

19-453 CARGILL, INC V. DOE I

DECISION BELOW: 929 F.3d 623

LOWER COURT CASE NUMBER: 17-55435

QUESTION PRESENTED:

Petitioner Cargill, Incorporated, purchases cocoa beans grown in Cote d'Ivoire. Respondents are Malian citizens who allege that, when Respondents were under the age of fourteen, Ivorian cocoa farmers subjected them to forced labor and other abuses in violation of international law.

Respondents filed this putative class action under the Alien Tort Statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1350, claiming that Cargill aided and abetted the farmers' violations of international law by purchasing cocoa from and providing financial assistance to Ivorian cocoa farmers.

The questions presented are:

1. Whether the presumption against extraterritorial application of the Alien Tort Statute is displaced by allegations that a U.S. company generally conducted oversight of its foreign operations at its headquarters and made operational and financial decisions there, even though the conduct alleged to violate international law occurred in-and the plaintiffs' suffered their injuries in-a foreign country.

2. Whether a domestic corporation is subject to liability in a private action under the Alien Tort Statute.

CONSOLIDATED WITH 19-416 WITH ONE HOUR ALLOTTED FOR ORAL ARGUMENT

CERT. GRANTED 7/2/2020