



# Voice of America

*A Trusted Source of News and Information Since 1942*

## FAST FACTS

**Headquarters:** Washington, D.C.

**Budget:** \$190.2 million (FY 2008)

**Employees:** more than 1,100

**Languages:** 45

**Audience:** more than 134 million weekly

**Media:** radio, television, and the Internet

**Purpose:** to broadcast accurate, balanced, and comprehensive news and information to an international audience

**Facilities:** 27 radio broadcast studios, 33 production and recording studios, 30 professional audio mixing and dubbing stations, 4 television studios, 20 video editing suites, and facilities for master control, recording, scheduling, and feed intake

**History:** broadcasts began in 1942, as a response to the need of peoples in closed and war-torn societies for reliable news

## VOA BROADCASTS

■ There are more than 1,200 hours of programs each week.

■ 25 of VOA's 45 languages broadcast on television.

■ Program content includes news, features, education, and culture, in discussion, call-in, live, and pre-recorded formats.

■ VOA has a growing worldwide network of over 1,200 local affiliate stations, which include FM and medium wave (MW or AM) radio stations, television networks, and cable systems.

## THE VOA CHARTER

*President Gerald Ford signed the VOA Charter into law in 1976. It protects the independence and integrity of VOA programming.*

1. VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

2. VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

3. VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

*"The news may be good. The news may be bad. We shall tell you the truth" – William Harlan Hale, 1st VOA Broadcast (1942)*

VOA broadcasts around the world in 45 languages:

**AFRICA**

Afan Oromo  
Amharic  
English  
French  
Hausa  
Kinyarwanda  
Kirundi  
Ndebele  
Portuguese  
Shona  
Somali  
Swahili  
Tigrigna

**EURASIA**

Albanian  
Bosnian  
Croatian  
Greek  
Macedonian  
Russian  
Serbian  
Ukrainian

**LATIN AMERICA**

Creole  
Spanish

**EAST ASIA**

Burmese  
Cantonese  
Indonesian  
Khmer  
Korean  
Lao  
Mandarin  
Thai  
Tibetan  
Vietnamese

**NEAR EAST & CENTRAL ASIA**

Armenian  
Azerbaijani  
Georgian  
Kurdish  
Turkish  
Uzbek

**WEST & SOUTH ASIA**

Bangla  
Dari  
Hindi  
Pashto  
Persian  
Urdu

**ENGLISH**

**WORLDWIDE**



*VOA is one of the largest multimedia news organizations in the world.*

**VOA NEWSCENTER**

■ VOA's 30,000 square foot Newscenter is staffed 24-hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year, providing between 150 and 200 news reports per day for all language services and programs.

■ There are also 22 domestic and 16 overseas correspondents, in addition to more than 90 "stringers," or part-time reporters.

**VOA AND TECHNOLOGY**

■ VOA has the largest integrated digital audio system in the world.

■ A network of transmitting stations operated by the International Broadcasting Bureau, along with some leased stations, send VOA's programs instantaneously around the world.

■ The website, [www.VOANews.com](http://www.VOANews.com), provides a wide range of English-language news reports and serves as a portal to homepages of all 45 languages broadcast by VOA, as well as other information about VOA.

■ Pages feature text, audio/video files on demand, and live-streamed VOA programs.

**SEE VOA LIVE**

■ Take a behind-the-scenes look at VOA through our new guided audio-visual Studio Tour.

■ Learn more about our history and the regions to which we broadcast, and watch news as it happens through live TV and radio broadcasts.

■ For reservations or more information, call (202) 203-4990 or visit [www.VOAtour.com](http://www.VOAtour.com)



**THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BBG)**

■ The BBG is an independent federal agency that oversees all non-military U.S. international broadcasting including the Voice of America.

■ The bi-partisan Board is comprised of nine members, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, including the Secretary of State.

■ Its mission is "To promote and sustain freedom and democracy by broadcasting accurate and objective news and information about the United States and the world to audiences overseas."



Voice of America®

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