

# Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

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## PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

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The inter-american system of human rights system was created by the Organization of American States (OAS) to promote and protect human rights in the Americas. It relies in two main instruments: the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of the Man (1948) and the American Convention of Human Rights (1969). The system comprises two bodies: the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR). All OAS Member States<sup>1</sup> are bound to the respect of the Declaration; the compliance with the American Convention, on the other hand, is only an obligation to the States Parties to the Convention<sup>2</sup>. Among those, some accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Individuals cannot submit complaints to the Court, only to the Commission. If the State does not comply with its decision, the Commission can submit the case to the Court. The Commission is the therefore the body first confronted with the individual complaints, examining the requests at the first place. That is generally also the case with regard to protective measures.

Protective measures are granted in serious and urgent situations to prevent irreparable harm to persons<sup>3</sup>; they are called *precautionary measures* when issued by the Commission, and *provisional measures* when ordered by the Court. The Commission may indicate precautionary measures on its own initiative or at the request of individuals, even if there is no pending petition or case before the Commission.<sup>4</sup> The Inter-American Court can also order provisional measures *motu proprio* or at the

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<sup>1</sup> The Organization of American States has 35 Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba (excluded from participation since 1962), Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States and Venezuela.

<sup>2</sup> As of 2010, 24 of the 35 OAS's Member States have ratified the American Convention: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

<sup>3</sup> Article 63§2 of the American Convention; articles 25 and 27 of the 2009' Rules of Procedure of the Commission and the Court, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> Article 25§1, 25§2 and 25§3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission (2009) states:

« Article 25. *Precautionary measures:*

1. *In serious and urgent situations, the Commission may, on its own initiative or at the request of a party, request that a State adopt precautionary measures to prevent irreparable harm to persons or to the subject matter of the proceedings in connection with a pending petition or case.*
2. *In serious and urgent situations, the Commission may, on its own initiative or at the request of a party, request that a State adopt precautionary measures to prevent irreparable harm to persons under the jurisdiction of the State concerned, independently of any pending petition or case.*
3. *The measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above may be of a collective nature to prevent irreparable harm to persons due to their association with an organization, a group, or a community with identified or identifiable members.»*

request of the victim<sup>5</sup>, if the case was already submitted to the Court by the Commission. If the Court was not seized of the case, it may nonetheless order provisional measures at the request of the Commission.<sup>6</sup>

## EFFECTIVENESS OF PRECAUTIONARY AND PROVISIONAL MEASURES

Several aspects can influence the effectiveness of preventive measures in the inter-american system, such as their legal nature, the coordination of work between the Commission and the Court, the existence of clear criteria for granting such measures, and their follow-up.

### The legal nature of precautionary and provisional measures

While the authority of the Court to grant provisional measures is provided for in the American Convention (art. 63§2), the Commission's authority to issue precautionary measures does not have a legal basis in the Convention, relying only in its Rules of Procedure. As a result, the binding nature of provisional measures contrasts with the lack of mandatory character of the Commission's precautionary measures, which in practice makes them less effective.

Article 63§2 of the American Convention of Human Rights provides that « in cases of extreme gravity and urgency, and when necessary to avoid irreparable damage to persons, the Court shall adopt such provisional measures as it deems pertinent in matters it has under consideration. With respect to a case not yet submitted to the Court, it may act at the request of the Commission ». In the *Constitutional Court* case, the Court further affirmed that such provision «makes it mandatory for the state to adopt the provisional measures ordered by this Tribunal, since there stands 'a basic principle of the law of international state responsibility, supported by international jurisprudence, according to which states must fulfil their conventional international obligations in good faith (*pacta sunt servanda*)'». <sup>7</sup>

The lack of statutory authority of the Commission's precautionary measures, on the other hand, differentiates them from international treaty obligations whose mandatory nature derives from the *pacta sunt servanda* principle.<sup>8</sup> States are thus less likely to comply with the Commission's measures they don't consider binding.

