

Center for Constitutional Rights

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://ccrjustice.org/home/press-center/press-releases/supreme-court-hears-argument-over-whether-corporations-can-be-held>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

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February 28, 2012, Washington D.C. Today, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral argument in a case that will determine whether corporations can be sued in U.S. courts for their complicity in torture, crimes against humanity, and other serious international law violations committed abroad. Human rights attorneys in *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.* argued that it is a well-recognized principle of both domestic and international law that corporations can be held liable for egregious conduct and that such matters can be litigated in U.S. courts under the Alien Tort Statute (ATS). The statute allows non-U.S. citizens to sue in U.S. courts for serious human rights abuses and other international law violations. The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) filed an [amicus brief](#) in the case on behalf of 11 human rights organizations and two international scholars showing how that liability is recognized as a general principle of law.

The Center for Constitutional Rights works with communities under threat to fight for justice and liberation through litigation, advocacy, and strategic communications. Since 1966, the Center for Constitutional Rights has taken on oppressive systems of power, including structural racism, gender oppression, economic inequity, and governmental overreach. Learn more at ccrjustice.org.

Please contact us for general press inquiries, or to set up interviews.

We can connect you with just the right person at CCR for the story you're working on.

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