GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.**

22 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary and the Admin-  
23 istrator are authorized to prioritize and advance ongoing  
24 efforts to—

25 (1) support programs that will contribute to im-  
26 proved and sustainable Civil Registration and Vital

1 Statistics Systems (CRVS) with a focus on birth  
2 registration;

3 (2) support programs that build the capacity of  
4 developing countries' national and local legal and  
5 policy frameworks to prevent discrimination against  
6 girls in gaining access to birth certificates, particu-  
7 larly where this may help prevent exploitation, vio-  
8 lence, and other abuse; and

9 (3) support programs and key ministries, in-  
10 cluding programs and ministries relating to interior,  
11 youth, and education, to help increase property  
12 rights, social security, home ownership, land tenure  
13 security, inheritance rights, access to education, and  
14 economic and entrepreneurial opportunities, particu-  
15 larly for women and girls.

16 (b) COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANI-  
17 ZATIONS.—The Secretary and the Administrator are au-  
18 thorized to coordinate with the World Bank, relevant  
19 United Nations agencies and programs, and other relevant  
20 organizations to encourage and work with countries to  
21 enact, implement, and enforce laws that specifically collect  
22 data on girls and establish registration programs to ensure  
23 girls are appropriately counted and have the opportunity  
24 to be active participants in the social, legal, and political  
25 sectors of society in their countries.



1 (e) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND  
2 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary and the  
3 Administrator are authorized to work with the United  
4 States, international, and local private sector and civil so-  
5 ciety organizations, including faith-based organizations, to  
6 advocate for the registration and documentation of all  
7 girls and boys in developing countries, in order to help  
8 prevent exploitation, violence, and other abuses and to  
9 help provide economic and social opportunities.

10 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

11 The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in  
12 relevant evaluations and reports to Congress the following  
13 information:

14 (1) To the extent practicable, a breakdown of  
15 United States foreign assistance beneficiaries by age,  
16 gender, marital status, location, and school enroll-  
17 ment status.

18 (2) A description, as appropriate, of how  
19 United States foreign assistance benefits girls.

20 (3) Specific information, as appropriate, on pro-  
21 grams that address the particular needs of girls.

22 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
2           trator” means the Administrator of the United  
3           States Agency for International Development.

4           (2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—The term “foreign  
5           assistance” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
6           tion 634(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961  
7           (22 U.S.C. 2394(b)).

8           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9           the Secretary of State.

10 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

11           This Act shall expire on the date that is 5 years after  
12           the date of the enactment of this Act.

[113H4490]

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROYCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To enhance the missions, objectives, and effectiveness of United States international communications, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “United States International Communications Reform Act  
6 of 2015”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.
- Sec. 3. Purposes.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Broadcasting standards.
- Sec. 6. Eligible broadcast areas.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND MANAGEMENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS  
AGENCY

Subtitle A—Establishment of the United States International Communications  
Agency

- Sec. 101. Existence within the Executive Branch.
- Sec. 102. Establishment of the Board of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 103. Authorities and duties of the board of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 104. Establishment of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 105. Authorities and duties of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Communications Agency.
- Sec. 106. Role of the Secretary of State.
- Sec. 107. Role of the Inspector General.
- Sec. 108. Enhanced coordination between United States International Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network; Program content sharing; Grantee independence.
- Sec. 109. Enhanced coordination among the United States International Communications Agency, the Freedom News Network, and the Department of State; Freedom News Network independence.
- Sec. 110. Grants to the Freedom News Network.
- Sec. 111. Other personnel and compensation limitations.
- Sec. 112. Reporting requirements of the United States International Communications Agency.

Subtitle B—The Voice of America

- Sec. 121. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 122. Principles of the Voice of America.
- Sec. 123. Duties and responsibilities of the Voice of America.
- Sec. 124. Limitation on Voice of America news, programming, and content; Exception for broadcasting to Cuba.
- Sec. 125. Director of Voice of America.

Subtitle C—General Provisions

- Sec. 131. Federal agency coordination in support of United States public diplomacy.
- Sec. 132. Federal agency assistance and coordination with the United States International Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network during international broadcast surges.
- Sec. 133. Freedom News Network right of first refusal in instances of Federal disposal of radio or television broadcast transmission facilities or equipment.
- Sec. 134. Repeal of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994.
- Sec. 135. Effective date.

TITLE II—THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress.

Subtitle A—Consolidation of Existing Grantee Organizations

Sec. 211. Formation of the Freedom News Network from existing grantees.

Sec. 212. Mission of the Freedom News Network.

Sec. 213. Standards and principles of the Freedom News Network.

Subtitle B—Organization of the Freedom News Network

Sec. 221. Governance of the Freedom News Network.

Sec. 222. Budget of the Freedom News Network.

Sec. 223. Assistance from other government agencies.

Sec. 224. Reports by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of State; Audits by GAO.

Sec. 225. Amendments to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Preservation of United States National Security objectives.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

2 Congress finds and declares the following:

3 (1) United States international broadcasting ex-  
4 ists to advance the United States interests and val-  
5 ues by presenting accurate, objective, and com-  
6 prehensive news and information, which is the foun-  
7 dation for democratic governance, to societies that  
8 lack a free media.

9 (2) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of  
10 Human Rights states that “[e]veryone has the right  
11 to freedom of opinion and expression”, and that  
12 “this right includes freedom to hold opinions without  
13 interference and to seek, receive and impart infor-  
14 mation and ideas through any media and regardless  
15 of frontiers”.

1           (3) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified  
2 before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
3 House of Representatives on January 23, 2013, that  
4 the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) “is  
5 practically a defunct agency in terms of its capacity  
6 to be able to tell a message around the world. So  
7 we’re abdicating the ideological arena and need to  
8 get back into it.”.

9           (4) The BBG, which was created by Congress  
10 to oversee the United States international broad-  
11 casting in the wake of the Cold War, has, because  
12 of structural and managerial issues, had limited suc-  
13 cess to date in both coordinating the various compo-  
14 nents of the international broadcasting framework  
15 and managing the day-to-day operations of the Fed-  
16 eral components of the international broadcasting  
17 framework.

18           (5) The lack of regular attendance by board  
19 members and a periodic inability to form a quorum  
20 have plagued the BBG and, as a result, it has been  
21 functionally incapable of running the agency.

22           (6) The board of governors has only achieved  
23 the full slate of all nine governors for seven of its  
24 17 years of existence, which highlights the difficul-

1 ties of confirming and retaining governors under the  
2 current structure.

3 (7) Both the Department of State's Office of  
4 Inspector General and the Government Account-  
5 ability Office have issued reports which outline a se-  
6 verely dysfunctional organizational structure of the  
7 Broadcasting Board of Governors.

8 (8) The Inspector General of the Department of  
9 State concluded in its January 2013 report that dys-  
10 function of the BBG stems from "a flawed legisla-  
11 tive structure and acute internal dissension".

12 (9) The Inspector General of the Department of  
13 State also found that the BBG's structure of nine  
14 part-time members "cannot effectively supervise all  
15 United States Government-supported, civilian inter-  
16 national broadcasting", and its involvement in day-  
17 to-day operations has impeded normal management  
18 functions.

19 (10) The Government Accountability Office re-  
20 port determined that there was significant overlap  
21 among the BBG's languages services, and that the  
22 BBG did not systematically consider the financial  
23 cost of overlap.

24 (11) According to the Office of the Inspector  
25 General, the BBG's Office of Contracts is not in

1 compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation,  
2 lacks appropriate contract oversight, and violates the  
3 Anti-Deficiency Act. The Office of the Inspector  
4 General also determined that the Broadcasting  
5 Board of Governors has not adequately performed  
6 full and open competitions or price determinations,  
7 has entered into hundreds of personal service con-  
8 tracts without statutory authority, and contractors  
9 regularly work without valid contracts in place.

10 (12) The size and make-up of the BBG work-  
11 force should be closely examined, given the agency's  
12 broader broadcasting and technical mission, as well  
13 as changing media technologies.

14 (13) The BBG should be structured to ensure  
15 that more taxpayer dollars are dedicated to the sub-  
16 stantive, broadcasting, and information-related ele-  
17 ments of the agency's mission.

18 (14) The lack of a coherent and well defined  
19 mission of the Voice of America has led to program-  
20 ming that duplicates the efforts of the Office of  
21 Cuba Broadcasting, Radio Free Asia, RFE/RL, In-  
22 corporated, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-  
23 works, Incorporated that results in inefficient use of  
24 tax-payer funding.



1           (15) The annual survey conducted by the  
2           “Partnership for Public Service” consistently ranks  
3           the Broadcasting Board of Governors at or near the  
4           bottom of all Federal agencies in terms of “overall  
5           best places to work” and “the extent to which em-  
6           ployees feel their skills and talents are used effec-  
7           tively”. The consistency of these low scores point to  
8           structural, cultural, and functional problems at the  
9           Broadcasting Board of Governors.

10           (16) The Federal and non-Federal organiza-  
11           tions that comprise the United States international  
12           broadcasting framework have different, yet com-  
13           plementary, missions that necessitate coordination at  
14           all levels of management.

15           (17) The Broadcasting Board of Governors has  
16           an overabundance of senior civil service positions,  
17           defined here as full-time employees encumbering  
18           GS-14 and GS-15 positions on the General Sched-  
19           ule pay scale.

20           (18) United States international broadcasting  
21           should seek to leverage public-private partnerships,  
22           including the licensing of content and the use of  
23           technology owned or operated by non-governmental  
24           sources, where possible to expand outreach capacity.

1           (19) Shortwave broadcasting has been an im-  
2           portant method of communication that should be  
3           utilized in regions as a component of United States  
4           international broadcasting where a critical need for  
5           the platform exists.

6           (20) Congressional action is necessary at this  
7           time to improve international broadcasting oper-  
8           ations, strengthen the United States public diplo-  
9           macy efforts, enhance the grantee surrogate broad-  
10          casting effort, restore focus to news, programming,  
11          and content, and maximize the value of Federal and  
12          non-Federal resources that are dedicated to public  
13          diplomacy and international broadcasting.

14 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

15          The purposes of this Act are as follows:

16               (1) To provide objective, accurate, credible, and  
17               comprehensive news and information to societies  
18               that lack freedom of expression and information.

19               (2) To improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and  
20               flexibility of United States international broad-  
21               casting to allow it to adapt to constantly changing  
22               political and media environments through clarifica-  
23               tion of missions, improved coordination, and organi-  
24               zational restructuring.

1           (3) To coordinate the complementary efforts of  
2 the Department of State and United States inter-  
3 national broadcasting.

4           (4) To create a United States international  
5 broadcasting framework that more effectively  
6 leverages the broadcasting tools available and cre-  
7 ates specialization of expertise in mission oriented  
8 programming, while minimizing waste and ineffi-  
9 ciency.

10          (5) To improve United States international  
11 broadcasting workforce effectiveness, security, and  
12 satisfaction.

13 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15          (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
16 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
17 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
18 the House of Representatives, the Committee on  
19 Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on  
20 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and  
21 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

22          (2) **GRANTEE.**—The term “grantee” means the  
23 non-Federal organization described in section  
24 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and  
25 exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code

1 as of day before the date of the enactment of this  
2 Act that receives Federal funding from the Broad-  
3 casting Board of Governors, and includes Radio  
4 Free Asia, RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Middle  
5 East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated.

6 (3) FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—The term  
7 “Freedom News Network” refers to the non-Federal  
8 organization described in section 501(e)(3) of the  
9 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax  
10 under section 501(a) of such Code that would re-  
11 ceive Federal funding and be responsible for pro-  
12 moting democratic freedoms and free media oper-  
13 ations for foreign audiences in societies that lack  
14 freedom of expression and information, and con-  
15 sisting of the consolidation of the grantee in accord-  
16 ance with section 211.

17 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The term “public di-  
18 plomacy” means the effort to achieve broad United  
19 States foreign policy goals and objectives, advance  
20 national interests, and enhance national security by  
21 informing and influencing foreign publics and by ex-  
22 panding and strengthening the relationship between  
23 the people and Government of the United States and  
24 citizens of other countries.

1 **SEC. 5. BROADCASTING STANDARDS.**

2 United States international broadcasting shall incor-  
3 porate the following standards into all of its broadcasting  
4 efforts:

5 (1) Be consistent with the broad foreign policy  
6 objectives of the United States.

7 (2) Be consistent with the international tele-  
8 communications policies and treaty obligations of the  
9 United States.

10 (3) Complement and not duplicate the activities  
11 of private United States broadcasters.

12 (4) Be conducted in accordance with the high-  
13 est professional standards of broadcast journalism  
14 while remaining consistent with and supportive of  
15 the broad foreign policy objectives of the United  
16 States.

17 (5) Be based on reliable, research-based infor-  
18 mation, both quantitative and qualitative, about its  
19 potential audience.

20 (6) Be designed so as to effectively reach a sig-  
21 nificant audience.

22 (7) Promote freedom of expression, religion,  
23 and respect for human rights and human equality.

24 **SEC. 6. ELIGIBLE BROADCAST AREAS.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of the United States  
26 International Communications Agency and the Board of

1 the Freedom News Network, in consultation with the Sec-  
2 retary of State, shall ensure that United States inter-  
3 national broadcasting is conducted only to countries and  
4 regions that—

5 (1) lack democratic rule, or the indicia of demo-  
6 cratic rule, such as demonstrable proof of free and  
7 fair elections;

8 (2) lack the legal and political environment that  
9 allows media organizations and journalists to oper-  
10 ate free from government-led or permitted harass-  
11 ment, intimidation, retribution, and from economic  
12 impediments to the development, production, and  
13 dissemination of news and related programming and  
14 content;

15 (3) lack established, domestic, and widely acces-  
16 sible media that provide accurate, objective, and  
17 comprehensive news and related programming and  
18 content; and

19 (4) by virtue of the criteria described in this  
20 subsection, would benefit the national security and  
21 related interests of the United States, and the safety  
22 and security of United States citizens at home and  
23 abroad.

24 (b) EXCEPTION.—The United States International  
25 Communications Agency and the Freedom News Network

1 may broadcast to countries that fall outside of the criteria  
2 described in subsection (a) if the Chief Executive Officer  
3 of the Agency and the Freedom News Network, in con-  
4 sultation with the Secretary of State, determine it is in  
5 the national security interest of the United States, or in  
6 the interests of preserving the safety and security of  
7 United States citizens at home and abroad, to do so.