Although the binding nature of Commission's precautionary measures is disputed<sup>9</sup>, both the Commission and the Court insist on the duty of the States to respect such measures. In this respect, the IACHR understands that

the binding nature of the protective aspect of the precautionary measures decreed by the IACHR rests on the general duty of the states to respect and guarantee human rights, to adopt the legislative or other measures necessary for ensuring effective observance of human rights, and to carry out in good faith the obligations contracted under the American Convention and the Charter of the OAS, as well as the

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<sup>5</sup> Article 27§3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Court (2009) states that: «In contentious cases before the Court, victims or alleged victims, or their representatives, may submit to it a request for provisional measures, which must be related to the subject matter of the case.»

<sup>6</sup> Article 63§2 of the American Convention and article 27 of the Court's Rules of Procedure (2009).

<sup>7</sup> *Constitutional Court Case*, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of August 14, 2000, §14.

<sup>8</sup> Burgorgue-Larsen, Laurence. *Les grandes décisions de la Cour interaméricaine des droits de l'homme*, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2008, p. 222

<sup>9</sup> See for instance IACHR Resolution 01/05, and Separate opinion of judge A. A. Cançado Trindade in *Matter of the persons imprisoned in the «Dr. Sebastiao Silveira» Penitentiary in Araraquara (Brazil)*, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of September 30, 2006, §33.

competence of the IACHR to oversee that the states parties are carrying out the commitments they assumed, established at Articles 33 and 41 of the American Convention.<sup>10</sup>

In the case *Juan Raul Garza v. United States*, the Commission stated:

With respect to the State's submissions on the non-binding nature of the Commission's precautionary measures, the Commission previously expressed in this Report its profound concern regarding the fact that its ability to effectively investigate and determine capital cases has frequently been undermined when states have scheduled and proceeded with the execution of condemned persons, despite the fact that those individuals have proceedings pending before the Commission. It is for this reason that in capital cases the Commission requests precautionary measures from states to stay a condemned prisoner's execution until the Commission has had an opportunity to investigate his or her claims. Moreover, in the Commission's view, OAS member states, by creating the Commission and mandating it through the OAS Charter and the Commission's Statute to promote the observance and protection of human rights of the American peoples, have implicitly undertaken to implement measures of this nature where they are essential to preserving the Commission's mandate. Particularly in capital cases, the failure of a member state to preserve a condemned prisoner's life pending review by the Commission of his or her complaint emasculates the efficacy of the Commission's process, deprives condemned persons of their right to petition in the inter-American human rights system, and results in serious and irreparable harm to those individuals, and accordingly is inconsistent with the state's human rights obligations.<sup>11</sup>

In the Court's view,

the States Parties to the Convention should fully comply in good faith (*pacta sunt servanda*) to all of the provisions of the Convention, including those relative to the operation of the two supervisory organs; and, that in view of the Convention's fundamental objective of guaranteeing the effective protection of human rights (Articles 1(1), 2, 51 and 63(2)), States Parties must not take any action that may frustrate the *restitutio in integrum* of the rights of the alleged victims.<sup>12</sup>

the ultimate aim of the American Convention is the effective protection of human rights, and, pursuant to the obligations contracted under it, the States should ensure the effectiveness of their mechanisms (endow them with *effet utile*), which implies implementing and carrying out the resolutions issued by its supervisory organs, whether the Commission or the Court.<sup>13</sup>

It is important to recall, though, that a demand for provisional measures before the Court is only possible against OAS Members States having ratified the American Convention and accepted the Court's jurisdiction. With respect to the non-signatories States, only precautionary measures issued by the Commission are possible, and only on the basis of the obligations set forth in the OAS Charter and the American Declaration of Rights and Duties of the Man.

#### *The coordination of work between the Commission and the Court*

Time is of the essence when a preventive measure is requested, especially if the life or physical integrity of persons are concerned. Nevertheless, speediness is not a characteristic of the two inter-american human rights bodies, whose limited resources and non-permanent nature prevent them from responding to an increasing number of demands in a timely manner. The fact that both the Commission and the Court have the authority to issue interim measures can be another source of delay. In some occasions, the Commission's hesitation to take the matter to the Court in spite of the ineffectiveness of its precautionary measures resulted in fatal consequences. Judges Cançado

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<sup>10</sup> IACHR, Report on the situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.124, Doc. 5 rev. 1, 7 March 2006, § 241.

<sup>11</sup> Report 52/01, case 12.243, Juan Raul Garza (United States), April 4, 2001, §117. In: *Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 2000*.

