



## Radio Free Asia

### Launched

September 1996

### Headquarters

Washington, D.C.

### Budget

\$60.8 million (FY24)

### Estimated weekly audience

58.3 million

## Nine language services

### Burmese (since 1997)

Radio: 2 hours daily

(SW +FM)

Daily webcasts

### Cantonese (1998)

Radio: 2 hours daily

30-60 min. weekly webcast

### Khmer (Cambodian, 1997)

Radio: 2 hours daily

30-60 min. weekly webcast

### Korean (1997)

Radio: 6 hours daily

### Lao (1997)

Radio: 2 hours daily

broadcasted on

6 FM affiliate stations along the Lao-Thai border

### Mandarin (1996)

Radio: 12 hours daily

+ 90 minutes weekly

(Wu dialect)

Satellite TV: daily news +

1 hour of weekly interviews

### Tibetan (1996)

Radio: 10 hours daily in

3 dialects – Uke, Kham,

Amdo

2.5 hours weekly TV

broadcast

### Uyghur (1998)

Radio: 2 hours daily

15 min. weekly webcast

### Vietnamese (1997)

2 daily livestreams +

special programs



# Bringing free press to closed societies

**R****RADIO FREE ASIA** (RFA) delivers uncensored, accurate domestic news and information to audiences in China, Vietnam, North Korea, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. For people living in those countries, where free speech and free press is heavily restricted, RFA’s in-depth, unflinching journalism provides a lifeline to the truth and counters authoritarian disinformation and false narratives. RFA also offers a platform for ordinary people to voice opinions and share perspectives that would otherwise be censored or ignored by state-controlled media.

*“My feeling when listening to RFA was as if I saw a lighthouse of hope.”*

— NORTH KOREAN DEFECTOR

Issues addressed in features and programming among RFA’s nine language services include human rights abuses; religious, ethnic, and racial persecution; corruption; forced land confiscations; and health risks. RFA uses multiple platforms, including short- and medium-wave radio, satellite transmissions, TV broadcasting, the Internet, and social media to deliver content to its audiences.

Its investigative reporting has earned awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, Radio & TV Digital News Association, Alliance for Women in Media, Amnesty International, and the Society of Environmental Journalists, among others. The network’s reporting is picked up by both global media and news sources in its target regions, including The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, The Washington Post, BBC, CNN, Reuters, AFP, Kyodo News, Yonhap, South China Morning Post, and Bangkok Post, among many others.

## Awards

Gracie Awards (Alliance for Women in Media)

Sigma Delta Chi (Society of Professional Journalists)

New York Festivals (TV and Radio)

Society of Environmental Journalists

Hong Kong Journalists Association Human Rights

Edward R. Murrow (RTDNA)

## Overseas offices

Taipei, Taiwan

Bangkok, Thailand

Seoul, South Korea

Dharamsala, India

Delhi, India

## Staff

400 full time

500 stringers + consultants

## Funding

Congressionally funded annual grant: 1 of 5 networks under the U.S. Agency for Global Media

## Our mission

As outlined under the 1994 International Broadcasting Act (P.L. 103-236), RFA's mission is to provide accurate and timely news and information to Asian countries whose governments prohibit access to a free press.

## Our programming

RFA's all-digital facility is equipped with 29 studios, allowing our nine services to produce news, analysis, commentary, and cultural programming. Today, RFA has expanded from its radio programs to include documentaries, in-depth web reports, graphics and e-books online as well as on social media. Since 2015, RFA has garnered over 43.5 million fans across Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter providing social media videos and call in shows, and redistributing citizen journalist content.

*"In the age of disinformation and manipulated news, I always have to confirm with RFA whether news is true or not."*

— COMMENT ON RFA BURMESE FACEBOOK

## Our impact

**First to inform the world about the creation of Xinjiang's prison state.** RFA was the first to inform the world about the brutal detention of millions of Uyghurs in vast internment camps, and the build up of a high-tech security state in Xinjiang, making the human rights crisis – which the U.S. designated as a genocide – increasingly difficult for China's leaders to deny. RFA continues to break key stories related to this ongoing crisis.

**Reporting on the crisis in Myanmar.** As Myanmar has spiraled into a warzone since the military coup in February 2021, RFA Burmese has played a key role covering the ongoing crisis. The service first reported the Myanmar military junta's use of the popular social networking app Telegram to entrap pro-democracy supporters. RFA's in-depth reporting formed the crux of a Washington Post editorial board investigation as part of its "Annals of Autocracy" series.

**Covering historic protests in China.** RFA's timely coverage of the anti-COVID demonstrations in late 2022 led to record-breaking digital engagement numbers for its Mandarin and Cantonese services. RFA Uyghur first reported that the victims who died during the Urumqi apartment fire, which triggered the protests in China, were Uyghurs.

### RFA

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