

Daniel W. Roberts,  
President

## **Roberts & Ryan Investments Inc.**

Based in San Francisco, we provide "value added" information to our global asset managing clients.

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### About Roberts & Ryan

Our President, Mr. Daniel W. Roberts, has been reelected as the Western Region representative to the FINRA Small Firms Advisory Board (SFAB). This board examines all proposed rules prior to presentation to the National Board for action. Mr. Roberts represents approximately 800 smaller firms located in the 13 Western States.

In order to facilitate our receipt of directed order flow, we show our list of agents as follows:

Global markets:  
Merrill Lynch  
Societe Generale

Cheuvreaux -  
(Pan European only)

HSBC -  
(Asia only)

Deutsche Bank -  
(Australia only)

US Domestic:  
Pershing

## Europe

### Nokia lawsuit accuses Apple of infringing multiple patents

Nokia is suing Apple in the United States for allegedly infringing patents in its mobile phones, portable music players, tablets, and computers the Finnish company said. The complaint, filed with U.S. International Trade Commissions, is the latest in a string of lawsuits by Nokia and comes as the world's largest handset maker struggles to keep up with smart phone rivals such as Cupertino-based Apple. Apple and Nokia have been locked in a long-running battle over patent claims, with each side accusing the other of infringing on patents that cover features such as swiping gestures on touch screens and building "app store" for downloading updated programs. The major phone makers- including Apple, Nokia, Microsoft, Motorola, and Taiwan's HTC- are increasingly turning to patent litigation as they jockey for any edge to expand their share of the rapidly growing smartphone market.

Companies such as Nokia are also seeking to protect their business as the popular iPhone encroaches on the rest of the industry. The lawsuits cover all aspects

of basic phone use, from technology used to synchronize email, calendars and contacts, to methods to extend battery life. Although these legal disputes generally don't stop products from reaching consumers, litigation can be used to extract licensing fees from competitors. It can also help distract rivals and even discourage them from entering a particular market. Nokia said the seven patents in the new complaint relate to its "pioneering innovations" that it alleges Apple is using "to create key features in its products, including in multitasking operating systems, data synchronization, positioning, call quality and the use of Bluetooth accessories."

The International Trade Commission found no violation in an earlier complaint. Nokia said it "is waiting to see the full details of the ruling before deciding on the next steps in the case." Last year, Nokia also sued Apple in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands for allegedly infringing its patents with technology used in the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch.

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Roberts & Ryan Investments Inc., a Service Disabled Veterans Enterprise  
57 Post Street, Suite 614 San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415)956-2000, Toll Free (800)676-6717, Fax (415)296-8873  
Please Visit us @ [www.robertsryan.net](http://www.robertsryan.net)

# China

## Chinese activist loses account on Facebook



“Dissidents have argued that Facebook’s policy can endanger human rights activists if their identities become known.”

Chinese blogger and activist Michael Anti wants to know why he is less worthy of a Facebook account than company founder Mark Zuckerberg’s dog. Anti, a popular online commentator whose legal name is Zhao Jing, said in an interview that his Facebook account was suddenly canceled in January. Company officials told him by e-mail that Facebook has a strict policy against pseudonyms and that he must use the name issued on his government ID.

Anti argues that his professional identity as Michael Anti has been established for more than a decade, which published articles and essays. Anti, a former journalist who has won fellowships at both Cambridge University and Harvard University, said he set up his Facebook account in 2007. By locking him out of his account, Facebook has cut him off from a network of more than 1000 academic and professional contacts who know him as Anti, he said. “I’m really, really angry. I can’t function using my Chinese name. Today, I found out that Zuckerberg’s dog has a Facebook account. My journalist work and academic work is more real than a dog,” he said. Zuckerberg recently set up a Facebook page for “Beast,” complete with photos and a profile. Unlike Anti’s, however, the page for the puppy

doesn’t violate Facebook’s policies because it’s not meant to be a personal profile page. Rather, it’s a type of page reserved for businesses and public figures that fans can “like” and receive updates from their own Facebook pages. Facebook said it does not comment on individual accounts, but added that it believes a “real name culture” leads to more accountability and a safer and more trusted environment for people who use Facebook.

Dissidents in a variety of countries have argued that Facebook’s policy can endanger human rights activists and others if their identities become known. Anti said there is a long tradition in China for writers and journalists to take pen names, partly as protection from retaliation from authorities. If Facebook requires the use of real names, that could potentially put Chinese citizens in danger, he said. “For my fellow Chinese, this policy could easily help Chinese police identify them,” he said. It’s not the first time Anti has had problems with an Internet site. In 2005, his blog on a Microsoft site was shut down by the company following pressure from Chinese officials. Microsoft’s action led to a public outcry.

## Google accuses China of tampering with Gmail service

Google said Monday the Chinese government is interfering with its email services in China, making it difficult for users to gain access to its Gmail program, amid an intensified Internet crackdown following widespread unrest in the Middle East. Google said its engineers have determined there are no technical problems with the email service or its main website. “There is no technical issue on your side; we have checked extensively. There is a government blockage carefully designed to look like the problem is with Gmail,” the company said in a brief statement.

