

**For Immediate Release**

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**GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY GROUP LAUNCHES HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD VERIFICATION SERVICE FOR ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY**

*Using Human Rights Watch data, the service will help artists verify the human rights records of potential employers*

(Los Angeles, October 20, 2011)---Global Philanthropy Group announced today the launch of a free, confidential service aimed at providing leaders in the entertainment industry with information on the human rights records of people with whom they are considering doing business. Global Philanthropy Group will use information from Human Rights Watch, which works to end human rights abuses around the world, to inform artists about the records of potential employers.

The service aims to ensure that those in the entertainment community have access to human rights information that often would not be easily accessible to them or their management teams. Several instances of high-profile artists appearing with known human rights abusers, such as Ramzan Kadyrov of Chechnya and Libya's Gaddafi family, prompted the creation of the service, which will launch with an initial six-month pilot phase.

"Clients of Global Philanthropy Group have been using Human Rights Watch research for many years in the course of their philanthropy," said Trevor Neilson, president of Global Philanthropy Group. "Now we hope more people in the entertainment community can use this service to ensure that they do not find themselves in a situation where they appear to be supporting people who have done terrible things."

The new service will be managed by Global Philanthropy Group, drawing on the work of Human Rights Watch, which operates in 90 countries. Its reports and analysis, based on on-the-ground research conducted by its global staff, is widely considered to be a high-quality, objective, reliable source of information on human rights issues and conditions around the world. Requests for the service can be directed to [humanrights@globalphilanthropy.com](mailto:humanrights@globalphilanthropy.com).

"Human Rights Watch welcomes this service as a way to ensure that managers, agents and artists can easily check the human rights record of those who seek to engage them and their clients," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "It should make it easier for artists to avoid the embarrassment of performing for people with an abusive human rights record."

**About Global Philanthropy Group**

Global Philanthropy advises the world's leading philanthropists. It works with individuals, charitable



foundations and corporations to design and implement highly leveraged philanthropic strategies. Its management expertise and network of global experts help its clients achieve lasting, meaningful results. Global Philanthropy Group's team has experience working at the highest levels of government, business and philanthropy, and has deep experience addressing the world's most pressing issues.

### **About Human Rights Watch**

Human Rights Watch is one of the world's leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. By focusing international attention where human rights are violated, Human Rights Watch gives voice to the oppressed and holds oppressors accountable for their crimes. Its rigorous, objective investigations and strategic, targeted advocacy build intense pressure for action and raise the cost of human rights abuse. For more than 30 years, Human Rights Watch has worked tenaciously to lay the legal and moral groundwork for deep-rooted change and has fought to bring greater justice and security to people around the world.

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