8 **TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT, OR-**  
9 **GANIZATION, AND MANAGE-**  
10 **MENT OF THE UNITED**  
11 **STATES INTERNATIONAL**  
12 **COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY**

13 **Subtitle A—Establishment of the**  
14 **United States International**  
15 **Communications Agency**

16 **SEC. 101. EXISTENCE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.**

17       There is hereby established a single Federal organiza-  
18 tion consisting of the Voice of America and the offices that  
19 constitute the International Broadcasting Bureau and re-  
20 ferred to hereafter as the “United States International  
21 Communications Agency”, which shall exist within the ex-  
22 ecutive branch of Government as an independent estab-  
23 lishment described in section 104 of title 5, United States  
24 Code.

1 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD OF THE UNITED**  
2 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
3 **AGENCY.**

4 (a) COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF THE UNITED  
5 STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of the United  
7 States International Communications Agency (in  
8 this title referred to as the “Board”) shall consist of  
9 nine members, as follows:

10 (A) Eight voting members who shall be ap-  
11 pointed by the President, by and with the ad-  
12 vice and consent of the Senate.

13 (B) The Secretary of State, who shall also  
14 be a voting member.

15 (2) CHAIR.—The President shall appoint one  
16 member (other than the Secretary of State) as Chair  
17 of the Board, by and with the advice and consent of  
18 the Senate.

19 (3) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Exclusive of the  
20 Secretary of State, not more than four members of  
21 the Board shall be of the same political party.

22 (4) RETENTION OF EXISTING BBG MEMBERS.—  
23 The presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed  
24 members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors  
25 serving as of the date of the enactment of this Act  
26 shall constitute the Board of the United States



1 International Communications Agency and hold of-  
2 fice for the remainder of their original terms of of-  
3 fice without reappointment to the Board.

4 (b) TERMS OF OFFICE.—The term of office of each  
5 member of the Board shall be three years, except that the  
6 Secretary of State shall remain a member of the Board  
7 during the Secretary's term of service. Of the other eight  
8 voting members, the initial terms of office of two members  
9 shall be one year, and the initial terms of office of three  
10 other members shall be two years, as determined by the  
11 President. The President shall appoint, by and with the  
12 advice and consent of the Senate, Board members to fill  
13 vacancies occurring prior to the expiration of a term, in  
14 which case the members so appointed shall serve for the  
15 remainder of such term. Members may not serve beyond  
16 their terms. When there is no Secretary of State, the Act-  
17 ing Secretary of State shall serve as a member of the  
18 Board until a Secretary is appointed.

19 (c) SELECTION OF BOARD.—Members of the Board  
20 shall be citizens of the United States who are not regular  
21 full-time employees of the United States Government.  
22 Such members shall be selected by the President from  
23 among citizens distinguished in the fields of public diplo-  
24 macy, mass communications, print, broadcast media, or  
25 foreign affairs.

1 (d) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board, while  
2 attending meetings of the Board or while engaged in du-  
3 ties relating to such meetings or in other activities of the  
4 Board pursuant to this section (including travel time)  
5 shall be entitled to receive compensation equal to the daily  
6 equivalent of the compensation prescribed for level IV of  
7 the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,  
8 United States Code. While away from their homes or reg-  
9 ular places of business, members of the Board may be al-  
10 lowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-  
11 sistence, in accordance with section 5703 of such title for  
12 persons in the Government service employed intermit-  
13 tently. The Secretary of State shall not be entitled to any  
14 compensation for service on the Board.

15 (e) DECISIONS.—Decisions of the Board shall be  
16 made by majority vote, a quorum being present. A quorum  
17 shall consist of a majority of members then serving at the  
18 time a decision of the Board is made.

19 (f) TRANSPARENCY.—The Board of the United  
20 States International Communications Agency shall adhere  
21 to the provisions specified in the Government in the Sun-  
22 shine Act (Public Law 94–409).

1 **SEC. 103. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF**  
2 **THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COM-**  
3 **MUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

4 The Board of the United States International Com-  
5 munications Agency shall have the following authorities:

6 (1) To review and evaluate the mission and op-  
7 eration of, and to assess the quality, effectiveness,  
8 and professional integrity of, all programming pro-  
9 duced by the United States International Commu-  
10 nications Agency to ensure alignment with the broad  
11 foreign policy objectives of the United States.

12 (2) To ensure that broadcasting of the United  
13 States International Communications Agency is con-  
14 ducted in accordance with the standards specified in  
15 section 5.

16 (3) To review, evaluate, and recommend to the  
17 Chief Executive of the United States International  
18 Communications Agency, at least annually, in con-  
19 sultation with the Secretary of State, the necessity  
20 of adding or deleting language services of the Agen-  
21 cy.

22 (4) To submit to the President and Congress  
23 an annual report which summarizes and evaluates  
24 activities of the United States International Commu-  
25 nications Agency described in this title.

1 **SEC. 104. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFI-**  
2 **CER OF THE UNITED STATES INTER-**  
3 **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There shall be a Chief Executive  
5 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
6 tions Agency, appointed by the Board of the Agency for  
7 a five-year term, renewable at the Board's discretion, and  
8 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,  
9 governing appointments, classification, and compensation.

10 (b) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The Chief Executive Officer  
11 shall be selected from among United States citizens with  
12 two or more of the following qualifications:

13 (1) A distinguished career in managing a large  
14 organization or Federal agency.

15 (2) Experience in the field of mass communica-  
16 tions, print, or broadcast media.

17 (3) Experience in foreign affairs or inter-  
18 national relations.

19 (4) Experience in directing United States public  
20 diplomacy programs.

21 (c) **TERMINATION AND TRANSFER.**—Immediately  
22 upon appointment of the Chief Executive Officer under  
23 subsection (a), the Director of the International Broad-  
24 casting Bureau shall be terminated, and all of the respon-  
25 sibilities and authorities of the Director shall be trans-  
26 ferred to and assumed by the Chief Executive Officer.

1 (d) REMOVAL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The  
2 Chief Executive Officer under subsection (a) may be re-  
3 moved upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members  
4 of the Board of the United States International Commu-  
5 nications Agency then serving.

6 (e) COMPENSATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF-  
7 FICER.—Any Chief Executive Officer of the United States  
8 International Communications Agency hired after the date  
9 of the enactment of this Act, shall be eligible to receive  
10 compensation up to an annual rate of pay equivalent to  
11 level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of  
12 title 5, United States Code.

13 **SEC. 105. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE CHIEF EXECU-**  
14 **TIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES**  
15 **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY.**

16 (a) DUTIES.—The Chief Executive Officer under sec-  
17 tion 104 shall direct operations of the United States Inter-  
18 national Communications Agency and shall have the fol-  
19 lowing non-delegable authorities, subject to the super-  
20 vision of the Board of the United States International  
21 Communications Agency:

22 (1) To supervise all Federal broadcasting activi-  
23 ties conducted pursuant to title V of the United  
24 States Information and Educational Exchange Act  
25 of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) and the Voice of

1 America as described in subtitle B of title I of this  
2 Act.

3 (2) To make and ensure compliance with the  
4 terms and conditions of the grant agreement in ac-  
5 cordance with section 110.

6 (3) To review engineering activities to ensure  
7 that all broadcasting elements receive the highest  
8 quality and cost-effective delivery services.

9 (4) To undertake such studies as may be nec-  
10 essary to identify areas in which broadcasting activi-  
11 ties under the authority of the United States Inter-  
12 national Communications Agency could be made  
13 more efficient and economical.

14 (5) To the extent considered necessary to carry  
15 out the functions of the Board, procure supplies,  
16 services, and other personal property, as well as pro-  
17 curement pursuant to section 1535 of title 31,  
18 United States Code (commonly referred to as the  
19 "Economy Act"), of such goods and services from  
20 other Federal agencies for the Board as the Board  
21 determines are appropriate.

22 (6) To appoint such staff personnel for the  
23 Board as the Board may determine to be necessary,  
24 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States  
25 Code, governing appointments in the competitive

1 service, and to fix their compensation in accordance  
2 with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III  
3 of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification  
4 and General Schedule pay rates.

5 (7) To obligate and expend, for official recep-  
6 tion and representation expenses, such amounts as  
7 may be made available through appropriations Acts.

8 (8) To make available in the annual reports re-  
9 quired under section 103 information on funds ex-  
10 pended on administrative and managerial services by  
11 the Board of the United States Communications  
12 Agency, and the steps the Board has taken to re-  
13 duce unnecessary overhead costs for each of the  
14 broadcasting services.

15 (9) To provide for the use of United States  
16 Government broadcasting capacity to the Freedom  
17 News Network.

18 (10)(A) To procure temporary and intermittent  
19 personal services to the same extent as is authorized  
20 by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at  
21 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the rate  
22 provided for positions classified above grade GS-15  
23 of the General Schedule under section 5108 of such  
24 title.

1           (B) To allow those individuals providing such  
2 services, while away from their homes or their reg-  
3 ular places of business, travel expenses (including  
4 per diem in lieu of subsistence) as authorized by sec-  
5 tion 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons  
6 in the Government service employed intermittently,  
7 while so employed.

8           (11) To utilize the provisions of titles III, IV,  
9 V, VII, VIII, IX, and X of the United States Infor-  
10 mation and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22  
11 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and section 6 of Reorganiza-  
12 tion Plan Number 2 of 1977, as in effect on the day  
13 before the effective date of title XIII of the Foreign  
14 Affairs Agencies Consolidation Act of 1998, to the  
15 extent the Board considers necessary to carry out  
16 the provisions and purposes of this Act.

17           (12) To utilize the authorities of any other stat-  
18 ute, reorganization plan, Executive order, regulation,  
19 agreement, determination, or other official document  
20 or proceeding that had been available to the Director  
21 of the United States Information Agency, the Inter-  
22 national Broadcasting Bureau, or the Board of the  
23 Broadcasting Board of Governors before the date of  
24 the enactment of this Act.



1           (13)(A) To provide for the payment of primary  
2           and secondary school expenses for dependents of  
3           personnel stationed in the Commonwealth of the  
4           Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) at a cost not to  
5           exceed expenses authorized by the Department of  
6           Defense for such schooling for dependents of mem-  
7           bers of the Armed Forces stationed in the Common-  
8           wealth, if the Board determines that schools avail-  
9           able in the Commonwealth are unable to provide  
10          adequately for the education of the dependents of  
11          such personnel.

12          (B) To provide transportation for dependents of  
13          such personnel between their places of residence and  
14          those schools for which expenses are provided under  
15          subparagraph (A), if the Board determines that such  
16          schools are not accessible by public means of trans-  
17          portation.

18          (b) CONSULTATIONS.—The Chief Executive Officer  
19          of the United States International Communications Agen-  
20          cy shall regularly consult with the Chief Executive Officer  
21          of the Freedom News Network and the Secretary of State  
22          as described in sections 108 and 109.

23          **SEC. 106. ROLE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

24          To assist the Board of the United States Inter-  
25          national Communications Agency in carrying out its func-

1 tions, the Secretary of State shall provide to the Board  
 2 information in accordance with section 109(b), as well as  
 3 guidance on United States foreign policy and public diplo-  
 4 macy priorities, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

5 **SEC. 107. ROLE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Inspector General of the De-  
 7 partment of State shall exercise the same authorities with  
 8 respect to the United States International Communica-  
 9 tions Agency and the Freedom News Network as the In-  
 10 spector General exercises with respect to the Department.

11 (b) **JOURNALIST INTEGRITY.**—The Inspector General  
 12 of the Department of State shall respect the journalistic  
 13 integrity of all the broadcasters covered by this Act and  
 14 may not evaluate the philosophical or political perspectives  
 15 reflected in the content of the broadcasts of such broad-  
 16 casters.

17 **SEC. 108. ENHANCED COORDINATION BETWEEN UNITED**  
 18 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
 19 **AGENCY AND THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-**  
 20 **WORK; PROGRAM CONTENT SHARING;**  
 21 **GRANTEE INDEPENDENCE.**

22 (a) **MEETINGS.**—The chair of the Board and Chief  
 23 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
 24 munications Agency shall meet at least on a quarterly  
 25 basis with the chair and Chief Executive Officer, as identi-

1 fied in section 221, of the Freedom News Network to dis-  
2 cuss mutual issues of concern, including the following:

- 3 (1) The strategic direction of their respective  
4 organizations, including target audiences.
- 5 (2) Languages of information transmission.
- 6 (3) Prioritization of funding allocations.
- 7 (4) Areas for greater collaboration.
- 8 (5) Elimination of programming overlap.
- 9 (6) Efficiencies that can be realized through  
10 best practices and lessons learned.
- 11 (7) Sharing of program content.

12 (b) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Chief Executive  
13 Officer of the United States International Broadcasting  
14 Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom  
15 News Network shall share all strategic planning docu-  
16 ments, including the following:

- 17 (1) Results monitoring and evaluation.
- 18 (2) Annual planning documents.
- 19 (3) Audience surveys conducted.
- 20 (4) Budget formulation documents.

21 (c) PROGRAM CONTENT SHARING.—The United  
22 States International Communications Agency and the  
23 Freedom News Network shall make all original content  
24 available to each other through a shared platform in ac-  
25 cordance with section 112(a)(3).

1 (d) INDEPENDENCE OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-  
2 WORK.—The United States International Communications  
3 Agency, while conducting management of the grant de-  
4 scribed in section 110, shall avoid even the appearance of  
5 involvement in daily operations, decisions, or management  
6 of the Freedom News Network, and ensure that the dis-  
7 tinctions between the United States International Commu-  
8 nications Agency and the Freedom News Network remain  
9 in accordance with this Act.

10 **SEC. 109. ENHANCED COORDINATION AMONG THE UNITED**  
11 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
12 **AGENCY, THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK,**  
13 **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; FREEDOM**  
14 **NEWS NETWORK INDEPENDENCE.**

15 (a) COORDINATION MEETINGS.—The Chief Execu-  
16 tive Officer of the United States International Commu-  
17 nications Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the  
18 Freedom News Network shall meet, at least on a quarterly  
19 basis, with the Secretary of State to—

- 20 (1) review and evaluate broadcast activities;
- 21 (2) eliminate overlap of programming; and
- 22 (3) determine long-term strategies for inter-  
23 national broadcasting to ensure such strategies are  
24 in accordance with the broad foreign policy interests  
25 of the United States.

