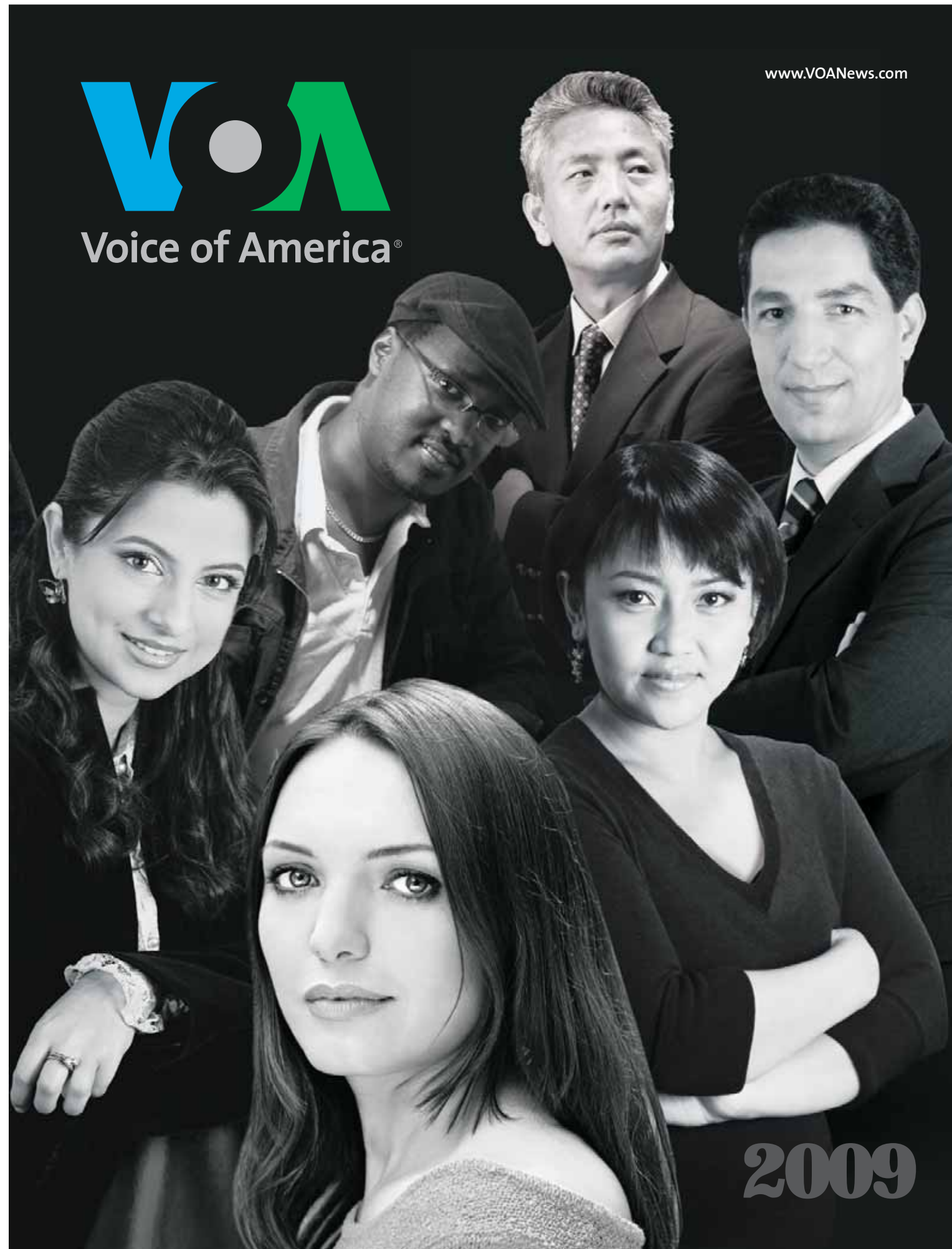




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2009

# 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year!

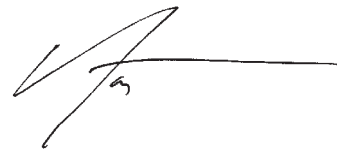
The Voice of America 2009 calendar features our broadcasters. While many listeners and viewers around the world hear and see our journalists, they often don't know about their impressive stories. We're taking this opportunity to introduce our audience to 12 of the many dedicated and extraordinary individuals who make up the VOA – and make our success possible.

