



**Telebriefing:**

**CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY UNDERCUT: U.S. COURT LIMITS ALIEN TORT STATUTE**

**May 3, 2011**

**Co-sponsored with Wellspring Advisors, Wallace Global Fund, and IHRFG's Economic,  
Social and Cultural Rights Working Group**

***Speakers:***

- [Paul Hoffman Esq.](#), Lead Counsel, *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.* and *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*
- [Marco Simons Esq.](#), Legal Director, EarthRights International
- [Lesley Carson](#), Program Director, International Human Rights, Wellspring Advisors

***Description:***

For the past fifteen years, victims of human rights abuses worldwide have used the U.S. Alien Tort Statute (ATS) to bring cases in the United States against corporations for their complicity in such rights abuses; these cases have resulted in several landmark settlements and increased diligence by U.S. corporations in their operations. In September 2010, however, a federal appeals court ruled in *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.* that corporations could not be sued for violations of international human rights law under the ATS.

This telebriefing focused on corporate accountability for human rights violations in U.S. courts after the *Kiobel* decision. Participants discussed:

- the background to the ruling
- the current prospects for overturning it
- effects of the ruling on other cases
- the likelihood that it will be adopted by other courts
- alternative avenues for corporate accountability in U.S. courts and worldwide
- the role that funders can play

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**To listen to the full telebriefing:**

Visit [IHRFG's website](#) (you will need to enter the password "humanrights").