1 (b) STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENTS.—The Chief  
2 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
3 munications Agency, the Chief Executive Officer of the  
4 Freedom News Network, and the Secretary of State shall  
5 share all relevant unclassified strategic planning docu-  
6 ments produced by the Agency, the Freedom News Net-  
7 work, and the Department of State.

8 (c) FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK INDEPENDENCE.—  
9 The Department of State, while coordinating with the  
10 Freedom News Network in accordance with subsection (a),  
11 shall avoid even the appearance of involvement in the daily  
12 operations, decisions, or management of the Freedom  
13 News Network, and ensure that the distinctions between  
14 the Department of State and Freedom News Network re-  
15 main in accordance with this Act.

16 **SEC. 110. GRANTS TO THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer of the  
18 United States International Communications Agency shall  
19 make grants to RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia,  
20 or the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated  
21 only after the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency and  
22 the Chief Executive Officer of Freedom News Network  
23 certify to the appropriate congressional committees that  
24 the headquarters of the Freedom News Network and its  
25 senior administrative and managerial staff are in a loca-

1 tion which ensures economy, operational effectiveness, and  
2 accountability, and the following conditions have been sat-  
3 isfied:

4 (1) RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia,  
5 and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-  
6 porated have submitted to the Chief Executive Offi-  
7 cer of the United States International Communica-  
8 tions Agency a plan for consolidation and reconstitu-  
9 tion as described in section 211 under the new cor-  
10 porate name “Freedom News Network” with a sin-  
11 gle organizational structure and management frame-  
12 work, as described in section 221.

13 (2) The necessary steps towards the consolida-  
14 tion described in paragraph (1) have been com-  
15 pleted, including the selection of a Board, Chair, and  
16 Chief Executive Officer for the Freedom News Net-  
17 work, the establishment of bylaws to govern the  
18 Freedom News Network, and the filing of articles of  
19 incorporation.

20 (3) A plan for content sharing has been devel-  
21 oped in accordance with section 112(a)(3).

22 (4) A strategic plan for programming imple-  
23 mentation has been developed as specified in section  
24 222(c), including the following elements:

1           (A) The strategic goals and objectives of  
2           the Freedom News Network for the upcoming  
3           fiscal year.

4           (B) The alignment of the Freedom News  
5           Network's resources with the strategic goals  
6           and objectives referred to in subparagraph (A).

7           (C) Clear benchmarks that establish the  
8           progress made towards achieving the strategic  
9           goals and objectives referred to in subparagraph  
10          (A).

11          (D) A plan to monitor and evaluate the  
12          success of the Freedom News Network's broad-  
13          casting efforts.

14          (E) A reflective analysis on the activities  
15          on the past fiscal year.

16          (F) Any changes to facility leases, con-  
17          tracts, or ownership that would result in the re-  
18          location of staff or personnel.

19          (G) Any changes to broadcast languages,  
20          including the transfer of language services to  
21          the Freedom News Network from the United  
22          States International Communications Agency,  
23          or to an organization other than the Freedom  
24          New Network.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Board of the United  
3 States International Communications Agency shall submit  
4 to Congress a report on the status of any grants made  
5 to the Freedom News Network.

6 (c) ALTERNATIVE GRANTEE.—If the Chief Executive  
7 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
8 tions Agency, after consultation with the Board of the  
9 Agency and the appropriate congressional committees, de-  
10 termines at any time that the Freedom News Network is  
11 not carrying out the mission described in section 212 and  
12 adhering to the standards and principles described in sec-  
13 tion 213 in an effective and economical manner for which  
14 a grant has been awarded, the Chief Executive Officer of  
15 the Agency, upon approval of the Board, may award to  
16 another entity the grant at issue to carry out such func-  
17 tions after soliciting and considering applications from eli-  
18 gible entities in such manner and accompanied by such  
19 information as the Board may require.

20 (d) NOT A FEDERAL ENTITY.—Nothing in this Act  
21 may be construed to make the Freedom News Network  
22 a Federal agency or instrumentality.

23 (e) AUTHORITY.—Grants authorized under this sec-  
24 tion for the United States International Communications  
25 Agency shall be available to make annual grants to the



1 Freedom News Network for the purpose of carrying out  
2 the mission described in section 212 and adhering to the  
3 standards and principles described in section 213.

4 (f) GRANT AGREEMENT.—Grants authorized under  
5 this section to the Freedom News Network by the Chief  
6 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
7 munications Agency shall only be made in accordance with  
8 a grant agreement. Such grant agreement shall include  
9 the following provisions:

10 (1) A grant shall be used only for activities in  
11 accordance with carrying out the mission described  
12 in section 212 and adhering to the standards and  
13 principles described in section 213.

14 (2) The Freedom News Network shall comply  
15 with the requirements of this section.

16 (3) Failure to comply with the requirements of  
17 this section may result in suspension or termination  
18 of a grant without further obligation by the United  
19 States International Communications Agency or the  
20 United States.

21 (4) Use of broadcasting technology owned and  
22 operated by the United States International Commu-  
23 nications Agency shall be made available through an  
24 International Cooperative Administrative Support

1 Service (ICASS) agreement or memorandum of un-  
2 derstanding.

3 (5) The Freedom News Network shall, upon re-  
4 quest, provide to the Chief Executive Officer of the  
5 United States International Communications Agency  
6 documentation which details the expenditure of any  
7 grant funds.

8 (6) A grant may not be used to require the  
9 Freedom News Network to comply with any require-  
10 ments other than the requirements specified in this  
11 Act.

12 (7) A grant may not be used to allocate re-  
13 sources within the Freedom News Network in a  
14 manner that is inconsistent with the Freedom News  
15 Network strategic plan described in section 222(e).

16 (g) PROHIBITIONS ON THE USE OF GRANTS.—  
17 Grants authorized under this section may not be used for  
18 the following purposes:

19 (1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B)  
20 or (C), to pay any salary or other compensation, or  
21 enter into any contract providing for the payment of  
22 salary or compensation, in excess of the rates estab-  
23 lished for comparable positions under title 5, United  
24 States Code, or the foreign relations laws of the  
25 United States, except that no employee may be paid

1 a salary or other compensation in excess of the rate  
2 of pay payable for level III of the Executive Sched-  
3 ule under section 5314 of such title.

4 (B) Salary and other compensation limitations  
5 under subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect  
6 to any employee covered by a union agreement re-  
7 quiring a salary or other compensation in excess of  
8 such limitations before the date of the enactment of  
9 this Act.

10 (C) Notwithstanding the limitations specified in  
11 subparagraph (A), grants authorized under this sec-  
12 tion may be used by the Freedom News Network to  
13 pay up to six employees employed in the Wash-  
14 ington, D.C., area, salary or other compensation not  
15 to exceed the rate of pay payable for level II of the  
16 Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5,  
17 United States Code, except that such shall not apply  
18 to the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom News  
19 Network in accordance with section 221(e).

20 (2) For any activity intended to influence the  
21 passage or defeat of legislation being considered by  
22 Congress.

23 (3) To enter into a contract or obligation to pay  
24 severance payments for voluntary separation for em-  
25 ployees hired after December 1, 1990, except as may

1 be required by United States law or the laws of the  
2 country where such an employee is stationed.

3 (4) For first class travel for any employee of  
4 the Freedom News Network, or the relative of any  
5 such employee.

6 **SEC. 111. OTHER PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION LIMITA-**  
7 **TIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the organizational and  
9 personnel restrictions described in subsection (c), the  
10 Chief Executive Officer of the United States International  
11 Communications Agency shall have the discretion to deter-  
12 mine the distribution of all personnel within the Agency,  
13 subject to the approval of the Board of the Agency.

14 (b) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—No employee of the United  
16 States International Communications Agency, other  
17 than the Chief Executive Officer or Director of the  
18 Voice of America, shall be eligible to receive com-  
19 pensation at a rate in excess of step 10 of an annual  
20 rate of basic pay for grade GS-15 of the General  
21 Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United  
22 States Code.

23 (2) EXCEPTION.—The limitation described in  
24 paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of members  
25 of the Board in accordance with section 102(d) or

1 affect the rights of employees covered under the  
2 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

3 (c) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN NEW EMPLOY-  
4 MENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the  
6 enactment of this Act and ending on the date that  
7 is five years after such date, the United States  
8 International Communications Agency may not fill  
9 any currently unfilled full-time or part-time position  
10 compensated at an annual rate of basic pay for  
11 grade GS-14 or GS-15 of the General Schedule  
12 under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code,  
13 including any currently filled position in which the  
14 incumbent resigns, retires, or otherwise leaves such  
15 position during the such five-year period.

16 (2) WAIVER.—The Chief Executive Officer of  
17 the United States International Communications  
18 Agency may waive the prohibition specified in para-  
19 graph (1) if the position is determined essential to  
20 the functioning of the Agency and documented as  
21 such in the report required under section 112(a), or  
22 necessary for the acquisition of skills or knowledge  
23 not sufficiently represented in the current workforce  
24 of the Agency. The Chief Executive Officer of the  
25 Agency shall consult with the appropriate congres-

1 sional committees before issuing a waiver under this  
2 paragraph.

3 (d) CONTINUATION OF FEDERAL STATUS.—Nothing  
4 in this Act may be interpreted to change the Federal sta-  
5 tus or rights of employees of the Voice of America or the  
6 International Broadcasting Bureau by the consolidation  
7 and establishment of the United States International  
8 Communications Agency.

9 **SEC. 112. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED**  
10 **STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
11 **AGENCY.**

12 (a) REORGANIZATION REPORT.—Not later than 180  
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief  
14 Executive Officer of the United States International Com-  
15 munications Agency shall submit to the appropriate Con-  
16 gressional committees a report that includes the following:

17 (1) A plan to assess and provide recommenda-  
18 tions on the appropriate size and necessity of all  
19 current offices and positions (also referred to as a  
20 “staffing pattern”) within the Agency, including full-  
21 time employee positions rated at the Senior Execu-  
22 tive Service (SES) level or at an annual rate of basic  
23 pay for grades GS-14 or GS-15 of the General  
24 Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United  
25 States Code. Such plan shall include a detailed orga-

1 nizational structure that delineates lines of authority  
2 and reporting between junior staff, management,  
3 and leadership.

4 (2) A plan to consolidate the Voice of America  
5 and the International Broadcasting Bureau into a  
6 single Federal entity identified as the “United  
7 States International Communications Agency”, and  
8 how the structure and alignment of resources sup-  
9 port the fulfillment of the Agency’s mission and  
10 standards and principles as described in sections 5  
11 and 122.

12 (3) A plan for developing a platform to share  
13 all programming content between the United States  
14 International Communications Agency and the Free-  
15 dom News Network, including making available for  
16 distribution all programming content licensed or pro-  
17 duced by the Agency and the Freedom News Net-  
18 work, and expanding the functionality of the plat-  
19 forms already in existence, such as the web content  
20 management system “Pangea”.

21 (4) A joint plan written with the Chief Execu-  
22 tive Officer of the Freedom News Network to coordi-  
23 nate the transition of language services between the  
24 United States International Communications Agency

1 and the Freedom News Network in accordance with  
2 sections 6, 109, and 222(c).

3 (b) CONTRACTING REPORT.—The Chief Executive  
4 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
5 tions Agency shall annually submit to the appropriate con-  
6 gressional committees a report on the Agency’s compliance  
7 with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (the “FAR”) and  
8 the Anti-Deficiency Act, including a review of contracts  
9 awarded on a non-competitive basis, compliance with the  
10 FAR requirement for publicizing contract actions, the use  
11 of any personal service contracts without explicit statutory  
12 authority, and processes for contract oversight in compli-  
13 ance with the FAR.

14 (c) LISTENERSHIP REPORT.—The Chief Executive  
15 Officer of the United States International Communica-  
16 tions Agency shall annually submit to the appropriate con-  
17 gressional committees a report that details the trans-  
18 mission capacities, market penetration, and audience  
19 listenership of all mediums of international communication  
20 deployed by the United States International Communica-  
21 tions Agency, including a plan for how target audiences  
22 can be reached if the first medium of delivery is unavail-  
23 able.

24 (d) GAO REPORT.—Every five years after the date  
25 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of



1 the United States shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
2 sional committees a report that reviews the effectiveness  
3 of content sharing between the United States Inter-  
4 national Communications Agency and the Freedom News  
5 Network and makes recommendations on how content  
6 sharing can be improved.

7 (e) LANGUAGE REPORT.—Not later than one year  
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Ex-  
9 ecutive Officer of the United States International Commu-  
10 nications Agency and the Chief Executive Officer of the  
11 Freedom News Network shall submit to the appropriate  
12 congressional committees a joint report detailing—

13 (1) information outlining the criteria and anal-  
14 ysis used to determine broadcast recipient countries  
15 and regions; and

16 (2) an initial list of broadcast countries and re-  
17 gions.

## 18 **Subtitle B—The Voice of America**

### 19 **SEC. 121. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that—

21 (1) the Voice of America has been an indispen-  
22 sable element of United States foreign policy and  
23 public diplomacy efforts since 1942, and should re-  
24 main the flagship brand of the United States Inter-  
25 national Communications Agency;

1           (2) the Voice of America has been a reliable  
2 source of accurate, objective, and comprehensive  
3 news and related programming and content for the  
4 millions of people around the world who cannot ob-  
5 tain such news and related programming and con-  
6 tent from indigenous media outlets;

7           (3) the Voice of America's success over more  
8 than seven decades has created valuable brand iden-  
9 tity and international recognition that justifies the  
10 maintenance of the Voice of America;

11           (4) the Voice of America's public diplomacy  
12 mission remains essential to broader United States  
13 Government efforts to communicate with foreign  
14 populations; and

15           (5) despite its tremendous historical success,  
16 the Voice of America would benefit substantially  
17 from a recalibration of Federal international broad-  
18 casting agencies and resources, which would provide  
19 the Voice of America with greater mission focus and  
20 flexibility in the deployment of news, programming,  
21 and content.

22 **SEC. 122. PRINCIPLES OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA.**

23           The Voice of America shall adhere to the following  
24 principles in the course of fulfilling its duties and respon-  
25 sibilities:

1           (1) Serving as a consistently reliable and au-  
2           thoritative source of news on the United States, its  
3           policies, its people, and the international develop-  
4           ments that affect the United States.