VOA, the largest U.S. international broadcaster, has experienced great growth and achieved many accomplishments over the past few years. Improved newsgathering capability, enhanced distribution systems and new technologies have allowed us to grow our weekly audience to about 134 million. Our programs are available not only through radio and television, but also over the Internet and via text messages, RSS feeds, and podcasts. We also have a YouTube channel, VOAvideo.

Much of the growth has been in the non-Arabic Muslim world – Iran, Indonesia, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. In Iran, VOA has the largest combined radio and television audience of all international broadcasters. Across Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, seven of 11 national TV networks and 20 regional or local stations carry VOA programs. Our listenership in Afghanistan, in the local languages of Dari and Pashto, tops 50 percent. And in Africa, home to the largest VOA audience, we've reached out to our loyal fans with new programs and broadcasts.

VOA's larger audience has brought an increased interest in learning about our correspondents and anchors – the people bringing you the news. We are happy to be able to share with you our committed and enthusiastic journalists who work hard to make sure that accurate news and information reaches all corners of the world.

We wish you the best, and thank you for your continued support for VOA.



Dan Austin, VOA Director

**VOA's Charter**, signed into law in 1976, clearly states VOA's mission:

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

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.

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

On the cover (from top left clockwise): Nafees Takar (VOA Deewa Radio), Lamia Gritli (French to Africa), Lina Rozbih (Dari), Aneka Osman (Urdu), Jackson Mvunganyi (English to Africa), Dorje Tseten (Tibetan), Siamak Dehghanpour (Persian News Network), Patsy Widakuswara (Indonesian), Miroslava Gongadze (Ukrainian), Ronald Cesar (Creole), Navbahor Imamova (Uzbek), Lwin Htun Than (Burmese)

\*Photo of Miroslava Gongadze originally taken for *Women's Magazine*

## Broadcasting in:

Afan Oromo Albanian Amharic  
Armenian Azerbaijani Bangla  
Bosnian Burmese Cantonese  
Creole Croatian Dari English  
French Georgian Greek Hausa  
Hindi Indonesian Khmer  
Kinyarwanda Kirundi Korean  
Kurdish Lao Macedonian  
Mandarin Ndebele Pashto  
Persian Portuguese Russian  
Serbian Shona Somali Spanish  
Swahili Thai Tibetan Tigrigna  
Turkish Ukrainian Urdu Uzbek  
Vietnamese



**Navbahor Imamova**  
Uzbek

Navbahor Imamova, a broadcaster in VOA's Uzbek service, is known to millions of listeners and viewers across Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Born on a farm outside Tashkent, Imamova started her journalism career at Uzbek state radio hosting youth programs. She later became a political reporter. Selected for a prestigious Indian government scholarship, she attended the Maharaja's College at the University of Mysore, earning her B.A. in journalism and mass communication.

After teaching journalism in Uzbekistan, Imamova was selected to study in the United States on an Edmund Muskie Fellowship. She started reporting for VOA while earning her M.A. in journalism at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. As a senior editor and anchor, Imamova played a pivotal role in the launch of the VOA Uzbek TV service. She continues to be the primary producer and anchor of the weekly news show *Amerika Manzaralari* (*Exploring America*).

# January

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**Siamak Dehghanpour**  
Persian News Network

Siamak Dehghanpour was born and raised in Tehran. After finishing military service during the Iraq-Iran War, he obtained a B.A. and an M.A. in theater, TV, and filmmaking from the University of Art in Tehran. He produced independent documentaries, some focusing on religious minorities in Iran.

