

Dear CEO Pack and USAGM colleagues,

As you know, USAGM is currently holding approximately \$20 million in funds allocated for OTF per USAGM's Congressionally-approved FY19 and FY20 Internet Freedom Spend Plans and our agreed-upon financial plan, including the funds promised to OTF corresponding to existing obligations inherited from RFA. OTF has requested on numerous occasions, including as recently as last Tuesday, that these funds be transferred in order to maintain OTF's critical operations and projects. As you're aware, if funds are not transferred in the near future, OTF will run out of available bank balance in September.

As we previously shared, OTF has already been forced to take several actions in response to this dire financial situation, including stopping the issuance of any new contracts, terminating several active contracts (including Psiphon), and pausing all ongoing solicitations. Unfortunately, USAGM has been unresponsive to our requests for funding and continues to arbitrarily hold \$20 million in funds Congressionally-allocated for OTF.

As a result, I'm extremely disheartened to notify you that **OTF is now forced to issue stop-work orders to 49 of our approximately 60 active internet freedom projects** tomorrow, bringing over 80 percent of our projects and services to a complete halt.

This arbitrary and unnecessary delay in funding has now compromised the work of our projects and jeopardized the lives of millions of users who rely on our technologies worldwide. Further, this funding delay is needlessly undermining USAGM's reach and impact abroad. According to USAGM's own analytics, 85% of USAGM's audience in Iran and 40% of USAGM's audience in China rely on OTF-supported technologies to access USAGM content. By withholding resources for these tools, USAGM is preventing its audiences from reaching its own content. In addition, USAGM is putting at risk its own journalists, who rely on secure communication technologies supported by OTF, and jeopardizing the security of its online content, which benefits from OTF-supported secure hosting and DDoS mitigation technologies. Most troubling is that these actions will directly strengthen the hands of internet freedom adversaries, like the Chinese and Iranian governments, who are actively working to undermine freedom and democracy around the world. Cutting off funding for these critical tools not only compromises OTF's mission but sabotages USAGM's as well.

OTF's mission to advance internet freedom globally supports USAGM's own mission, advances universal human rights, furthers U.S. foreign policy and national security priorities, and fulfills Congressional objectives. Being prevented from fulfilling this essential mission is counterproductive to our shared goals and needlessly destructive. I implore you to release funding for OTF as soon as possible so that we can resume the truly critical work of countering repressive censorship and surveillance abroad.

Best regards,

Laura