<sup>12</sup> *James et al. Case* (Trinidad and Tobago), Provisional Measures, Order of the Inter-American Court of August 29, 1998, p.8, §7.

<sup>13</sup> *Case of Penitentiaries in Mendoza*, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of November 22, 2004, § 16.

Trindade and Ventura Robles criticized the fact that in the *Matter of Children Deprived of Liberty in the «Complexo do Tatuapé» of FEBEM (Brazil)* case, the Commission took five year to bring the matter to the Court, while in the meantime inmates were being killed<sup>14</sup>, which as a clear sign that its precautionary measures were ineffective.

In the past, only when States did not comply with the Commission's precautionary measures would the Commission ask for the Court to order provisional measures, which are more effective due to their undisputed binding character. But this practice faced severe criticism mainly by Judge Cançado Trindade, who argued that «it is best to refer requests for Provisional Measures of protection *directly* to the Court, without the Commission insisting in previously adopting its precautionary measures (which lack conventional force)». <sup>15</sup> He sustained the following:

I consider that there is no requirement for the Commission's precautionary measures to be exhausted before recourse can be had to the Inter-American Court to request provisional protection measures (...) Moreover, the Commission's precautionary measures are based on Rules of Procedure rather than on the Convention and cannot delay – at times indefinitely – the application of the Court's provisional protection measures, which are Convention-based.

As I added in the above-mentioned concurring opinion, “in all circumstances, the imperatives of protection should have primacy over apparent institutional rivalries,” particularly in the midst of situations of “chronic violence.” The Commission's insistence in its practice with regard to prior precautionary measures may, in some case, have negative consequences for the potential victims and create one more obstacle for them. In certain cases, it can constitute a denial of justice at the international level.<sup>16</sup>

Judge Cançado was thus very satisfied when, in *Matter of the persons imprisoned in the Penitentiary of Araraquara*, the Commission requested the Court to adopt provisional measures without the previous issuance of precautionary measures, being «wise enough to avoid repeating the mistake it made in the previous *Matter of Children Deprived of Liberty in the "Complexo do Tatuapé" of FEBEM* regarding Brazil (...) of unsuccessfully attempting to previously adopt its precautionary measures for years, even in the face of the successive reports of fatal victims.»<sup>17</sup>

#### Criteria for the granting of protective measures

When confronted with a demand for provisional measures, the Court always issues a decision explaining their reasons for the granting or the denial of such measures. The decision is based on the meeting or not of the provisional measures' requirements established in article 63 §2 of the American Convention: «cases of extreme gravity and urgency, and when necessary to avoid irreparable damage to persons».

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<sup>14</sup> V. *Matter of Children Deprived of Liberty in the «Complexo do Tatuapé» of FEBEM regarding Brazil*, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of November 17, 2005, Separate opinion of judge A. A. Cançado Trindade; and Cour IDH, ordonnance du 25 novembre 2005, *Castaneda Gutman v. Mexique*, Order of November 25, 2005, Separate opinion of judges Cançado Trindade and E. Ventura Robles, §§4-5.

<sup>15</sup> *Matter of the persons imprisoned in the «Dr. Sebastiao Silveira» Penitentiary in Araraquara (Brazil)*, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of September 30, 2006, Separate opinion of judge A. A. Cançado Trindade, §30.

<sup>16</sup> *Matter of the persons imprisoned in the «Dr. Sebastiao Silveira» Penitentiary in Araraquara (Brazil)*, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of September 30, 2006, Separate opinion of judge A. A. Cançado Trindade, §30, citing ICourtHR, Order of November 17, 2005, in the *Matter of the Children Deprived of Liberty in the «Complexo do Tatuapé» of FEBEM* Regarding Brasil, Concurring Opinion of Judge A. A. Cançado Trindade, par. 3.

<sup>17</sup> *Matter of the persons imprisoned in the «Dr. Sebastiao Silveira» Penitentiary in Araraquara (Brazil)*, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of September 30, 2006, Separate opinion of judge A. A. Cançado Trindade, §32.