5           (2) Providing accurate, objective, and com-  
6           prehensive information, with the understanding that  
7           these three values provide credibility among global  
8           news audiences.

9           (3) Presenting the official policies of the United  
10          States, and related discussions and opinions about  
11          those policies, clearly and effectively.

12          (4) Representing the whole of the United  
13          States, and shall accordingly work to produce pro-  
14          gramming and content that presents a balanced and  
15          comprehensive projection of the diversity of thought  
16          and institutions of the United States.

17 **SEC. 123. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOICE OF**  
18 **AMERICA.**

19          The Voice of America shall have the following duties  
20 and responsibilities:

21           (1) Producing accurate, objective, and com-  
22           prehensive news.

23           (2) Producing content and related programming  
24           that accurately represents the diversity of thoughts  
25           and institutions of the United States as a whole and

1 is consistent with and presents the broad foreign  
2 policies of the United States.

3 (3) Producing content and related programming  
4 that provides a comprehensive understanding of the  
5 impact of United States foreign assistance programs  
6 and United States international philanthropy, com-  
7 plementing other media outlets.

8 (4) Presenting the law and policies of the  
9 United States clearly and effectively.

10 (5) Promoting the civil and responsible ex-  
11 change of information and differences of opinion re-  
12 garding policies, issues, and current events.

13 (6) Making all of its produced news and related  
14 programming and content available to the Freedom  
15 News Network for use and distribution.

16 (7) Producing or otherwise allowing editorials,  
17 commentary, and programming, in consultation with  
18 the Department of State, that present the official  
19 views of the United States Government and its offi-  
20 cials.

21 (8) Maximizing foreign national information ae-  
22 cess through both the use of existing broadcasting  
23 tools and resources and the development and dis-  
24 semination of circumvention technology.

1           (9) Providing training and technical support for  
2 independent indigenous media and journalist enter-  
3 prises in order to facilitate or enhance independent  
4 media environments and outlets abroad.

5           (10) Reaching identified foreign audiences in  
6 local languages and dialects when possible, particu-  
7 larly when such audiences form a distinct ethnic,  
8 cultural, or religious group within a country critical  
9 to United States national security interests.

10          (11) Being capable of providing a broadcasting  
11 surge capacity under circumstances where overseas  
12 disasters, crises, or other events require increased or  
13 heightened international public diplomacy engage-  
14 ment.

15 **SEC. 124. LIMITATION ON VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS, PRO-**  
16 **GRAMMING, AND CONTENT; EXCEPTION FOR**  
17 **BROADCASTING TO CUBA.**

18          (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
19 (b), the Voice of America shall be limited to providing  
20 reporting in accordance with the principles specified in sec-  
21 tion 122. Nothing in this section may preclude the Voice  
22 of America from broadcasting programming content pro-  
23 duced by the Freedom News Network.

24          (b) EXCEPTION FOR BROADCASTING TO CUBA.—  
25 Radio Marti and Television Marti, which constitute the

1 Office of Cuba Broadcasting, shall continue programming  
2 and content production consistent with the mission and  
3 activities as described in the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba  
4 Act (Public Law 98–111) and the Television Broadcasting  
5 to Cuba Act (Public Law 101–246), and continue existing  
6 within the Voice of America of the United States Inter-  
7 national Communications Agency, established in section  
8 101.

9 **SEC. 125. DIRECTOR OF VOICE OF AMERICA.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a Director of  
11 the Voice of America, who shall be responsible for exe-  
12 cuting the duties and responsibilities of the Voice of Amer-  
13 ica described in subsection (b).

14 (b) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director  
15 of the Voice of America shall, subject to the final approval  
16 of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Inter-  
17 national Communications Agency carry out the following  
18 duties and responsibilities:

19 (1) Determine the organizational structure of,  
20 and personnel allocation or relocation within, the  
21 Voice of America, subject to section 105.

22 (2) Make recommendations to the Chief Execu-  
23 tive Officer of the United States International Com-  
24 munications Agency regarding the production, devel-

1 opment, and termination of Voice of America news  
2 programming and content.

3 (3) Make recommendations to the Chief Execu-  
4 tive Officer of the United States International Com-  
5 munications Agency about the establishment, termi-  
6 nation, prioritization, and adjustments of language  
7 services utilized by the Voice of America to reach its  
8 international audience.

9 (4) Allocate funding and material resources  
10 under the jurisdiction of the Voice of America for  
11 the furtherance of the other duties and responsibil-  
12 ities established under this subsection.

13 (5) Oversee the daily operations of the Voice of  
14 America, including programming content.

15 (c) APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DIREC-  
16 TOR.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The position of Director of  
18 the Voice of America shall be filled by a person who  
19 shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Executive Of-  
20 ficer of the United States International Communica-  
21 tions Agency.

22 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to be ap-  
23 pointed Director of the Voice of America, a person  
24 shall have at least two of the following qualifications:

1 (A) Prior, extensive experience managing  
2 or operating a private-sector media or journalist  
3 enterprise.

4 (B) Prior, extensive experience managing  
5 or operating a large organization.

6 (C) Prior, extensive experience engaged in  
7 mass media or journalist program development,  
8 including the development of circumvention  
9 technologies.

10 (D) Prior, extensive experience engaged in  
11 international journalism or other related activi-  
12 ties, including the training of international jour-  
13 nalist and the promotion of democratic institu-  
14 tional reforms abroad.

15 (3) COMPENSATION.—Any Director who is  
16 hired after the date of the enactment of this Act  
17 shall be entitled to receive compensation at a rate  
18 equal to the annual rate of basic pay for level III of  
19 the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title  
20 5, United States Code.

## 21 **Subtitle C—General Provisions**

### 22 **SEC. 131. FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION IN SUPPORT** 23 **OF UNITED STATES PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of the United States  
25 International Communications Agency and the Freedom



1 News Network shall conduct periodic, unclassified con-  
2 sultations with the Department of State, the United  
3 States Agency for International Development, the Depart-  
4 ment of Defense, and the Office of the Director of Na-  
5 tional Intelligence, for the purpose of assessing the fol-  
6 lowing:

7           (1) Progress toward democratization, the devel-  
8           opment of free and independent media outlets, and  
9           the free flow of information in countries that receive  
10          programming and content from the United States  
11          International Communications Agency and the Free-  
12          dom News Network.

13          (2) Foreign languages that have increased or  
14          decreased in strategic importance, and the factors  
15          supporting such assessments.

16          (3) Any other international developments, in-  
17          cluding developments with regional or country-spe-  
18          cific significance, that might be of value in assisting  
19          the United States International Communications  
20          Agency and the Freedom News Network in the de-  
21          velopment of their programming and content.

22          (b) GUIDANCE.—The Board of the United States  
23          International Communications Agency shall use the un-  
24          classified consultations required under subsection (a) as

1 guidance for its distribution and calibration of Federal re-  
2 sources in support of United States public diplomacy.

3 **SEC. 132. FEDERAL AGENCY ASSISTANCE AND COORDINA-**  
4 **TION WITH THE UNITED STATES INTER-**  
5 **NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY AND**  
6 **THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK DURING**  
7 **INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST SURGES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to a formal request from  
9 the Chair of the Board of the United States International  
10 Communications Agency, Federal agency heads shall as-  
11 sist and coordinate with the Agency to facilitate a tem-  
12 porary broadcasting surge or enhance transmission capac-  
13 ity for such a temporary broadcasting surge for the Agen-  
14 cy, the Freedom News Network, or both.

15 (b) ACTIONS.—In accordance with subsection (a),  
16 Federal agency heads shall assist or coordinate with the  
17 United States International Communications Agency by—

18 (1) supplying or facilitating access to, or use  
19 of—

20 (A) United States Government-owned  
21 transmission capacity, including the use of  
22 transmission facilities, equipment, resources,  
23 and personnel; and

1 (B) other non-transmission-related United  
2 States Government-owned facilities, equipment,  
3 resources, and personnel;

4 (2) communicating and coordinating with for-  
5 eign host governments on behalf of, or in conjunc-  
6 tion with, the Agency or the Freedom News Net-  
7 work;

8 (3) providing, or assisting in the obtaining of,  
9 in-country security services for the safety and pro-  
10 tection of Agency or Freedom News Network per-  
11 sonnel; and

12 (4) providing or facilitating access to any other  
13 United States Government-owned resources.

14 (e) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
15 sion of law, neither Federal agency heads nor their agen-  
16 cies shall receive any reimbursement or compensatory ap-  
17 propriations for complying with implementing this section.

18 **SEC. 133. FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK RIGHT OF FIRST RE-**  
19 **FUSAL IN INSTANCES OF FEDERAL DISPOSAL**  
20 **OF RADIO OR TELEVISION BROADCAST**  
21 **TRANSMISSION FACILITIES OR EQUIPMENT.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
23 sion of law, it shall be the policy of the United States  
24 International Communications Agency to, in the event it  
25 intends to dispose of any radio or television broadcast

1 transmission facilities or equipment, provide the Freedom  
2 News Network with the right of first refusal with respect  
3 to the acquisition of such facilities and equipment.

4 (b) TRANSFER AND DISPOSAL.—Pursuant to sub-  
5 section (a)—

6 (1) in the event the Freedom News Network is  
7 willing to accept the facilities and equipment re-  
8 ferred to in such subsection, the United States  
9 International Communications Agency shall transfer  
10 to the Freedom News Network such facilities and  
11 equipment at no cost to the Freedom News Net-  
12 work; or

13 (2) in the event the Freedom News Network  
14 opts to not accept such facilities and equipment, the  
15 United States International Communications Agency  
16 may sell such facilities and equipment at market  
17 price, and retain any revenue from such sales.

18 (c) RULES REGARDING CERTAIN FUNDS.—Pursuant  
19 to subsection (b)(2), any revenues that the United States  
20 International Communications Agency shall derive from  
21 such sales shall be used entirely for the purposes or re-  
22 search, development, and deployment of innovative broad-  
23 casting or circumvention technology.

1 **SEC. 134. REPEAL OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL**  
2 **BROADCASTING ACT OF 1994.**

3 The United States International Broadcasting Act of  
4 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.; title III of Public Law 103–  
5 236) is repealed (and the items relating to title III in the  
6 table of contents of such Public Law are struck).

7 **SEC. 135. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This title shall take effect on the date that is 180  
9 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **TITLE II—THE FREEDOM NEWS**  
11 **NETWORK**

12 **SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that RFE/RL, Incor-  
14 porated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broad-  
15 casting Networks, Incorporated share a common mission  
16 with distinct geographic foci, and should therefore be  
17 merged into a single organization, with distinct marketing  
18 brands to provide the news and related programming and  
19 content in countries where free media are not established.

20 **Subtitle A—Consolidation of**  
21 **Existing Grantee Organizations**

22 **SEC. 211. FORMATION OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK**  
23 **FROM EXISTING GRANTEEES.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—When the conditions specified in  
25 section 110 are satisfied, the Freedom News Network,  
26 comprised of the consolidation of RFE/RL Incorporated,

1 Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-  
2 works, Incorporated, shall exist to carry out all inter-  
3 national broadcasting activities supported by the United  
4 States Government, in accordance with sections 212 and  
5 213.

6 (b) MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING INDIVIDUAL  
7 GRANTEE BRANDS.—RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free  
8 Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-  
9 porated shall remain brand names under which news and  
10 related programming and content may be disseminated by  
11 the Freedom News Network. Additional brands may be  
12 created as necessary.

13 **SEC. 212. MISSION OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

14 The Freedom News Network established under sec-  
15 tion 211 shall—

16 (1) provide uncensored local and regional news  
17 and analysis to people in societies where a robust,  
18 indigenous, independent, and free media does not  
19 exist;

20 (2) strengthen civil societies by promoting  
21 democratic values and promoting equality and the  
22 rights of the individual, including for marginalized  
23 groups, such as women and minorities;

24 (3) help countries improve their indigenous ca-  
25 pacity to enhance media professionalism and inde-

1 pendency, and develop partnerships with local media  
2 outlets, as appropriate; and

3 (4) promote access to uncensored sources of in-  
4 formation, especially via the internet, and use all ef-  
5 fective and efficient mediums of communication to  
6 reach target audiences.

7 **SEC. 213. STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE FREEDOM**  
8 **NEWS NETWORK.**

9 The broadcasting of the Freedom News Network  
10 shall—

11 (1) be consistent with the broad foreign policy  
12 objectives of the United States;

13 (2) be consistent with the international tele-  
14 communications policies and treaty obligations of the  
15 United States;

16 (3) be conducted in accordance with the highest  
17 professional standards of broadcast journalism;

18 (4) be based on reliable information about its  
19 potential audience;

20 (5) be designed so as to effectively reach a sig-  
21 nificant audience; and

22 (6) prioritize programming to populations in  
23 countries without independent indigenous media out-  
24 lets.

1     **Subtitle B—Organization of the**  
2             **Freedom News Network**

3     **SEC. 221. GOVERNANCE OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-**  
4             **WORK.**

5             (a) BOARD OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—  
6     A board shall oversee the Freedom News Network and  
7     consist of nine individuals with a demonstrated back-  
8     ground in media or the promotion of democracy and expe-  
9     rience in measuring media impact.

10            (b) COMPOSITION OF FIRST BOARD OF THE FREE-  
11     DOM NEWS NETWORK.—Not later than 90 days after the  
12     date of the enactment of this Act, the Presidents of RFE/  
13     RL Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East  
14     Broadcasting Networks shall—

15                (1) identify, in consultation with the appro-  
16     priate congressional committees, candidates for the  
17     first board of the Freedom News Network;

18                (2) direct the appointment of board members;  
19     and

20                (3) select the first chair of the board of the  
21     Freedom News Network.

22            (c) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION REGARDING  
23     THE FIRST BOARD OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NET-  
24     WORK.—The individuals appointed pursuant to subsection  
25     (b) shall serve as members of the first board of the Free-



1 dom News Network unless a joint resolution of disapproval  
2 is enacted.

