Access to Justice: Report Launches

Victims of human rights abuse require full and effective access to judicial mechanisms for recovery. Governments have a duty to protect human rights and to ensure that those judicial recovery mechanisms are available. Across the globe, governments, including the United States, are failing to meet this duty. In fact, in many jurisdictions new barriers have been erected, closing the door to people seeking justice and accountability for human rights abuses—especially in the context of business and human rights.

Please join us for the launch of three new reports examining the unique barriers corporate-related human rights victims face when attempting to redress harm through the courts.

**Injustice Incorporated: Advancing the right to remedy for corporate abuses of human rights** is a major new book by Amnesty International. The book examines what happens when poor communities confront powerful multinational corporations in an effort to secure justice. It focuses on four emblematic cases and exposes how corporate political and financial power, intertwined with specific legal obstacles, allow companies to evade accountability and deny, or severely curtail, a victim’s right to remedy.

**Out of Bounds** presents a summary of the history, jurisprudence and politics of the ATS, explaining how this obscure law became one of the most important and hotly-contested tools in the area of business and human rights and the target of attack by the corporate lobby, the Bush Administration, and eventually even the Obama Administration. In the report, EarthRights International tracks the rise of the ATS through its highs, including the Supreme Court’s 2004 decision in *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*, to its recent holding in *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum (Shell)*. The report considers the future of ATS claims and other avenues for human rights litigation more broadly to hold corporations accountable.

**The Third Pillar: Access to Judicial Remedies for Human Rights Violations by Transnational Business** was launched in December 2013 by the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR), CORE Coalition, and the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ). The report shows that, two years from the agreement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, States are failing to ensure effective access to judicial remedies to victims of corporate abuses, and provides recommendations to States to address those barriers.

**Speakers will include:**
- Seema Joshi, Head of Business and Human Rights, Amnesty International
- Marco Simons, Legal Director, EarthRights International
- Gwynne Skinner, Associate Professor of Law, Willamette University College of Law

Moderated by: Amol Mehra, Director, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable

**Friday, March 7 - 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Hotung International Law Building, Room 1000
Georgetown University Law Center
550 First Street NW, Washington D.C.

*Light refreshments will be served.*

Please R.S.V.P. to Mike@accountabilityroundtable.org.