The Commission, on the other hand, did not develop clear criteria to be followed with regard to precautionary measures.<sup>18</sup> As pointed out by Cano Nieto, only the decisions granting precautionary measures are published, while the decisions denying them are not justified:

The difficulty in determining clear criteria of what is considered urgent and irreparable is increased by the fact that the Commission only publishes the measures that were granted and not those denied. These obstacles could be surpassed if this organ included in its reports of precautionary measures how the requirement of urgency and irreparable harm was met in each case, or if, at least, they made public the denied petitions to allow petitioners to set out their own criteria before filing their request.<sup>19</sup>

Judge Cançado Trindade also criticized the lack of justification of the Commission when it denies precautionary measures:

(...) in cases in which the Commission denies precautionary measures, this decision should be duly justified. The decisions of the Commission and the Court concerning both precautionary and provisional measures, respectively, should always be motivated, as a guarantee of respect for the *adversary principle* – which is a general principle of law – so that the petitioners have certainty that the matter they submitted has been duly and carefully considered by the international instance, and so that the meaning of the decision taken by the latter is clear (especially, in an alleged situation of extreme gravity and urgency with the presumed probability of irreparable damage to persons). A decision by the Commission that denies precautionary measures must necessarily be duly justified always. Moreover, an additional negative by the Commission to request the Court to order provisional measures, also without justification, legitimizes the potential victims, as subjects of international human

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<sup>18</sup> As a matter of fact, the Commission do not elaborate on the requirements for precautionary measures in its decisions. But some information on the criteria it follows can be found in the Commission's *Report on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas*, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.124, Doc. 5 rev. 1, 7 march 2006, p. 63-64:

« In practice, for the purposes of facilitating the study of requests for precautionary measures, the Commission has considered the requirements of gravity, urgency, and irreparability in relation to categories such as threats to life and the physical integrity of persons, threats to the environment that may result in harm to the life or health of the population or the way of life of indigenous peoples in their ancestral territories, and threats to health; the enforcement of certain types of judicial or administrative orders; and the legal situation of persons who are detained and held incommunicado.» p. 63

The decision on the request depends on the gravity of the individual or collective situation, taking into account (a) the content of the threats received (oral, written, and symbolic messages, among others) and whether they have been carried out against one or more members of a group of persons; (b) previous acts of aggression against persons similarly situated; (c) the acts of direct aggression that may have been perpetrated against the possible beneficiary; (d) the increase in threats, showing the need to take preventive action; (e) and factors such as advocacy of or incitement to violence against a person or group of persons. Second, one must consider the urgency of the situation reported based on (a) the existence of cycles of threats and attacks showing the need to act immediately; (b) the continuity and proximity in time of the threats; (c) whether a credible "ultimatum" has been stated which, for example, indicates that the potential beneficiary should leave the region where he or she lives or become the victim of violations. The interests threatened in this category – life and personal integrity – no doubt constitute the extreme of irreparability of the consequences, which the granting of precautionary measures seeks to avoid.

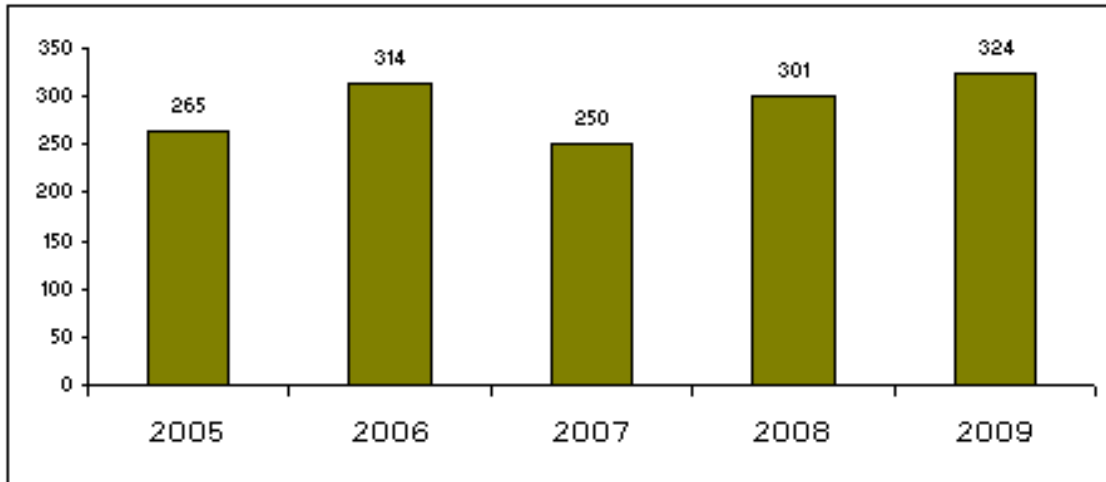
In order to evaluate these aspects, one should consider information related to the description of the acts that are the grounds for the request (phone threats/written threats/assassination attempts/acts of violence/public accusations), the identity of the origin of the threats (private persons, private persons with ties to the state, state agents, others), the complaints lodged with the authorities, the measures of protection of which they are already beneficiaries and their effectiveness, a description of the context needed to weigh the seriousness of the threats, the chronology and proximity in time of the threats made, the identification of the persons affected and their degree of risk; individually identifying persons or groups who belong to a category of individuals at risk; and a description of the measures of protection or other measures requested. In addition, on evaluating this information, one takes account of the following contextual elements in relation to the country to which the request refers: the existence of an armed conflict, whether a state of emergency is in force, the degrees of effectiveness and impunity in the functioning of the judicial system, indicia of discrimination against vulnerable groups, and the controls imposed by the Executive branch on the other branches of government.»

