



George Soros, the billionaire investor and philanthropist, plans to announce on Tuesday that he is giving \$100 million to Human Rights Watch to expand the organization's work globally. It is the largest gift he has made, the largest gift by far that Human Rights Watch has ever received, and only the second gift of \$100 million or more made by an individual this year, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

"We're seeing noticeably fewer charitable gifts at the \$100 million level from individuals reported than we did just a few years ago," said Patrick Rooney, the center's executive director. "Between 2006 and 2008, an average of about 13 gifts a year of that size by individuals was reported. In 2009, it dropped to six, and this year, we know of only one other."

The largest known gift in 2010 was \$200 million pledged by an anonymous Baylor University graduate, to be dispensed upon the donor's death, for medical research at the university.

Uncertainty about the direction of the economy has made even the wealthiest individuals more cautious about making big philanthropic commitments, Mr. Rooney said.

Contrariness, however, is a hallmark of Mr. Soros, both as an investor and as a philanthropist. While others have held on to their money, he has made bigger gifts than ever. And he said in an interview that the gift to Human Rights Watch is the first of a series of large gifts that he plans to make.

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