In Iran, Dehghanpour, grandson of a well-known Iranian poet and journalist, owned a publishing business, and worked for numerous publications as a production manager, managing editor, and board member.

He came to the United States as a political refugee in September 2001, days after terrorists struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He joined VOA in June 2003 to launch *News and Views*, a Persian-language news show. Since then, he has conducted hundreds of interviews with high-level officials, congressional leaders, and foreign policy experts.

Dehghanpour writes a popular blog aimed at Persian speakers around the world.

# February

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## **Miroslava Gongadze** Ukrainian

Miroslava Gongadze came to the United States as a political refugee in 2001. Before becoming a TV anchor and reporter for VOA in 2004, she worked as a journalist for RFE/RL and as a scholar at George Washington University and the National Endowment for Democracy. Her program *Chas-Time*, a daily 15-minute television news and information program, reaches millions of Ukrainians.

Besides her work as a journalist, Gongadze has gained an international reputation for her support of press freedom in countries of the former Soviet Union. Gongadze is the widow of Georgy Gongadze, an investigative reporter who was murdered by government police in Ukraine in 2000. After her husband's death, Gongadze formed the Gongadze Foundation to provide support to the families of journalists killed in the line of duty.

Gongadze graduated from Lviv State University with a law degree.



Photographed for Women's Magazine





**Dorje Tseten**  
Tibetan

Dorje Tseten is a television anchor for the Tibetan service's *Kunleng (Open Discussion)*, a show which tackles important Tibetan issues in politics, culture, and society. A native of Tibet, Tseten escaped on foot, seeking a better education. He walked over mountains to cross into Nepal, evading Chinese guards by moving at night.

From Nepal, Tseten went to India where he met the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala. He learned to read and write in Tibetan and English at the Tibetan Home School in Mussorie, India.

After completing his studies, Tseten worked for two years as a translator for the Tibetan government-in-exile based in India. He came to VOA in 1993, working as a radio broadcaster. He became a TV anchor in 2007.

*Kunleng* is a call-in show for viewers to discuss major topics of the day. It is broadcast via satellite, shortwave radio, and the Internet.

# April

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## Lamia Gritli French to Africa

Lamia Gritli, a radio and TV host with VOA's French to Africa service, is well known across Francophone Africa. Her weekly show, *Le Dialogue des Religions (Dialogue on Religion)*, draws listeners eager to discuss matters of faith.

Prior to joining VOA, Gritli obtained a B.A. in French literature from La Manouba University in Tunisia, an M.A. from Laval University in Canada, and an M.A. in international journalism from the Advanced School of Journalism in Lille, France. She has also worked as a freelance writer for a number of publications including *La Presse, Madame,* and *Elle*.

Gritli has traveled to Africa, Canada, and Europe for VOA, where she has reported on health, political, and social issues.





**Nafees Takar**  
VOA Deewa Radio

Nafees Takar, a native of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, joined VOA in 2006 to oversee the newly launched VOA Deewa Radio, a Pashto-language program that reaches those living along the Afghan border.

Before joining VOA, Takar worked for more than a decade as a journalist in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United Kingdom. During his career, Takar has reported on all aspects of the Pashtun community in Pakistan and Afghanistan, including border conflicts, the rise of the Taliban movement, and Pakistani politics. He has interviewed prime ministers, opposition leaders, Taliban leaders, and top members of the al-Qaeda movement.

Takar has a B.A. in English literature and history and an M.A. in English literature from Peshawar University in Pakistan.