<sup>19</sup> Cano Nieto, Juliana. «The protection of ESCR in the Inter-American System through the use of precautionary and provisional measures», *Revista IIDH*, vol. 45, 2007, p. 79.

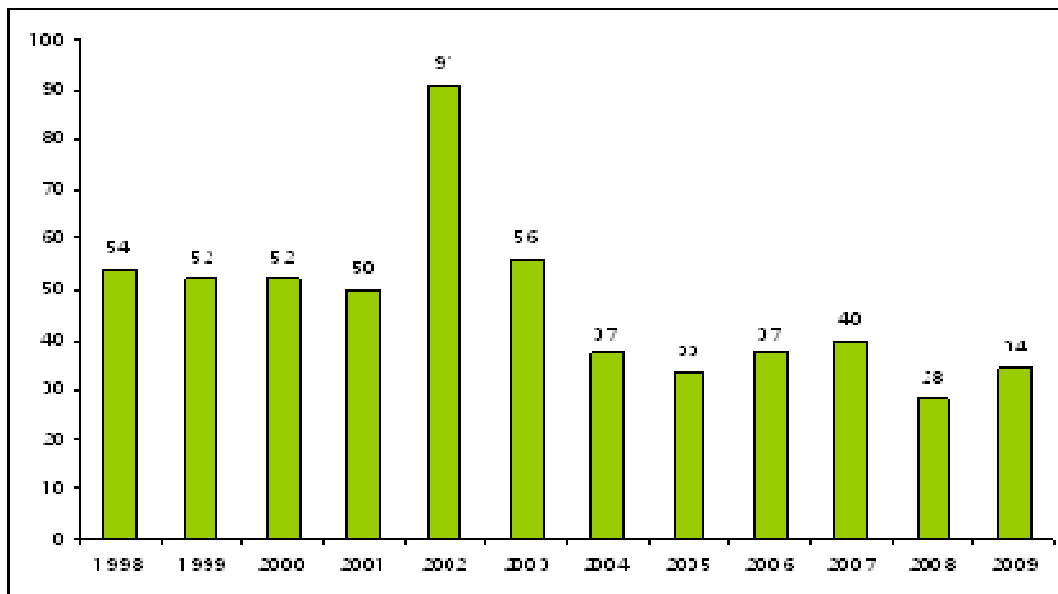
rights law, to resort to the Court to seek the granting of these provisional measures; otherwise, there could be a denial of justice at the international level.<sup>20</sup>

The last Annual Report of the Commission (2009) shows the following data:

Total number of precautionary measures requests received by year:



Total number of precautionary measures granted by year:



The comparison of the number of requests for provisional measures with the number of precautionary measures granted by the Court each year shows that in average only 10-15% of the precautionary measures requested are granted by the Commission. It is thus very important for the petitioners to clearly know what are the criteria that are being used by the Commission to grant or refuse such measures.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Separate Opinion of judge A. A. Cançado Trindade, *Mary Naranjo et al.* (Colombia), Order of the Inter-American Court of HR of September 22, 2006, §8-9.

