

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2013

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers:

There are issues at Radio Free Asia which trouble me, based on my two years of investigating our international broadcast systems as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. The results of that inquiry are included in a memo along with details of the current situation at RFA. The information indicates a subversion of the Tibetan Service and undue influence foreign actors have had on the conduct of RFA operations.

A theme running through the entire broadcast structure which is supervised by the Broadcast Board of Governors, to which the Department of State serves as an advisor, is fear of offending target countries like Communist China and Iran. In addition, there is no effective counterintelligence or vetting procedure for hiring employees; nor does the structure of the BBG and its agencies allow for adequate accountability to the American taxpayer. RFA is particularly susceptible to becoming a personal fiefdom due to its structure and we may be seeing signs of that right now.

Libby Liu, the current President of RFA, recently fired Tibet Service Director Jigme Ngapo. Her action is related to the Tibetan self-immolation crisis (96 as of today) and raises serious questions about possible foreign influence on RFA. Unfortunately, she has repeatedly failed to respond to my letters requesting details of this unwise action.

The mission of the BBG and its agencies (including Voice of America as well as RFA) is to advance the U.S. national interest and to make the case to foreign audiences that there is a better way than to live under anti-Western dictatorships; a way that Americans can help them find. I am not presently convinced that our broadcast organizations are fulfilling that mission and that taxpayer money should be spent supporting them.

Sincerely,



Dana Rohrabacher,
Chairman (112th Congress)
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

CC: Rep. Kay Granger, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs; Rep. Randy Forbes, Co-Chair Congressional China Caucus; Michael Danis, Executive Director, US-China Economic and Security Review Commission; Harold W. Geisel, Deputy Inspector General, Department of State.