3 (d) OPERATIONS OF THE FIRST BOARD OF THE  
4 FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The board of the Freedom  
6 News Network shall have nine members charged  
7 with the sole responsibility to operate the Freedom  
8 News Network within the legal jurisdiction of its  
9 state of incorporation. The board of the Freedom  
10 News Network shall exercise due diligence, and ex-  
11 ecute its fiduciary duties to the corporation without  
12 conflicts of interest and consistent with section 212.  
13 At no time may the United States International  
14 Communications Agency add requirements to a  
15 grant agreement with the Freedom News Network  
16 that could be construed as inappropriate supervision,  
17 oversight, or management in accordance with section  
18 108(d). Nothing in this title may be construed to  
19 make the Freedom News Network an agency, estab-  
20 lishment, or instrumentality of the United States  
21 Government, or to make the members of the board  
22 of Freedom News Network, or the officers or em-  
23 ployees of Freedom News Network, officers of em-  
24 ployees of the United States Government.

1           (2) BYLAWS.—The first board of the Freedom  
2 News Network shall write the bylaws of the organi-  
3 zation.

4           (3) OVERSIGHT.—The Freedom News Network  
5 shall be subject to the appropriate oversight proce-  
6 dures of Congress.

7           (4) TERM LIMITS.—The board members of the  
8 first board of the Freedom News Network may not  
9 serve more than a three-year term, and shall be re-  
10 placed in accordance with the bylaws referred to in  
11 paragraph (2) and the succession process described  
12 in paragraph (5).

13           (5) SUCCESSION OF BOARD MEMBERS.—The  
14 board members of the first board of the Freedom  
15 News Network and all subsequent boards shall fill  
16 vacancies on the board due to death, resignation, re-  
17 moval, or term expiration through an election proce-  
18 ss described in the bylaws referred to in paragraph  
19 (2) and in accordance with the principle of a “self-  
20 replenishing” body.

21           (6) SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS.—The  
22 board members of the Freedom News Network may  
23 not be current employees or officers of RFE/RL In-  
24 corporated, Radio Free Asia, the Middle East

1 Broadcasting Networks, or the United States Inter-  
2 national Communications Agency.

3 (e) COMPENSATION OF BOARD AND OFFICERS OF  
4 THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.—Members of the board  
5 of the Freedom News Network may not receive any fee,  
6 salary, or remuneration of any kind for their service as  
7 members, except that such members may be reimbursed  
8 for reasonable expenses, such as board-related travel, in-  
9 curred with approval of the board upon presentation of  
10 vouchers. No officers of the Freedom News Network, other  
11 than the Chief Executive Officer, shall be eligible to re-  
12 ceive compensation at a rate in excess of the annual rate  
13 of basic pay for level I on the Executive Schedule under  
14 section 5312 of title 5, United States Code.

15 (f) ABOLISHMENT OF EXISTING BOARDS.—The  
16 boards of directors of RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free  
17 Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incor-  
18 porated in existence on the day before the date of the en-  
19 actment of this Act shall be abolished on the date of the  
20 first official meeting of the first board of the Freedom  
21 News Network.

22 (g) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The Chief Execu-  
23 tive Officer of the Freedom News Network shall serve at  
24 the pleasure of the board of the Freedom News Network,  
25 and be responsible for the day-to-day management and op-

1 erations of the Freedom News Network, including the se-  
2 lection of individuals for management positions, ensuring  
3 compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and  
4 circulars, providing strategic vision for the execution of its  
5 mission as specified in section 212, and carrying out such  
6 other responsibilities as set forth in the laws of the State  
7 of its incorporation.

8 (h) PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING INDI-  
9 VIDUAL GRANTEEES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of the first official meeting of the first  
12 board of the Freedom News Network, the chair of  
13 the board of the Freedom News Network shall sub-  
14 mit a report to, and consult with, the appropriate  
15 congressional committees on the plan to consolidate  
16 RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and the  
17 Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated  
18 into a single non-Federal grantee organization.

19 (2) COMPONENTS.—The consolidation plan re-  
20 ferred to in paragraph (1) shall include the following  
21 components:

22 (A) The location and distribution of em-  
23 ployees, including administrative, managerial,  
24 and technical staff, of the Freedom News Net-

1 work that will be located within and outside the  
2 metropolitan area of Washington, D.C.

3 (B) An organizational chart identifying the  
4 managerial and supervisory lines of authority  
5 among all employees of the Freedom News Net-  
6 work, including the members of the board and  
7 chair.

8 (3) TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later  
9 than three years after the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act, the chair of the board of the Freedom  
11 News Network shall fully implement the consolida-  
12 tion plan referred to in paragraph (1) after consulta-  
13 tion with the appropriate congressional committees.

14 (4) REPORT.—Not later than five years after  
15 the date on which initial funding is provided for the  
16 purpose of operating the Freedom News Network,  
17 the chair of the board of the Freedom News Net-  
18 work shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
19 committees a report that details the following:

20 (A) Whether the Freedom News Network  
21 is technically sound and cost-effective.

22 (B) Whether the Freedom News Network  
23 consistently meets the standards for quality and  
24 impact established by this title.

1 (C) Whether the Freedom News Network  
2 is receiving a sufficient audience to warrant its  
3 continued operation.

4 (D) The extent to which the Freedom  
5 News Network's programming and content is  
6 already being received by the target audience  
7 from other credible indigenous or external  
8 sources.

9 (E) The extent to which the broad foreign  
10 policy and national security interests of the  
11 United States are being served by maintaining  
12 operations of the Freedom News Network.

13 **SEC. 222. BUDGET OF THE FREEDOM NEWS NETWORK.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The annual budget of the Free-  
15 dom News Network shall consist of the following:

16 (1) A grant described in section 110, consisting  
17 of the total grants to RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio  
18 Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Net-  
19 works, Incorporated before the date of the enact-  
20 ment of this Act.

21 (2) Any grants or transfers from other Federal  
22 agencies.

23 (3) Other funds described in subsection (b).

24 (b) OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING.—The Freedom  
25 News Network may, to the extent authorized by its board

1 and in accordance with applicable laws and the mission  
2 of the Freedom News Network under section 212 and eli-  
3 gible broadcast areas under section 6, collect and utilize  
4 non-Federal funds, except that the Freedom News Net-  
5 work may not accept funds from the following:

6 (1) Any foreign governments or foreign govern-  
7 ment officials.

8 (2) Any agents, representatives, or surrogates  
9 of any foreign government or foreign government of-  
10 ficial.

11 (3) Any foreign-owned corporations or any sub-  
12 sidiaries of any foreign-owned corporation, regard-  
13 less of whether such subsidiary is United States-  
14 owned.

15 (4) Any foreign national or individual who is  
16 not either a citizen or a legal permanent resident of  
17 the United States.

18 (c) ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE FREEDOM  
19 NEWS NETWORK.—The Freedom News Network shall  
20 submit to the appropriate congressional committees and  
21 the United States International Communications Agency  
22 an annual strategic plan to satisfy the requirements speci-  
23 fied in section 110. Each such strategic plan shall outline  
24 the following:

1           (1) The strategic goals and objectives of the  
2 Freedom News Network for the upcoming fiscal  
3 year.

4           (2) The alignment of the Freedom News Net-  
5 work's resources with the strategic goals and objec-  
6 tives referred to in paragraph (1).

7           (3) Clear benchmarks that establish the  
8 progress made towards achieving the strategic goals  
9 and objectives referred to in paragraph (1).

10          (4) A plan to monitor and evaluate the success  
11 of the Freedom News Network's broadcasting ef-  
12 forts.

13          (5) A reflective analysis on the activities on the  
14 past fiscal year.

15          (6) Any changes to facility leases, contracts, or  
16 ownership that would result in the relocation of staff  
17 or personnel.

18          (7) Any changes to broadcast languages, includ-  
19 ing the transfer of language services to the Freedom  
20 News Network from the United States International  
21 Communications Agency, or to an organization other  
22 than the Freedom New Network.

23          (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24 gress that administrative and managerial costs for oper-  
25 ation of the Freedom News Network should be kept to



1 a minimum and, to the maximum extent feasible, should  
2 not exceed the costs that would have been incurred if  
3 RFE/RL, Incorporated, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle  
4 East Broadcasting Networks, Incorporated had been oper-  
5 ated as independent grantees or as a Federal entity within  
6 the Voice of America.

7 **SEC. 223. ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT AGEN-**  
8 **CIES.**

9 (a) **SURPLUS PROPERTIES.**—In order to assist the  
10 Freedom News Network in carrying out the provisions of  
11 this title, any agency or instrumentality of the United  
12 States may sell, loan, lease, or grant property (including  
13 interests therein) to the Freedom News Network as nec-  
14 essary.

15 (b) **FACILITIES AND BROADCASTING INFRASTRUC-**  
16 **TURE.**—The United States International Communications  
17 Agency and the Freedom News Network shall negotiate  
18 an International Cooperative Administrative Support  
19 Service (ICASS) agreement or memorandum of under-  
20 standing permitting the continued use of technological in-  
21 frastructure for broadcasting and information dissemina-  
22 tion, except that the Freedom News Network may choose  
23 to procure such services through negotiated contracts with  
24 private-sector providers.

1 **SEC. 224. REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR**  
2 **GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE;**  
3 **AUDITS BY GAO.**

4 (a) IG REPORTS.—The Inspector General of the De-  
5 partment of State shall, as appropriate, submit to the ap-  
6 propriate congressional committees reports on manage-  
7 ment practices of the Freedom News Network, including  
8 financial reports on unobligated balances.

9 (b) GAO AUDITS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Financial transactions of the  
11 Freedom News Network, as such relate to functions  
12 carried out under this Act, may be audited by the  
13 Government Accountability Office in accordance with  
14 such principles and procedures and under such rules  
15 and regulations as may be prescribed by the Com-  
16 ptroller General of the United States. Any such audit  
17 shall be conducted at the place or places where ac-  
18 counts of the Freedom News Network are normally  
19 kept.

20 (2) ACCESS.—Representatives of the Govern-  
21 ment Accountability Office shall have access to all  
22 books, accounts, records, reports, files, papers, and  
23 property belonging to or in use by the Freedom  
24 News Network pertaining to the financial trans-  
25 actions referred to in paragraph (1) and necessary  
26 to facilitate an audit in accordance with such para-

1 graph. All such books, accounts, records, reports,  
2 files, papers, and property of the Freedom News  
3 Network shall remain in the possession and custody  
4 of the Freedom News Network.

5 (c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any  
6 other provision of law, one percent of the funds made  
7 available by the United States International Communica-  
8 tions Agency shall be transferred to the Inspector General  
9 of the Department of State to cover the expenses of car-  
10 rying out the activities of the Inspector General under this  
11 section.

12 **SEC. 225. AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES INFORMA-**  
13 **TION AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF**  
14 **1948.**

15 The United States Information and Educational Ex-  
16 change Act of 1948 is amended—

17 (1) in title V (22 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.), by strik-  
18 ing “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert-  
19 ing “United States International Communications  
20 Agency” each place it appears;

21 (2) by amending paragraph (1) of section  
22 501(b) (22 U.S.C. 1461(b)) to read as follows:

23 “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the  
24 Secretary and the United States International Com-  
25 munications Agency may, upon request and reim-

1 reimbursement of the reasonable costs incurred in ful-  
2 filling such a request, make available, in the United  
3 States, motion pictures, films, video, audio, and  
4 other materials disseminated abroad pursuant to  
5 this Act. Any reimbursement pursuant to this para-  
6 graph shall be credited to the applicable appropria-  
7 tion account of the Department of State or the  
8 United States International Communications Agen-  
9 cy, as appropriate. The Secretary and the United  
10 States International Communications Agency shall  
11 issue necessary regulations.”;

12 (3) by repealing sections 504 and 505 (22  
13 U.S.C. 1464 and 1464a);

14 (4) by redesignating section 506 (22 U.S.C.  
15 1464b) as section 504;

16 (5) in section 504, as so redesignated, in sub-  
17 section (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
18 by striking “Board” each place it appears and in-  
19 serting “Agency”;

20 (6) in clause (iii) of section 604(d)(1)(A) (22  
21 U.S.C. 1469(d)(1)(A)), by striking “Broadcasting  
22 Board of Governors” and inserting “United States  
23 International Communications Agency”;

24 (7) in paragraph (3) of section 801 (22 U.S.C.  
25 1471), by striking “Director of the United States

1 Information Agency” and inserting “Chief Executive  
2 Officer of the United States International Commu-  
3 nications Agency”;

4 (8) in subsection (b) of section 802 (22 U.S.C.  
5 1472)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), in the matter  
7 preceding clause (i), by striking “Director of  
8 the United States Information Agency” and in-  
9 serting “Chief Executive Officer of the United  
10 States International Communications Agency”;  
11 and

12 (B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking  
13 “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert-  
14 ing “United States International Communica-  
15 tions Agency”;

16 (9) in paragraph (1) of section 804 (22 U.S.C.  
17 1474), by striking “Director of the United States  
18 Information Agency” and inserting “Chief Executive  
19 Officer of the United States International Commu-  
20 nications Agency”;

21 (10) in section 810(b) (22 U.S.C. 1475e(b))—

22 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
23 by striking “United States Information Agen-  
24 cy” and inserting “United States International  
25 Communications Agency”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Inter-  
2 national Broadcasting Bureau” and inserting  
3 “United States International Communications  
4 Agency”; and  
5 (11) in subsection (a) of section 1011 (22  
6 U.S.C. 1442), by striking “Director of the United  
7 States Information Agency” and inserting “Chief  
8 Executive Officer of the United States International  
9 Communications Agency”.

10 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**  
11 **PROVISIONS**

12 **SEC. 301. PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL**  
13 **SECURITY OBJECTIVES.**

14 The Chief Executive Officer of the United States  
15 International Communications Agency and the Chief Ex-  
16 ecutive Officer of the Freedom News Network shall each  
17 establish procedures to vet and monitor employees of each  
18 such agency for affiliations to terrorist organizations, for-  
19 eign governments, or agents of foreign governments to  
20 protect against espionage, sabotage, foreign propaganda  
21 messaging, and other subversive activities that undermine  
22 United States national security objectives.

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2323**  
**OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS**

In section 112, add at the end the following:

1       (f) REPORTING FREEDOM REPORT.—Not later than  
2 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and  
3 annually thereafter, the Chief Executive Officer of the  
4 United States International Communications Agency and  
5 the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom News Network  
6 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
7 a joint report that includes a list of employees and contrib-  
8 utors who have been imprisoned, detained, attacked,  
9 threatened, or otherwise harassed because of their report-  
10 ing. Each such report shall be presented in a country-by-  
11 country format.



