

## Alhurra News Director Resigns

For Immediate Release: June 11, 2007

Contact: Kimberly Allen, (202) 226-8364; (202) 420-1524 [cell]

### Statement on the Resignation of Alhurra News Director

(Washington, DC)-On June 8, 2007, days after House appropriators denied funding for new programming at Alhurra, Larry Register finally resigned as news director of the controversial television network. Mr. Register's short tenure at the U.S.-taxpayer funded Arabic language TV network was marred by repeated violations of a written policy against airing terrorists and other questionable editorial decisions. Congressman Steve Rothman's (D-NJ) statement on Alhurra's new leadership follows:

"Mr. Register's resignation is welcome news. It is my sincere hope that Alhurra has learned from Mr. Register's failures and is prepared to ensure that no terrorists are allowed to espouse hate speech on a television network paid for by U.S. taxpayers. I look forward to working with Alhurra on the implementation of my proposal to bring greater transparency to its operations through the 24/7 live streaming, archiving and translation of Alhurra's original programming.

"Alhurra's mission of countering the anti-American biases that pervade the Arab world's news media is a noble one. With Mr. Register's disastrous tenure behind them, the Broadcasting Board of Governors now has an opportunity to implement positive changes to achieve Alhurra's laudable goals."

Rothman called for Mr. Register's replacement over a month ago and was later joined by a majority of Republicans and Democrats on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, which oversees Alhurra's funding. After Mr. Register refused to budge and the BBG failed to take action, the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee-on which Congressman Rothman sits-denied the BBG's request for \$11.1 million for new original news programming at Alhurra. Instead, the Subcommittee recommended that Alhurra spend \$4.28 million to fund Rothman's transparency proposal.

The full Appropriations Committee will consider the 2008 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs spending bill tomorrow morning. The bill could be voted on by the full House of Representatives as early as next week.

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