# June

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# July

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## Patsy Widakuswara Indonesian

**Patsy Widakuswara leads the VOA Indonesian TV Team and anchors the flagship news program *Laporan VOA*.**

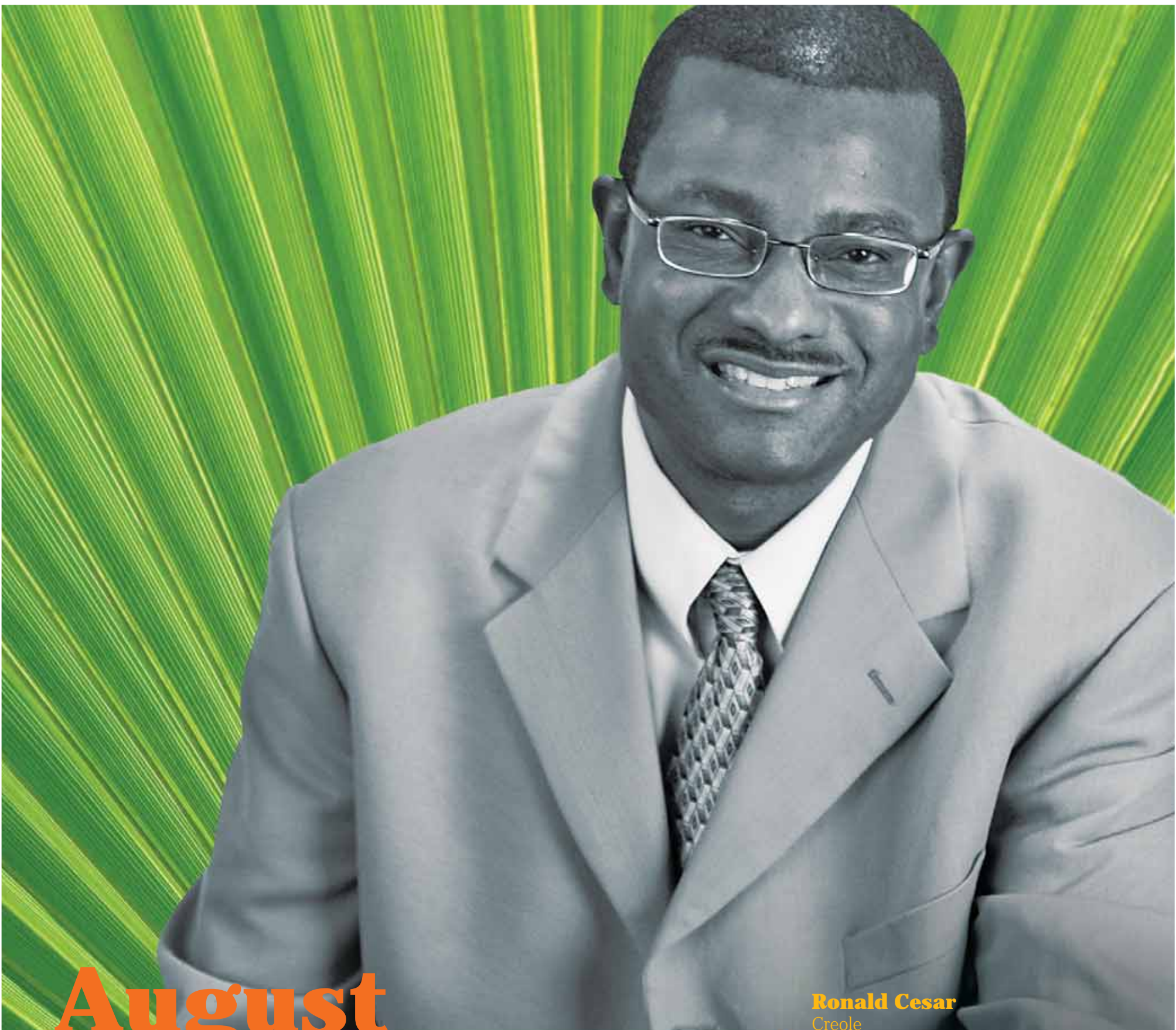
**She began her career at 19 as a DJ at a classic rock radio station in Jakarta. She hosted a highly rated radio show before moving to Metro TV, a 24/7 news station in Indonesia. As a reporter, she covered sports, the economy, and politics, including violent anti-government student demonstrations after the fall of the dictator Suharto in 1998.**

**Prior to joining VOA in 2003, Widakuswara lived in London, where she worked on several documentaries for BBC and Channel 4.**