**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2323****OFFERED BY MR. MCCAUL OF TEXAS**

At the end of title III, add the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

**1 SEC. 302. PROGRAMMING FOR PEACE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer of the  
3 United States International Communications Agency is  
4 authorized to collaborate with private sector for-profit and  
5 nonprofit entities to highlight programming content, in-  
6 cluding music, which promotes peace in countries experi-  
7 encing high levels of terrorism or other forms of religious,  
8 ethnic, or political violence.

9 (b) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Chief Executive Offi-  
10 cer of the United States International Communications  
11 Agency shall annually inform the appropriate congres-  
12 sional committees of actions taken pursuant to this sec-  
13 tion.





**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2323****OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA**

In paragraph 20 of section 2, insert “ameliorate inherent conflicts of interest between the private entities and the Board of the Broadcasting Board of Governors,” after “content,”.

In paragraph 2 of section 3, insert “timeliness,” after “effectiveness,”.

In subsection (c) of section 110, strike “soliciting and considering” and insert “providing to the Freedom News Network written notification of grant termination and an appropriate opportunity for remediation. If the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency, after consultation with the Board and the appropriate congressional committees, determines that such remediation has not been carried out, the Chief Executive officer may solicit and consider”.

In paragraph (3) of section 112(a), strike “, such as the web content management system ‘Pangea’”.

In subsection (b) of section 124, strike “, and continue existing within the Voice of America of the United

States International Communications Agency, established in section 101”.

In paragraph (3) of section 212, strike “and” at the end.

In paragraph (4) of section 212, insert “unrestricted” after “promote”.

In paragraph (4) of section 212, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

In section 212, add at the end the following:

- 1           (5) enhance digital security training and capac-
- 2           ity for journalists and democracy activists, continue
- 3           the research and development of technologies that
- 4           provide or enhance unrestricted access to the Inter-
- 5           net, including circumvention tools that bypass Inter-
- 6           net blocking, filtering, and other censorship tech-
- 7           niques used by authoritarian governments, and
- 8           maintain the United States Government’s techno-
- 9           logical advantage over such censorship techniques.



**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2323****OFFERED BY Mr. Royce**

In subsection (a) of section 221, strike “nine” and insert “the Secretary of State and eight”.

In paragraph (5) of section 221(d), insert before the period at the end the following: “, except with respect to the Secretary of State pursuant to paragraph (7)”.

In subsection (d) of section 221, add at the end the following:

1           (7) ROLE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—The  
2           Secretary of State shall be a voting member of the  
3           board and shall remain a member of the board dur-  
4           ing the Secretary’s term of service.



114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 213

Condemning the April 2015 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, and reaffirming the United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2015

Ms. BASS (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Condemning the April 2015 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, and reaffirming the United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and for other purposes.

Whereas, on April 2, 2015, armed terrorists attacked the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, taking hundreds of students hostage, killing at least 147 people, many of whom were specifically targeted for being non-Muslim, and injuring more than 100 others during an almost 12-hour siege;

Whereas the attack was the deadliest terrorist incident in Kenya since the 1998 bombing of the United States embassy by al Qaeda, and the deadliest attack by al Shabaab since its 2013 attack on the Westgate Mall;

Whereas al Shabaab, a Somali Islamist extremist group with ties to al Qaeda, has claimed responsibility for the attack, declaring that it was in retaliation for the Government of Kenya's participation in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);

Whereas al Shabaab was designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States Government in 2008 and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity by the United States Government in 2012;

Whereas several of the attackers were killed, and others connected to the attack were arrested, and the investigation to identify the architect(s) of the attack and efforts to bring them to justice are ongoing;

Whereas Kenya is an important ally and regional security partner, playing a vital role in breaking al Shabaab's stranglehold on Somalia through its participation in AMISOM;

Whereas the Republic of Kenya and the United States have a strong and enduring partnership based on a shared commitment to promote peace and prosperity in East Africa and around the world; and

Whereas Kenya is a culturally rich and ethnically diverse country: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) condemn, in the strongest possible terms,

3       the heinous atrocities and terrorist attack that oc-

1 curred at Garissa University College in Garissa,  
2 Kenya, on April 2, 2015;

3 (2) offers its condolences to the families,  
4 friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in  
5 the attack and expresses its hope for the recovery of  
6 the wounded;

7 (3) recognizes the many heroic and selfless acts  
8 by Kenyan citizens, first responders, and the Kenya  
9 Red Cross to rescue those caught in the Garissa  
10 University College attack;

11 (4) condemns al Shabaab's apparent effort to  
12 foment divisions among the Kenyan people along re-  
13 ligious lines;

14 (5) reaffirms United States support for the ef-  
15 forts of the Government and people of Kenya to  
16 combat terrorism, counter extremism, promote toler-  
17 ance, and bring all the perpetrators of the Garissa  
18 University College attack to justice;

19 (6) commends the Government of Kenya's con-  
20 tinued participation in the African Union Mission in  
21 Somalia;

22 (7) urges Kenya to maintain its commitment to  
23 protecting Somali refugees who are fleeing the hor-  
24 rors of al Shabaab; and

1           (8) recognizes Kenya as an important regional  
2 ally and partner of the United States.

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 235

Expressing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. POLIS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MARINO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COOK, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BERA, Mr. DeSANTIS, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. BLUM, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CAPUANO, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BASS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SIBES, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. MENG, Mr. YOHO, Mr. KEATING, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. HAHN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BARR, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LEE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. DeFAZIO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. COLLEN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. GOSAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs



## **RESOLUTION**

Expressing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015.

Whereas, on April 25, 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the country of Nepal;

Whereas according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake epicenter was located approximately 48 miles northwest from the capital, Kathmandu;

Whereas the USGS already has registered over 50 aftershocks between magnitudes 4.0 and 6.7 and reports that additional aftershocks over magnitude 5.0 or greater may be expected;

Whereas the reported death toll has reached over 4,000, thousands more people have been reported injured, and critical infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and homes, has been damaged or destroyed;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that up to 8,000,000 people have been affected by the earthquake, including an estimated 1,400,000 people in need of immediate food assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that nearly one million children will require urgent humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United States responded immediately to the disaster and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has deployed a 128-person Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Nepal, including search and rescue efforts, emergency shelter, and water, sanitation and health;

Whereas the United States has committed \$10,000,000 to date for earthquake response and recovery efforts in Nepal, including search and rescue efforts, emergency shelter, and water, sanitation and health;

Whereas individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations across the United States and throughout the international community have responded in support of Nepal; and

Whereas humanitarian access has been severely constrained by the magnitude of destruction, the region's mountainous terrain, and the remoteness of impacted areas: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) expresses its deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015;

3               (2) supports the efforts of the Administration to coordinate an immediate, effective United States Government humanitarian response and to provide relief to affected communities;

4               (3) commends the efforts and honors the sacrifice of the men and women engaged in the response, including the citizens and Government of Nepal, the United States, and international humanitarian and nongovernmental organizations; and

5               (4) urges the Administration, in coordination with the Nepalese Government and other donors, to

- 1 continue to provide emergency relief and reconstruction efforts in Nepal.
- 2



**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 235  
OFFERED BY MR. SALMON OF ARIZONA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas on April 25, 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake and on May 12, 2015, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck the country of Nepal;

Whereas according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the first earthquake epicenter was located northwest from the capital, Kathmandu, while the second was east of Kathmandu;

Whereas the reported death toll has reached over 8,000, thousands more people have been reported injured, and critical infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and homes, has been damaged or destroyed;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that up to 8,000,000 people have been affected by the earthquake, including an estimated 1,400,000 people in need of immediate food assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that nearly 1,700,000 children will require urgent humanitarian assistance and has termed this crisis a "children's emergency";

Whereas the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the earthquakes have affected an estimated 126,000 pregnant women and UNICEF estimates that approximately 12 infants are being born every hour with-

out basic health care in the areas worst hit by the earthquakes as a result of damage or destruction to 70 percent of birthing centers across the 14 most affected districts of Nepal;

Whereas women and girls are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters, especially with respect to gender-based violence (GBV), and according to United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) data, 40,000 affected women are at risk of sexual and other GBV;

Whereas the United States responded immediately to the disaster and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has deployed a 128-person Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Nepal;

Whereas the United States Department of Defense is providing necessary air-lift assistance to USAID in order to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance to remote villages;

Whereas six United States Marines (Captain Dustin R. Lukasiewicz, Captain Christopher L. Norgren; Sergeant Ward M. Johnson IV, Sergeant Eric M. Seaman, Corporal Sara A. Medina, and Lance Corporal Jacob A. Hug) and two Nepalese soldiers lost their lives in the course of delivering critical humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United States has committed nearly \$47,000,000 to date for earthquake response and recovery efforts in Nepal, including search and rescue efforts, emergency shelter, and water, sanitation, and health;

Whereas individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations across the United States and throughout the world have responded in support of Nepal; and

Whereas humanitarian access has been severely constrained by the magnitude of destruction, the region's mountainous terrain, and the remoteness of impacted areas: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1           (1) expresses its deepest condolences to and sol-  
2           idarity with the people of Nepal following the dev-  
3           astating earthquakes on April 25, 2015, and May  
4           12, 2015;

5           (2) supports the efforts of the Administration  
6           to coordinate an immediate, effective United States  
7           Government humanitarian response and to provide  
8           relief to affected communities while safeguarding the  
9           vulnerable, including expecting mothers, infants, and  
10          children;

11          (3) commends the efforts and honors the sac-  
12          rifice of the men and women engaged in the re-  
13          sponse, including the citizens and Government of  
14          Nepal, the United States, and international humani-  
15          tarian and nongovernmental organizations; and

16          (4) urges the Administration, in coordination  
17          with the Nepalese Government and other donors, to

1 continue to provide emergency relief and reconstruc-  
2 tion efforts in Nepal.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution express-  
ing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people  
of Nepal following the devastating earthquakes on April  
25, 2015, and May 12, 2015.”.

☒

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H. RES. 235  
OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA**

After the 8th clause of the preamble, insert the following:

Whereas the advanced urban search and rescue teams from the Fairfax County, Virginia Fire and Rescue Department and the Los Angeles County, California Fire Department performed lifesaving rescue and recovery operations while on deployment in Nepal;





**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H. RES. 235  
OFFERED BY MR. SHERMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Page 3, line 15, strike “and” at the end.

Page 4, line 2, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 4, after line 2, add the following:

- 1           (5) urges the United States Government to
- 2           prioritize activities that protect against trafficking
- 3           and exploitation, prevent gender-based violence, and
- 4           ensure access for women and girls to humanitarian
- 5           relief and recovery efforts in Nepal.



Chairman ROYCE. The Chair now moves that the items being considered en bloc be adopted by the committee.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed?

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the items considered en bloc are agreed to.

Without objection, each of those underlying measures, as amended, is ordered favorably reported as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Staff is directed to make technical and conforming changes. The Chair is authorized to seek consideration under suspension of the rules.

Having concluded the operative portion of today's business, I will now recognize members who wish to make statements on the adopted measures, beginning with myself and the ranking member when he arrives here.

So we begin with H.R. 2323. This is the International Communications Reform Act.

And today U.S. international broadcasting must contend with a new era of what is often called weaponized information, where groups like ISIS or Hezbollah and Putin are subverting stable regimes, spreading conspiracy theories intended to incite violence.

There is widespread agreement that the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the agency charged with guiding U.S. international broadcasting, is practically defunct. And this is not good news for our sole U.S. Government effort to counter the propaganda of both terrorists and of dictators. So this measure, the United States International Communications Reform Act, carries out much-needed reforms to our international broadcasting, which have been championed by a broad coalition of supporters.

The bill consolidates the now six organizations of the BBG into two entities. One, a Federal agency, will house the Voice of America. And the other, a non-Federal entity called the Freedom News Network, will run the Radios, or surrogate broadcasters, known as Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, the Middle East Broadcasting Network.

They have two very different missions. The VOA exists to tell America's story abroad. It explains America and American ideals to the world. The Radios, the surrogates here, function in closed societies. They do this with a lot more than just radio, obviously, but they act as a free press would if one were allowed to operate, and, thus, they have that job of irritating dictators and inspiring civil society.

The bill also establishes for both of these organizations a full-time day-to-day agency head and clear lines of accountability.

By reforming the BBG, more resources can be spent cutting through the misinformation put forward by our foes instead of on a broken bureaucracy here in Washington, DC. These reforms are long overdue. The longer we wait to act, the further ground we cede to those who seek to do us grave harm.

The next measure, H.R. 1853, that I was going to comment on, this directs the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL. And this, of course, builds upon our successful efforts last Congress to ensure U.S. endorsement of

Taiwan's entry into the International Civil Aviation Organization. So I want to thank Matt Salmon, chairman of the Asia Subcommittee, for his leadership on this important issue.

Since 1984, Taiwan has relied on delayed, secondhand information from the U.S. about international criminals and global crime, making it needlessly vulnerable to security threats. Likewise, Taiwan cannot share intelligence it gathers to the benefit of INTERPOL members. So Taiwan is the United States' 10th-largest trading partner, a top-20 world economy. This means a large number of people and goods are transiting through Taiwan each and every day. Taiwan especially deserves access to INTERPOL's law enforcement infrastructure to improve security for all involved.

Briefly, I will also tell you about House Resolution 235. This is the Nepal resolution. And I thank Matt Salmon for this resolution on Nepal and the good oversight that his subcommittee has conducted regarding the U.S. response to its two devastating recent earthquakes.

We have had 8,000 people, 8,000 souls, killed in this disaster, including six brave Marines who sought to bring food and medicine and supplies to remote areas that were particularly hard-hit in Nepal. This resolution commends U.S. relief efforts, rightfully so.

Unfortunately, outdated U.S. purchase and shipping requirements under the Food for Peace program have again limited an otherwise robust U.S. humanitarian response. We currently have tons of U.S. food aid sitting in Sri Lanka. In the meantime, USAID has had to rely on other disaster assistance accounts to provide much-needed emergency food, meaning those funds cannot be used for other necessities. So I am eager to work with my colleagues to reform our international food aid program so that, in the future, we can get lifesaving assistance to more people in less time for less money.

House Resolution 213, condemning terrorist attacks by al-Shabaab at the university in Kenya. I want to start by thanking Representative Bass for authorizing this important measure.

