

Thinking Long Term June 2015

Our engagement with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch is core to our investment philosophy and representative of the way we consider our responsibilities as a long-term investor and towards our clients.

Since its beginnings, TOBAM has decided that sustainable development would be explicitly core to its values. Our clients have a long-term approach to investing and our sustainable way addresses these concerns.

The launch of the Anti-Benchmark Emerging Markets Equity strategy in 2011 led TOBAM to consider its investments in emerging countries and the human rights track record of certain governments.

Given that fundamental rights are a principal source of creativity, innovation, fight against corruption and, in a nutshell, economic growth, TOBAM has decided to support Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch whose sole objective is to promote human rights in the world.

We have taken the opportunity of the 2015 addition of Human Rights Watch into TOBAM partnership programs to interview Human Rights Watch's senior researcher, Ole Solvang, involved notably in the Mission in Crimea supported by TOBAM.

June 2015
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For Professional Investors. Past Performance is not indicative of future results.





OUR HISTORIC PARTNER: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

While investing in Emerging Markets provides capital support to the local economies and communities, it also implicitly supports governments that are not always blameless when it comes to human rights. For this reason, TOBAM supports Amnesty International since the launch of the Anti-Benchmark Emerging Markets Equity strategy in 2011 and donates each year a share of the profits generated from the TOBAM Anti-Benchmark Emerging Markets Equity fund.

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. Amnesty International's mission is to conduct research and take action to prevent and end grave abuses of all human rights – civil, political, social, cultural and economic. From freedom of expression and association to physical and mental integrity, from protection from discrimination to the right to housing – these rights are indivisible.

Through their detailed research and determined campaigning, they help bring torturers to justice, change oppressive laws and free people jailed just for voicing their opinion.

For example, TOBAM's donation to Amnesty in 2014, helped human rights defenders in the following actions:

- Pressures to release prisoners of conscience and protect human right defenders, such as Meriam Ibrahim, a Christian sentenced to death in Sudan, and finally released in June 2015
- Research and actions on improving the legal framework in countries, as in Morocco, where the parliament recently voted unanimously to amend the law that blocked the prosecution and punishment of any person who, accused of statutory rape, married the victim.
- Campaigning and pressures on officials, which for example led, on December 24, 2014, after two decades of tireless campaigning, the Arms Treaty to come into force (First international treaty to set out robust global rules to stop the flow of weapons when it is known they would be used to commit human rights violations.)

Amnesty International is funded mainly by its membership and public donations. No funds are sought or accepted from governments for investigating and campaigning against human rights abuses.



AN ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATION: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

The growing success of the Anti-Benchmark Emerging Markets Equity strategy has led TOBAM this year to include a second partner, Human Rights Watch, in TOBAM's efforts to contribute to human rights developments by financially supporting these two internationally recognized organizations.

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International share a common mission; to defend human rights worldwide and serve as leading partners in this global movement. Both organizations were originally established in the midst of the cold war, with the objective to defend political prisoners. Both organizations apply the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Humanitarian Law and other international human rights standards as a foundation for their work.

Human Rights Watch is known for the high quality of its research; for its strategic, targeted, high-level advocacy; for the independent reliability of their work, and for the impact they have on the lives of millions of people. The strength of Human Rights Watch is their influential membership, the "grasstops" advocacy—their ability to access world leaders and effect policy change.

TOBAM's initiative with Human Rights Watch helps financing a mission in Ukraine, covering a wide range of issues: use of explosive weapons, landmines, monitoring of the humanitarian situation, illegal detentions and torture, freedom of speech, disappearances in Crimea.

We decided to support organizations whose sole objective is to promote human rights in the world.

Our engagement with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch is core to our approach and representative of the way we consider our long-term investor's responsibilities.

We have taken the opportunity of the 2015 addition of Human Rights Watch into TOBAM partnership programs to interview Human Rights Watch's senior researcher, Ole Solvang, involved notably in the Mission in Crimea supported by TOBAM.



Ole Solvang, Senior researcher in the emergencies division – Human Rights Watch

Ole works to investigate and expose human rights violations in crisis situations on a rapid-response basis. Since 2001, he has worked for Human Rights Watch in Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Syria and its neighboring countries. He has most recently worked on the crisis in Ukraine, where he has conducted investigations into indiscriminate shelling of civilians. Solvang is featured in the 2014 documentary film "E-Team," which was premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

He has also served as the executive director of Russian Justice Initiative, an organization providing legal aid to victims of human rights violations such as torture, extrajudicial executions, and disappearances in Chechnya and the North Caucasus. Solvang holds a master's degree of international affairs from New York's Columbia University with a focus on international human rights and the former Soviet Union.

TOBAM: Could you describe the current situation in Ukraine?

The crisis in Ukraine has taken many forms since November 2013, when a protest movement denouncing government corruption swept the capital Kiev. Civil unrest and violence quickly spread to other cities and led to the ousting of Ukraine's president in early 2014. Russia's subsequent occupation of Crimea emboldened pro-Russia rebels to seize power in towns and cities across eastern Ukraine—today the epicenter of an international conflict between Russia-backed rebels, Ukraine, and Russia. A ceasefire agreed upon in February has been extremely fragile, and there is still daily fighting and shelling, putting civilians at risk and forcing them to flee their homes. In addition to the fighting, the lack of adequate humanitarian assistance, including live-saving medicines, continues to take a terrible toll on civilians. The conflict has already killed more than 6,000 people and displaced more than a million.

TOBAM: The fact that you monitor human rights violations and abuses from both sides is one of the reason we decided to support the mission in Crimea, as it felt to us as a strong advocacy for Human Rights - Why do you believe this "no black & white" vision is crucial?

An armed conflict is never black and white; it never happens that all the good guys are on one side and all the bad guys are on the other side. In the conflicts we cover all over the world, we unfortunately see that all sides commit violations of the laws of war. Of course, some of the warring parties might be better than others. But for a civilian who was tortured, it does not really matter how many other people that side tortured, it is still a violation of his or her rights, and it is our job to document and condemn it. Human Rights Watch maintains strict independence and impartiality in all of the work that we undertake, and documenting abuses by both sides is critical to ensuring that we obtain a full and accurate picture of what is happening on the ground.

TOBAM: Human Rights Watch accepts no funding from governments to remain 100% free and independent, what are however your relationships with governments? What is the split between monitoring and reporting; and influence change?

We employ a simple methodology for defending human rights: investigating, exposing, and pushing for change. Our researchers share their findings with governments, international donors, and international governmental bodies. They press powerful actors to use their influence to curb abuse. Working behind the

scenes and drawing upon their on-the-ground experience, our researchers answer questions from political leaders. They have also served as expert witnesses in trials of those responsible for the world's worst crimes.

TOBAM: What is the day-to-day work of a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch?

No day is the same. Some days you are in a war zone, investigating, for example, an indiscriminate attack by examining rockets craters, looking for weapons remnants, and interviewing victims and witnesses who have experienced the most horrible things you can imagine. Some days you are locked up in the office, trying to write a press release or report as quickly as possible to draw attention to the human rights violations you have documented. Other days you are doing back-to-back meeting with government officials, some of them hostile, trying to convince them to implement your recommendations so that fewer civilians are killed. In the end, though, the best days are when we can see real impact from the work we are doing.



For more information

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