**As an undergraduate at the University of Indonesia, Widakuswara was a champion debater, placing among the top 20 best speakers in international competitions.**

**Widakuswara earned a B.A. in international relations from the University of Indonesia and an M.A. in TV journalism from the University of London.**





# August

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## Ronald Cesar Creole

Ronald Cesar grew up in the Haitian city of Mirebalais and attended school in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

With the creation of VOA's Creole service in 1986, he became a stringer for the Voice of America. Cesar reported on political, social, and economic developments after the collapse of the Duvalier regimes. Cesar came to VOA in Washington in 1991. He became the Creole service chief in 2008. He has covered major events in Haiti, including the arrival of U.S. troops in 2004, recent natural disasters, and the rise and fall of the Haitian political figure Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Cesar, whose family members moved from Haiti to Massachusetts, attended Quincy College and the University of Massachusetts at Boston. He completed his advanced degrees in information systems and business at Strayer University.

He is committed to supporting journalists in Haiti, and has conducted training programs for his colleagues in the country.





**Aneka Osman**

Urdu

Aneka Osman began her broadcasting career in Pakistan at the age of 18 when Pakistan Television Global offered her a position as a news anchor. Later, Osman anchored and produced programs for Prime UK and Business Plus.

Since joining VOA three years ago, Osman has covered a wide range of stories and produced specials, including a comparative report on New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and Pakistan after the October 2005 earthquake. She currently anchors the Urdu TV show *Beyond the Headlines*, which appears on Geo News in Pakistan.

Osman is studying for an advanced degree in economics through an external program with the London School of Economics.

# September

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**Lwin Htun Than**  
Burmese

Lwin Htun Than, head of VOA's Burmese service, joined the organization in 2004. Born in Rangoon, Burma, Lwin studied medicine before becoming a student leader during the 1988 uprising against Burma's ruling military government. Fearing for his life, Lwin escaped Rangoon, walking three days through the jungle to Thailand.

Lwin remained in the jungle until 1990 when British malaria researchers encouraged him to resume his studies in Great Britain.

As a refugee, Lwin obtained a B.S. in microbiology from North London University and an M.S. in social policy and planning from the London School of Economics. He turned to journalism as a profession, working over a decade for BBC before he joined VOA. During a sabbatical, Lwin worked with Internews to establish the first Burmese journalism school in Thailand in 2002.

# October

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**Lina Rozbih**

Dari

Lina Rozbih, anchor for the Dari-language TV *Ashna* program, has been with Voice of America since 2004.

Rozbih and her family fled her native Afghanistan several years after the Soviets invaded the country in 1979, and at age nine, Rozbih and her family were smuggled into Iran where they settled in a refugee camp. After the camp, the family moved to Mashad, Iran, for several years before immigrating to Canada.

In Canada, Rozbih graduated from Vanier College with a B.A. in communications, media, and cinema, and from Concordia University with a B.A. in political science. Before joining VOA, she wrote extensively for local Canadian and U.S. newspapers in Persian and Dari. Rozbih, an avid follower of politics, has always wanted to work in the media. She calls her position at VOA “her dream job.”

# November

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**Jackson Mvunganyi**  
English to Africa

Jackson Mvunganyi is a Rwanda native who grew up as a refugee in Uganda. As a teenager, Mvunganyi returned to his homeland in 1994 after the Rwandan Genocide in which more than 800,000 people were killed. Jackson joined Radio Rwanda as a presenter in the post-genocide period, covering government efforts at reconciliation and the repatriation of refugees.

In 2000, Jackson came to the United States to pursue his education. He graduated with a B.A. in multimedia development from American University in Washington, D.C. and received an M.S. in information management from the University of Maryland.

Jackson joined VOA in 2004. He is the co-host of *UpFront*, a youth-oriented program aired by VOA's English to Africa service. The interactive program focuses on trends, lifestyles, health, entertainment, technology, education, and other issues touching the lives of young Africans.

# December

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