Al-Shabaab is getting squeezed in Somalia, losing ground and losing important financial lifelines, and this latest high-profile attack seems to be an attempt to tell the world that they are still around. But there were 147 students tragically killed simply for trying to get an education, you know? Al-Shabaab divided those students along religious lines by quizzing them on the Koran. The ones who passed lived; those who didn't were killed.

This resolution also reaffirms U.S. support for promoting tolerance in Kenya and commends Kenya's contributions to the African Union peacekeeping force that is deployed right now in Somalia.

And, lastly, H.R. 2100, the Girls Count Act of 2015. I want to recognize Representative Chabot for his work on this good, bipartisan bill, which our committee and the House passed in a substantially similar form last Congress.

One-third of children around the world have never had their births registered. Unable to prove their age or their parentage or their citizenship, these children are often prevented from attending school or receiving health services.

For girls, in particular, a lack of documentation can undermine existing legal protections against their being trafficked or against

their being made child brides. And, as they grow up, girls without an official identity face especially high barriers to education and to entrepreneurship.

This bill authorizes the State Department and USAID to prioritize programs to improve countries' civil registries and rates of birth registration. And the bill encourages the development of laws and policies to prevent discrimination against girls and improve property and inheritance rights for women. And I encourage all members to support this measure.

We now go to Mr. Eliot Engel, the ranking member of this committee.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you very much for holding this markup, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, as always, for working with us in such a bipartisan manner on all the measures before us and in all the activity of this committee.

Let me first voice my support for H.R. 1853, the Taiwan INTERPOL Act, sponsored by Chairman Salmon. This bill would direct the executive branch to help Taiwan receive observer status in the International Criminal Policy Organization, known as INTERPOL. INTERPOL enhances public safety around the world by linking law enforcement agencies and facilitating the smooth flow of information.

Taiwan's absence from INTERPOL creates a public safety risk for the people of Taiwan and, actually, for all of us. This legislation will help put Taiwan on a path to observer status in INTERPOL, the same status it enjoys in other international organizations like the World Health Assembly.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this.

Let me next thank Representatives Chabot and McCollum for introducing the Girls Count Act.

Around the world, over a third of children under the age of 5, mostly girls, have no registration of their birth. A lack of documentation creates a dire vulnerability to child labor, human trafficking, and child marriage. Their lives are defined by limited choices and opportunities, and the long-term development of their communities is also dragged down. The Syrian refugee crisis has presented an acute example of this challenge.

H.R. 2100 will ramp up efforts to get more children registered. It authorizes the State Department and USAID to work with local governments to expand access to registration programs, helping children get off to a good start. So I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, as well.

I am also glad that Chairman Royce has reintroduced the United States International Communications Reform Act, which I am proud to cosponsor. This bill, which passed the House unanimously last year, would bring a much-needed overhaul to the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

During the Cold War, the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and other U.S.-backed broadcasters presented honest, unbiased news and information in the face of relentless Soviet propaganda. Mr. Royce and I both support these kinds of programs.

Today, America's rivals spend massive sums to spread violent messages and disseminate propaganda. Unfortunately, our ability

to respond has fallen behind the techniques employed by Russia, ISIS, and others.

This bill creates a new management structure to oversee our international broadcasting efforts. It streamlines our various broadcasting organizations, eliminates duplication, and clarifies the roles of the Voice of America and its so-called surrogates. And it would promote the use of new media platforms to complement traditional tools like shortwave radio and television.

I want to thank Chairman Royce for his dedication to this issue, and I urge support for this bill.

I also support H. Res. 213, which condemns the recent attack at Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, by the brutal terrorist group al-Shabaab.

Because Kenya's leaders chose to make their region stronger and participate in the African Union mission in Somalia, al-Shabaab killed nearly 150 innocent students and teachers and injured more than 100 others.

The resolution offers condolences to the family and friends of those killed, recognizes Kenya as an important ally, and commends Kenya for working to heal a war-torn Somalia. Let me thank Congresswoman Karen Bass, the ranking member on the Africa Subcommittee, for spearheading this measure, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Finally, I want to express my support for H. Res. 235, expressing our deepest condolences and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating April 25 earthquake, which left more than 8,000 dead, several thousand more injured, and has disrupted the lives of more than 8 million people.

But even in such a tragedy, we are inspired by the global response. Partners like India and Japan and, of course, our American search and rescue teams have done incredible work, whether first responders from a few miles away from here in Fairfax County or from the California fire department, along with American Marines, including six who lost their lives in a tragic helicopter crash, and the Congress paid homage to them yesterday.

More than 50 aftershocks have shaken Nepal since April 25, and there will be more. And that is why we need to work with partners to ensure that the people of Nepal are prepared for these kinds of natural disasters in the future. This resolution signals our commitment to that goal, and I urge our colleagues to support it.

Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your work to move forward with these important bills. We appreciate very much working together in such a bipartisan manner.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Engel.

I am going to ask if any of the members of the committee seek recognition.

Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief, and I would ask unanimous consent that my full statement be made a part of the record.

Let me just say I am very grateful for this markup, and all five of the bills, I think, are outstanding. Again, in the spirit of bipartisanship, each of those come before us having worked out any prob-

lems that existed between each side of the aisle, and I think that is the way we ought to work.

I want to note that Sam Stratman is here, one of the most distinguished members of Henry Hyde's—when he was chairman of this committee. And it is great to see Sam. He did a wonderful job for the committee for so many years.

Let me just again thank our ranking member, Congresswoman Bass, for H. Res. 213 that condemns the horrific attack by Islamic radicals from the terror group al-Shabaab at Garissa University College in Kenya on April 2. About 150 mostly Christian students were segregated from other students and butchered on account of their religious faith, the fact that they were Christians.

And there is a report out right now, 55 minutes old, on the Internet that al-Shabaab took over, at least for about 2 hours, a mosque in Garissa, fled back into the woods after spewing out their hatred and vitriol, and then went back into the forest with, of course, the Kenyans in hot pursuit.

I want to thank Congressman Chabot for an excellent bill, Girls Count. And, you know, if you don't chronicle the women and the girls in this world, it is so much easier for them to be trafficked, to disappear.

And I would also point out to my colleagues that this underscores and will help bring additional light and scrutiny to an absolutely ominous phenomenon that has taken place over the course of the last several years, and that is sex-selection abortion and the missing girls in the world. The estimates are at least 200 million missing females because of sex-selection abortion. It happens here. At least 15 countries around the world have seen a gross ascendency in this phenomenon of doing ultrasounds at the fifth month, determining the gender of the baby, and destroying her simply because she happens to be a girl.

I held my 51st hearing on human rights in China just 2 weeks ago. We heard from Chen Guangcheng, the great blind activist and human rights lawyer, who made that daring escape, went to our Embassy, and is now here in the United States with his family. He testified about how awful the policy is in China with its one-child policy and the targeting of little girls.

Mara Hvistendahl, who has also submitted testimony, wrote in her book that, in Asia alone, there are 160 million girls and women missing, the girl child being targeted by sex-selection abortion. And to put that in perspective, that equals the entire female population in the United States of America, killed by sex-selection abortion simply because she happens to be a girl.

This Girls Count legislation—and, Steve, thank you so much for this—will help to bring light and scrutiny to the missing daughters throughout the entire world. Excellent bill.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN [presiding]. Thank you, Mr. Smith.

Mr. Sherman is recognized.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I have enjoyed working with the chair of the committee, his staff, and the ranking member's staff to include in these bills some important provisions.

First, as to Nepal, I want to thank the chairman for including my amendment to focus on the importance of protecting the women

of Nepal from violence against women and to work for gender equality. UNICEF estimates that 7,000 Nepali girls are trafficked annually, and this amendment directs the State Department to focus on trafficking.

I would ask unanimous consent to put in the record the statement of—

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Without objection.

Mr. SHERMAN [continuing]. Mr. Honda, who worked with me on that amendment.

I worked with Mr. Connolly, and, together, we put in an amendment to recognize task forces that have gone to Nepal from his area and mine. In particular, California Task Force 2 was made up of 57 Los Angeles County firefighters and 6 search and rescue dogs. This team carries survival and rescue kits that contain everything from heavy concrete cutting equipment, chainsaws, search cameras, and SONAR to locate victims.

Moving on to the broadcasting bill, I want to thank the chairman for working with me to focus on an issue that I have talked to this committee about for the last several years, the importance of broadcasting in the Sindhi language.

This committee voted to authorize \$1.5 million a year for that effort, yet we can't get BBG to take this seriously. They insist upon broadcasting only in Urdu when, if you are going to reach the people of Pakistan, you have to reach them in the language in which they are most familiar. And for tens of millions of Pakistanis, that is the Sindhi language.

I have asked VOA to provide me with a cost estimate for broadcasting in Sindhi just 3 hours a day on a radio station that would just reach Sindh province and, in particular, the upper portion of Sindh province. Instead, they come back with estimates as to what it would cost to reach the entire country, and these estimates are at least 10 times the cost of what I am currently proposing. I would like to propose something grander, but we realize there are budgetary restraints.

We just need one Urdu/Sindhi speaker who could translate what we are already broadcasting in Urdu and broadcast it in Sindhi in one station. When you look at our costs in Korea and other places, we would realize that this should cost in Pakistan \$100,000 or \$200,000, but we can't even get an estimate for this. And I want to thank the chairman for agreeing to join me with a letter pushing BBG to give us a reasonable estimate.

And given that this is a region of Pakistan that is so important to us and where the natural inclination of people is toward a moderate approach to Islam, I think that it is important that we prod BBG to give us a reasonable approach rather than, "Well, this is what we are doing, and don't bother us with any details."

I commend the committee for undertaking the other bills that are before us. It is important that Taiwan be part of INTERPOL, and I joined with Chairman Salmon in introducing that bill.

And, with that, I yield back to the chair.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chabot of Ohio.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Madam Chair, for calling this markup today.

I am supportive of all the measures before the committee, but I will focus for just a moment on H.R. 2011, the Girls Count Act of 2015, which I introduced with the support from 43 of our colleagues, many of whom are members of this committee.

I want to personally thank Mr. Smith for his impassioned comments about the importance of this legislation. There are a lot of reasons for it, but that is one that is particularly close to my heart.

Every year, approximately 51 million children are not registered at their birth. Lacking a birth certificate restricts the ability of children across the globe from engaging in a number of fundamental rights that we take for granted here in the United States.

In order to address this issue, H.R. 2100 directs the Department of State and USAID to support efforts aimed at improving birth registry through birth certificate programs in developing countries. Ensuring that every child has a birth certificate will aid in a host of areas, including but not limited to, access to voting rights, land tenure rights, health services, education, and on and on. It will help support efforts to prevent human and sex trafficking and aid in identifying displaced persons. H.R. 2100 would also aid in international adoption cases.

Despite the fact that almost all countries require some type of birth registration prior to the government's issuance of identifying documents, like a birth certificate or a driver's license, nearly one-third of all children under the age of 5 worldwide have never had their births registered—one-third of the children on this earth.

For girls, in particular, this lack of birth registration increases the barriers they face to education, entrepreneurship, civic participation, in addition to increasing their vulnerability to trafficking or exploitation. Girls Count would authorize the State Department and USAID to support programs that are designed to protect girls' legal rights, particularly economic and property rights, and to build legal and policy frameworks to prevent discrimination against women and girls.

Madam Chairman, I want to thank you for considering this important piece of legislation and thank my colleagues for their broad bipartisan support in a number of comments they have made this morning in favor of this legislation.

And I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. Chabot.

Mr. Cicilline.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for their continued leadership on this committee and on the important bills that we just moved forward.

I am proud to support the Girls Count Act, which will help improve birth registration around the world, especially in countries where girls and women often get left behind, unable to pursue an education or work outside the home because the government has no official record that they exist. This will complement the work already being done by the State Department and USAID and help us pave a road to full gender equality. And I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on that piece of legislation.

I am also pleased that we have passed the Taiwan INTERPOL Act this morning. It is important and, of course, in the best interest



of the United States to ensure that information about criminals and global criminal activities are shared as widely and as efficiently as possible.

We have also moved forward this morning a resolution that was considered by the Africa Subcommittee last week. The April 2 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Kenya was a despicable, evil act of terrorism by al-Shabaab. The victims were innocent men and women attending school, who were targeted for murder because of their religious faith. I thank my friend and colleague Congresswoman Bass for sponsoring this resolution to send the message that such violence and terrorism will not be tolerated and must be condemned in this strongest terms.

And regarding another tragedy, H. Res. 235 expresses our condolences to the people of Nepal in the wake of the earthquakes that have devastated their country. I have supported the international disaster response to date, especially U.S. Search and rescue teams and humanitarian contributions, and want to recognize the lives lost while providing humanitarian assistance. I sincerely hope that the United States will honor their sacrifice and continue to do everything we can to help with their reconstruction efforts.

And, finally, I want to thank Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for their leadership on broadcasting issues. When I meet with international civil society groups, they consistently raise the concern that the media and the information dissemination in their country are not free and fair. Too often, propaganda and censorship are used by extremist leaders in an attempt to assert control over a group of people or an entire country. I support this country and this committee's commitment to providing open access to news and information around the world, and our passage today of H.R. 2323 will advance that goal.

Finally, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for moving these important pieces of legislation and, again, for always working in a bipartisan way, which I think reflects on the best values of our country and hopefully of this Congress.

And, with that, I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir.

And now we will turn to Mr. Salmon, the chairman of the Asia Subcommittee.

Mr. SALMON. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I would to express wonderful support to our chairman of the full committee, Mr. Royce, and the ranking member, Mr. Engel, for their great leadership and support of all of the issues on today's schedule.

I also want to thank the ranking member on our subcommittee, Brad Sherman, for his great work both on H.R. 1853, which is requiring the President to develop a strategy to get Taiwan involved in INTERPOL, and then the resolution expressing our deepest sympathies and condolences for Nepal, which I think has been made very much better through the amendment process. I am very excited about what we are voting on today.

First of all, in the Taiwan INTERPOL issue, H.R. 1853, folks, this is a no-brainer, and that is why we are seeing such widespread support across the aisle for this measure. It doesn't make any sense at all, in a time of great angst and threat by numerous ter-

rorist groups across the globe, that we don't have all hands on deck, that just because of political idiosyncrasies and the flexing of muscles by China, that Taiwan isn't involved at all in any international institutions, that we are doing stupid things and not allowing them to be involved in something as important as this when all hands should be on deck. So I appreciate the fact that we are moving forward on this.