China has some of the world’s strictest Internet controls and blocks many popular social media sites, including YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

The government has intensified those efforts after pro-democracy protest erupted across the Middle East in January. Around that time, anonymous calls for protestors to gather for a “Jasmine Revolution” in China triggered a crackdown by Chinese authorities who stepped up a Web censorship and deployed huge numbers of police to planned protest sites. No protests happened. A Google representative said users in China the world’s most populous Internet market, have reported having intermittent problems with the service since the end of January. Problems include difficulty accessing the home page for Gmail and problems sending emails. The instant messaging function is often not working as well.

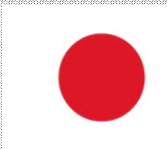
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# Japan

## YouTube appeal saves isolated Japanese town



“The video, posted on YouTube a day after it was recorded in the night March 24, became an instant sensation.”

It was a desperate plea for help, spoken into a small digital camcorder by the mayor of this seemingly forsaken city, and posted on the Internet like a bottle tossed into a digital sea. In the 11-minute recording, the mayor, Katsunobu Sakurai, described the dire situation facing Minamisoma, whose residents were still reeling from a devastating earthquake and 60-foot tsunami when they were ordered to stay indoors because of radiation leaks from Japan’s crippled nuclear plant, 15 miles away.

Those who had not fled now faced starvation, he said, as they were trapped in their homes or refugee shelters by the nuclear alert, which also prevented shipments of food from arriving. “We are left isolated,” Sakurai said urgently into the camera, his brow furrowed and his voice strained with exhaustion. “I beg you, as the mayor of Minamisoma city to help us.”

The video, posted on YouTube a day after it was recorded late in the night March 24, became an instant sensation, and has since drawn more than 200,000 viewers. Almost two weeks later, the city hall is still getting phone calls, most from non-Japanese calling from abroad with offers to help. The city also has received hundreds of boxes of food and other supplies from individuals, and truckloads of relief goods from nonprofit organizations. “It’s

amazing how many of these donors say they saw us on YouTube,” said Noriyoshi Saito, who works in the city hall economic section and is in charge of handling donation goods. Sakurai described the online plea as a turning point in Minamisoma’s struggle against the triple disaster, which for a time had transformed this city of 75,000 people into a virtual ghost town. Some 50,000 residents fled in the first two weeks after the earthquake, although a small number have begun trickling back. Sakurai credited the large-scale response to his video with helping those remained in the stricken city to carry on.

“Suddenly, the world was extending its hand to us,” said Sakurai, 55, an energetic man who still wears the same beige uniform as in the video, but now smiles and seems more relaxed. “We learned we’re not alone.” Today, the city is slowly coming back to life. While the order to stay indoors remains in place, many of the

remaining residents have begun to ignore it. Gas stations and convenience stores are starting to reopen. Cars are now plentiful on major thoroughfares, but most side streets and shops still remain eerily empty.

Sumio Tankaka was able to reopen his sushi restaurant. Satsuki, on Monday for the first time since the earthquake. He said deliveries of food were starting to resume, though he had only a limited amount of fish from the far side of Japan, away from the nuclear plant. While he did not know of the YouTube video, Tanaka credited the mayor for working hard to get the city back in its still wobbly feet. “The mayor really put his heart into saving Minamisoma,” said Tanaka, 62. Indeed, city employees said the video had drawn more attention abroad than in Japan. On a recent morning, a Japanese-American called from California to ask in halting Japanese where to send aid.



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## Africa

### Libya tries to cut off rebellion's leaders by shutting internet



“Internet blackout in Libya will make it tougher for people outside the country to know how the uprising is unfolding.”

Internet services in Libya, already spotty throughout the country's violent upheaval, appeared completely halted in an attempt to stifle information about the insurrection. The move, coming ahead of planned protests in Libya, appears similar to Egypt's response to the demonstrations that led President Hosni Mubarak to step down last month.

The Libyan government controls the country's primary Internet service provider. Arbor Networks, a Chelmsford, Mass., network security company said that all Internet traffic coming in and out of Libya had ceased, starting about noon EST. Google's transparency report, which shows traffic to the company's sites from various countries, also showed that Internet traffic had fallen to zero in Libya. Several days into Egypt's largely nonviolent protest, the government there shut down Internet access for almost a week. Anti-

government protesters there had been using social-media services such as Facebook and Twitter to organize and share personal experiences of the unrest.

That wasn't the case in Libya, a country where relatively few people have Internet access. Only about 6

OpenNet. As a result, services such as Facebook and Twitter have played a marginal role in galvanizing anti-governmental protesters, said Jillian York, who coordinates the Open-Net Initiative, a research project run by scholars at Harvard University and the Uni-

keep informed about politics, York said. But the blackout will affect even those who are not politically active.

The loss of Internet Access will make it more difficult for Libyans, particularly those living in the capital of Tripoli, to receive updates about the uprising in other parts of the country, said Leslie Harris, president of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington-based nonprofit that promotes free expression on the Internet. In particular, an Internet blackout in Libya will make it tougher for people outside the country to know how the uprising is unfolding. That was likely the government's main motivation in shutting down the Internet in a country where people are more likely to communicate using cell phones, said Richard Esguerra, policy analyst with the Electronic Frontier Foundation.



percent of Libyans have Internet access in the home or in public places, such as Internet cafes, according to the research group Open-Net Initiative. That compares with 24 percent of Egyptians and 81 percent of people in the U.S., according to

versity of Toronto and by the Canadian consultancy SecDev Group. Nonetheless, because the Internet isn't as central to everyday life in Libya, it is more likely that the few who can get online are educated, influential and using Web to

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