

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH**

142 rue Montmartre  
75002 Paris, France

Tel : +33 (0)1 43 59 55 35

Email : [paris@hrw.org](mailto:paris@hrw.org)  
Web : [www.hrw.org/fr/paris](http://www.hrw.org/fr/paris)

**BUREAU FRANCE**

**Bénédicte Jeannerod**, *Directrice*

**Valérie Lombard**, *Directrice du Développement*

**Anna Chaplin**, *Coordinatrice Administrative*

**Maria Florio**, *Manager de Projets Développement*

**Léa Pernot**, *Assistante Développement*

**Camille Marquis**, *Chargée de Plaidoyer*

**COMITÉ FRANCE**

**Jean-Louis Servan-Schreiber**,  
*Président*

**Virginie Morgon**, *Vice-Présidente*

**COMITÉ D'HONNEUR**

**Robert Badinter**, *Président*

**Mireille Delmas Marty**

**Françoise Gaspard**

**Costa Gavras**

**Christine Ockrent**

**David de Rothschild**

**Jean-Christophe Rufin**

**Anne Sinclair**

**Abderrahmane Sissako**

**COMITÉ**

**Tahar Ben Jelloun**

**Constance Borde**

**William Bourdon**

**Gérard Bremond**

**Vincent Catherine**

**Catherine Clément**

**Miranda Dunbar Johnson**

**Mercedes Erra**

**Réjane Lacoste**

**Valérie Lafarge Sarkozy**

**Danièle Kapel Marcovici**

**Nadia Marik Descoings**

**Didier G. Martin**

**Christopher Mesnooh**

**Olfa Rambourg**

**Marie-Laure Sauty de Chalon**

**Evelyne Sevin**

**Inge van Verschuer**

**Thierry Wellhoff**

**Catherine Zennström**

Yves Choueifaty

TOBAM

49-53, avenue des Champs-Élysées  
75008 Paris

Kyiv, 17 July 2017

Dear Mr. Choueifaty,

I write on behalf of Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central Asia division to express our profound gratitude for TOBAM's very generous gift to support our work in Ukraine.

I am writing from Kyiv, where I arrived yesterday. Later this week Human Rights Watch's Ukraine researcher, Tanya Cooper, and I will go to the conflict-ridden east where we will speak with as many people as we can, to find out how civilians living there are coping with having their lives and their families split across the line of contact that divides Russia-backed separatist areas from the rest of Ukraine. Last winter, Tanya spoke with dozens of people who live there. She documented their stories of waiting in long lines at checkpoints in severe weather conditions where they had to go through severe hardships to collect pensions, renew identification documents, buy medicine, or simply visit family from whom they had never--before 2014--imagined being forcibly separated in this way. Thanks to your support, our research, reporting, and advocacy on this contributed significantly to a decision by the Ukrainian government to ease crossing requirements. I'm looking forward to meeting and hearing about whether the new crossing rules have made crossing less burdensome, and about other ways we can press the government to lighten their burden.

This week Tanya and I are also meeting with top diplomats here in Kyiv, to impress upon them the importance of their robust insistence that Ukraine stop the backtracking on freedom of expression and freedom of information, and to ensure that any laws that Ukraine adopts affecting Ukrainian NGOs, in no way impinge on their autonomy or make excessive demands. Europe's voice matters in Ukraine, and it can make a difference.

We will also strategize about how to keep attention and concern on Russia's occupation of Crimea, which Tanya and Yulia Gorbunova visited in April. Through conversations with people living there, Tanya and Yulia found that Russia's occupation has so fundamentally and negatively transformed the human rights situation that some residents barely recognize what is their home.

We are inspired by the voices of our colleagues and the people who live here and want a democratic future for Ukraine. This makes us redouble our determination to bring about change. We are energized by them and by our work.

None of this would be possible without your generous support. Thank you for standing with us.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Denber', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rachel Denber  
Deputy Director, Europe and Central Asia