Regarding the Nepal condolence measure that we are introducing today, we had a hearing yesterday with our folks from State Department, USAID, and our Department of Defense. And I have to say, I just couldn't be prouder of the job that they have done and how quickly they responded to not just one but two major earthquakes. And I am so proud of our military folks.

Just the other day, I had one of the toughest conversations with a constituent—actually, not a constituent but somebody from my State who lost his beloved son, Lance Corporal Jake Hug, in the terrible helicopter accident that happened during the search and rescue in Nepal.

I am so proud of those brave men and women that put on the uniform every day and go out to fight for freedom and put the United States' best interests forward. And I am so thankful that will we were able to get a measure in that is also thanking them and honoring them for the great service that they do for our country.

Again, this committee I think is the most bipartisan committee in the entire Congress, and I just hope that a lot of the media is taking note at how well we work together. There is an old saying, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. And I am certainly proud to serve with the members on both sides of the aisle on this committee. It is a great testament of the way things should be.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. Salmon.

Lois Frankel from Florida.

Ms. FRANKEL. Thank you, Madam Chair.

And I, too, want to thank the chairman and ranking member for this bipartisan approach and how you all run this committee.

And I also want to particularly thank Mr. Chabot for his leadership on the Girls Count Act, which I am proud to be a cosponsor. And I want to reaffirm some of the comments that have been made by my colleagues, because I don't think it can be said enough that the more we do for our young girls and women to reach their full potential, the more that countries around the world will reach their full potential.

Every year, tens of millions of girls are born in the developing world and they do not receive any sort of birth documentation. Without a nationally-recognized birth certificate, girls and women are often prevented from participating in the formal economic, legal, educational, and political sectors of their economy. And, as we have heard, even worse, they are much more susceptible to exploitation, human trafficking, forced labor, and child marriage.

So I am very pleased that we have come together in a bipartisan fashion to help some of the world's most vulnerable children. And it may just be a play on words, but by counting girls, we take a

positive step toward making sure that girls do count. And we know that when girls flourish, so do their communities.

And I yield back, Madam Chair.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Ms. Frankel.

And now Chairman McCaul.

Mr. MCCAUL. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Let me thank Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for their leadership on this bill, the United States International Communications Reform Act. I believe enactment of this bill into law will go a long way in improving U.S. international broadcasting efforts to strengthen our public diplomacy around the world.

I am particularly grateful to the committee for accepting my amendment to encourage a U.S. international communications agency to collaborate with private-sector for-profit and nonprofit entities to highlight programming content, including music which promotes peace in countries experiencing high levels of terrorism and other forms of religious, ethnic, or political violence.

I just returned from Iraq last week where a car bomb exploded in west Baghdad, killing 10 people. And rather than being deterred by that terror, the day following the attack, an individual by the name of Karim Wasfi, a cellist and former conductor of Iraq's National Symphony Orchestra, came to the wreckage site and played his cello.

There is a YouTube video out on this that has gone viral over the Internet, and it is quite moving to see him in the middle of the blast playing the cello. And people came out to this site of horror and murder to listen to one of the nation's most renowned musicians rather than hide from other would-be attackers.

You know, when I was over there, I had a flak jacket and a helmet on, and I could only think of this man being in the middle of a bomb site, playing his cello freely, while others were looking on with no protection whatsoever—the courage they demonstrated that day in the streets of Baghdad.

And when asked why he did this, Mr. Wasfi said, "You know, I'm worried that people are losing hope and surrender to the situation. And I play—I play my cello to show that life is worth living. I can't beat the bombs with my cello," he said, "but I can bring respect for the dead."

So to this committee, I say that I believe music—and I come from Austin, Texas, and, sort of, we like to think of ourselves as the music capital of the world, in some respects. Some would debate that, I suppose. But I believe that music can bring people together in bad parts of the world. It can defeat radical Islamists; it can defeat the face of terror, as Mr. Wasfi's cello did that very day. And that is why I think it is important that we highlight music and other forms of programming content that promotes peace in places like Iraq which are so desperate for it.

So, with that, let me thank the committee for its support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. McCaul.

Do any other members seek recognition?

Mr. Lowenthal is recognized.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you, Madam Chair.

First, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Connolly, for introducing, with myself and Mr. Sherman and Ms. Bass from southern California, the amendment to House Resolution 235 recognizing the brave service of search and rescue personnel from both Fairfax County in Virginia and from my own home county of Los Angeles County in California. These Americans traveled all the way to Nepal to help those in need, and we cannot thank them enough for their service.

I also wish to speak in support of Congressman Salmon's bill, H.R. 1853. I believe Taiwan is a vital partner of the United States and a responsible global citizen. Taiwan's participation in INTERPOL will serve to make us all safer and promote greater collaboration and cooperation on the international stage.

Lastly, I would like to express my strong support for the United States International Communications Reform Act. This bill will provide a much-needed overhaul of our efforts to promote freedom of speech and of press across the globe.

I am personally pleased this legislation again includes language I offered as an amendment last year in support of shortwave broadcasting. Shortwave broadcasting is a versatile and effective tool to reach many populations, and I continue to support its use in regions where repressive regimes do not allow for independent news sources, such as Vietnam.

I hope the House quickly considers and passes these important pieces of legislation. And, again, Madam Chair, thank you, and I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. Lowenthal.

And hearing no further requests for recognition, I again want to thank Ranking Member Engel and all of our committee members for their contributions and assistance with today's markup.

And, with that, the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:47 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

# A P P E N D I X



MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

**FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128**

**Edward R. Royce (R-CA), Chairman**

May 21, 2015

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

**DATE:** Thursday, May 21, 2015

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**MARKUP OF:** H.R. 1853, To direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2100, Girls Count Act of 2015;

H.R. 2323, United States International Communications Reform Act of 2015;

H. Res. 213, Condemning the April 2015 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, and reaffirming the United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and for other purposes; and

H. Res. 235, Expressing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015.

**By Direction of the Chairman**

*The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.*

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MINUTES OF FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

Day Thursday Date 5/21/15 Room 2172

Starting Time 10:07 Ending Time 10:45

Recesses 0 ( to ) ( to ) ( to ) ( to ) ( to ) ( to )

Presiding Member(s)

*Chairman Edward R. Royce, Rep. Heana Ros-Lehtinen*

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session

Executive (closed) Session

Televised

Electronically Recorded (taped)

Stenographic Record

BILLS FOR MARKUP: (include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)

*See attached.*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

*See attached.*

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

*None*

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: (List any statements submitted for the record.)

*SFR - Smith, SFR - Sherman, SFR - Bass*

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: (Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)

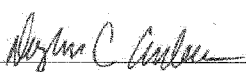
*See markup summary.*

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): (Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)

Subject	Yeas	Nays	Present	Not Voting
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TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE \_\_\_\_\_

or  
TIME ADJOURNED 10:45

  
Doug Anderson, General Counsel

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

*FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP*

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
X	Edward R. Royce, CA
X	Christopher H. Smith, NJ
X	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL
	Dana Rohrabacher, CA
X	Steve Chabot, OH
X	Joe Wilson, SC
X	Michael T. McCaul, TX
X	Ted Poe, TX
X	Matt Salmon, AZ
	Darrell Issa, CA
	Tom Marino, PA
X	Jeff Duncan, SC
X	Mo Brooks, AL
	Paul Cook, CA
	Randy Weber, TX
	Scott Perry, PA
X	Ron DeSantis, FL
	Mark Meadows, NC
X	Ted Yoho, FL
X	Curt Clawson, FL
X	Scott, DesJarlais, TN
	Reid Ribble, WI
X	Dave Trott, MI
X	Lee Zeldin, NY
	Dan Donovan, NY

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
X	Eliot L. Engel, NY
X	Brad Sherman, CA
	Gregory W. Meeks, NY
	Albio Sires, NJ
X	Gerald E. Connolly, VA
	Theodore E. Deutch, FL
	Brian Higgins, NY
X	Karen Bass, CA
	William Keating, MA
X	David Cicilline, RI
X	Alan Grayson, FL
	Ami Bera, CA
X	Alan S. Lowenthal, CA
X	Grace Meng, NY
X	Lois Frankel, FL
	Tulsi Gabbard, HI
	Joaquin Castro, TX
X	Robin Kelly, IL
X	Brendan Boyle, PA



**5/21/15 Foreign Affairs Committee Markup Summary**

The Chair obtained unanimous consent to consider several measures and amendments (previously provided to Members of the Committee) *en bloc*:

- 1) H.R. 1853 (Salmon) To direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes;
- 2) H.R. 2100 (Chabot), Girls Count Act of 2015;
- 3) H.R. 2323 (Royce), United States International Communications Reform Act of 2015;
  - a. Castro 51
  - b. McCaul 33
  - c. Royce 41
  - d. Royce 901
- 4) H.Res. 213 (Bass), Condemning the April 2015 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, and reaffirming the United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and for other purposes; and
- 5) H.Res. 235 (Salmon), Expressing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015.
  - a. Salmon 70, an amendment in the nature of a substitute.
    - i. Connolly/Bass/Sherman/Lowenthal 54, an amendment to Salmon 70
    - ii. Sherman 10, an amendment to Salmon 70

The items considered *en bloc* were agreed to by voice vote, and ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

By unanimous consent, the Chair was authorized to seek House consideration of any of the measures agreed to under suspension of the rules.

The Committee adjourned.



**Rep. Chris Smith**  
**HCFA Markup Statement**  
**May 20, 2015**

I want to speak in favor of Mr. Salmon's bill HR 1853, which would direct the President to obtain observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL. Taiwan is a model of democratization and openness, an example of a successful transition from authoritarianism. The sole reason that it is excluded from international organizations is the persistent spite of the Communist government of mainland China, which sees any inclusion of the government on Taiwan in such organizations as detracting from the mainland's claim to be the legitimate government of all of China.

This intransigence, however, puts politics over people and undermines the Common Good. In this day and age of global terrorism and international drug and human trafficking networks, it makes no sense not to include Taiwan in INTERPOL due to political pique, just as it made no sense to exclude Taiwan from the World Health Organization – another example of the government of mainland China putting politics over people.

But there is another reason for having a good global citizen such as Taiwan as a member of INTERPOL: INTERPOL is an organization that is in need of reform. A number of authoritarian countries abuse the INTERPOL "red notice" system not against criminals, but to harass political dissidents and exiles who are unable to travel internationally for fear that they will be arrested and face extradition to their home country, where they will suffer persecution, imprisonment and even death.

China, for example, has red listed Uighur political leader Dolkun Isa, who received political asylum in Germany. Even Americans who have gotten on the bad side of authoritarian regimes have been victimized by misuse of the INTERPOL red notice system. Jacob Ostreicher, a legitimate American businessman who was the victim of an extortion ring involving corrupt Bolivian government officials and jailed in Bolivia – a matter on which my subcommittee held three hearings on, and for which I traveled to Bolivia with our colleague Nydia Vazquez – has since his return to the United States discovered that he has had a red notice placed on him by vindictive Bolivian government officials, which effectively prevents him from traveling abroad. He currently is going through a time-consuming and costly process to clear his name.

To help encourage reform at INTERPOL we should welcome democracies such as Taiwan, which respects the rule of law and can serve as a model to other countries.



MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE BRAD SHERMAN, A  
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

May 21, 2015

Congressman Michael M. Honda  
Statement for the Record  
House Foreign Affairs Committee

Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, and Chairman Salmon and Ranking Member Sherman, I would like to extend my gratitude to you for bringing the Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific's bipartisan House Resolution 235 before the committee for its consideration. I am especially grateful to Ranking Member Sherman for working with me on a provision to support protections for women and girls in the U.S. humanitarian relief and recovery efforts in the reconstruction of Nepal's earthquake.

The 7.8 earthquake in Nepal on April 25 killed over 8,600 people that we know of to date. The subsequent earthquake on May 12 exacerbated an already calamitous situation. These unbelievably tragic events have caused horrific and unimaginable loss of life.

Too often in the wake of natural disasters and conflict, women and girls are most vulnerable to the dangers of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse. According to the United Nations, 126,000 pregnant Nepalese women have been impacted by this natural disaster. In addition, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported instances of sexual and other gender-based violence in the Kathmandu camps. Furthermore, inequitable access for women and girls to resources like food and shelter can impede long-term recovery efforts.

These vulnerable communities have already suffered enough. As our brave American women and men work with the Government of Nepal, relief agencies, and the international organizations to bring the Nepalese people to safety and security, the U.S. must make a full and prioritized commitment to help protect women and girls in our relief and recovery assistance. We need to ensure every effort is made to protect and empower women and girls in the post-disaster reconstruction and development efforts.

It is my hope that we will continue to recognize the gender perspective and prioritization of our U.S. engagement in all post-disaster and conflict situations.

Thank you again, Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, and especially to Chairman Salmon and Ranking Member Sherman, for supporting these unique protections and necessities of women and girls.



**STATEMENT**  
**House Foreign Affairs Committee**  
**Mark-up**

Rep. Karen Bass | Ranking Member | May 20, 2015

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Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, thank you for bringing these 5 bills to the Committee today for consideration. Today's mark-up is a further example of your leadership and the bi-partisan and productive manner that you conduct this Committee.

I am proud to join my colleagues Reps. McCollum and Chabot as a co-sponsor of HR 2100, the Girls Count Act and Reps. Salmon and Sherman as cosponsor of HRes 235 to honor the victims of and the response efforts to the recent earthquakes in Nepal. I am excited to see these bills before us today.

I would like to take the rest of my time today to speak in support of my bill H. Res. 213, condemning the April 2015 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya.

Al-Shabaab's abhorrent terrorist attacks at Garissa University College killed 147 people and sent shockwaves through the Kenyan community as well as the international community at large. Not only does H.Res. 213 condemn these heinous acts but it also offers condolences to the friends, families and loved ones of those who were killed, and reaffirms the United States' support for the people and government of Kenya.

As I have said before, Kenya is our partner and ally, and these attacks rightly shook us because al-Shabaab killed students who were working to better their own lives and whose only crime was their faith. The Kenyan people have seen far too much violence and senseless killing of innocent civilians.

Nevertheless, as horrid as this attack was, it would have been far worse without the brave Kenyan citizens, first responders, and the Kenya Red Cross who came to the rescue of those caught in the attack. We must continue to stand strong with the Kenyan people against terrorism.