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**201206635:(U) 4/11 Letter to Secretary from U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas J. Donohue Requesting a Meeting with Appropriate Senior Department Officials Re: Alien Tort Statute (ATS)**

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**U.S. Department of State**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer**

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5/7/2012

THE LEGAL ADVISER  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

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May 7, 2012

Thomas J. Donohue  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America  
1615 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20062-2000

Dear Mr. Donohue,

Thank you for your letter dated April 11 to Secretary Clinton expressing the Chamber's views on whether the Alien Tort Statute grants United States courts jurisdiction to hear claims by foreign plaintiffs for damages for international law violations occurring within the territory of another country, and for the memorandum setting out legal arguments in support of your position. The Secretary has asked me to respond on her behalf.

As you know, the State Department is currently consulting with the Department of Justice regarding the filing of an amicus brief by the United States Government in *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum*, and indeed the Chamber and its counsel met with the Solicitor General, the General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, myself, and other agency representatives to present the Chamber's views on the issue. We appreciate having the Chamber's views in connection with the government's consideration of the case.

Sincerely,



Harold Hongju Koh  
Legal Adviser

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

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