<sup>21</sup> Long, Soraya. Reflexion sobre posibles reformas a los reglamentos de la Comision Interamericana y de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, *Revista CEJIL*, n° 4, dec. 2008, p. 22.

The new Rules of Procedure of the Commission (2009) partly addresses the problem, establishing the following criteria for the exam of requests for precautionary measures:

**Article 25. Precautionary Measures**

(...)

§4. The Commission shall consider the gravity and urgency of the situation, its context and the imminence of the harm in question when deciding whether to request that a State adopt precautionary measures. The Commission shall also take into account:

- a. whether the situation of risk has been brought to the attention of the pertinent authorities or the reasons why it might not have been possible to do so;
- b. the individual identification of the potential beneficiaries of the precautionary measures or the identification of the group to which they belong; and
- c. the express consent of the potential beneficiaries whenever the request is filed before the Commission by a third party unless the absence of consent is duly justified.

*Follow-up and implementation of provisional measures*

Article 25 § 8 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure (2009) establishes that

The Commission may request relevant information from the interested parties on any matter related to the granting, observance, and maintenance of precautionary measures. Material non-compliance by the beneficiaries or their representatives with such a request may be considered a ground for the Commission to withdraw a request that the State adopt precautionary measures. With regard to precautionary measures of a collective nature, the Commission may establish other appropriate mechanisms of periodic follow-up and review.

The Commission also asks States to pay attention to the circumstances that produced the risk when implementing the measures, and to implicate the victims in the strategy to be adopted to protect him/her:

The Commission has also requested the states that in carrying out the measures they pay special attention to the circumstances that produced the risk, so as to be able to fully deactivate the focal points giving rise to risk, and to keep the situations reported from recurring. In addition, the Commission finds that for this to be done, it is vital that the states allow the beneficiaries of the measures to participate in planning and implementing them. Finally, to prevent the chronic repetition of situations of risk, the Commission asks in every case, as part of the measures of protection, that a serious investigation be undertaken into the facts, so as to identify, prosecute, and punish the direct perpetrators and masterminds of the acts of intimidation and violence.<sup>22</sup>

States tend to respond to the Commission's request for precautionary measures, but not to fulfill them adequately. In the words of the Commission:

Even though the Commission is satisfied to receive the response from the state in most cases in which it has granted measures of protection to human rights defenders, it laments and is concerned about the lack of prompt and adequate action to provide effective protection in some cases, which has translated into fatal events, such as the death of defenders who have been beneficiaries of precautionary measures. In addition, the Commission notes its concern over the failure of judicial investigations to advance in the vast majority of cases studied. The Commission reiterates that the failure to prosecute and sanction the persons responsible for such deeds makes it impossible to structurally dismantle the causes giving rise to risk; accordingly, the failure to undertake an adequate investigation not only prejudices the daily activities of the defenders, but also increases the risk that they might become victims of even worse acts of

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<sup>22</sup> IACHR, Report on the situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.124, Doc. 5 rev. 1, 7 March 2006, § 256.

violence. The Commission makes an appeal to the states to take actions necessary to fully protect human rights defenders, especially those who are the beneficiaries of precautionary and provisional measures.<sup>23</sup>

As stated above, when States do not comply with precautionary measures, or even in the absence of such measures, the Commission can ask the Inter-American Court to grant provisional measures that benefit from a binding character. The Court monitors the compliance with the ordered measures through information provided by the State, the Commission and the victims or their representatives. In this regard, the Court issues a series of orders reflecting the degree of compliance with its provisional measures by States. In 2009, 38 provisional measures were being monitored.<sup>24</sup>

Although binding, States not always comply with provisional measures. When this is the case, the only recourse of the Court is to report the failure to the OAS General Assembly in its Annual Report. But this body has not shown sufficient political will to act or sanction a State in case of non compliance with provisional measures.<sup>25</sup>

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## APPENDIX

### PROTECTIVE MEASURES GRANTED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION AND COURT INVOLVING LAWYERS, JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND COURT PERSONNEL

#### *Precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*

(Information transcript from the IACHR Annual Reports)

Year	Country	Description
2010	Venezuela	<p>On January 11, 2010, the IACHR granted precautionary measures for Maria Lourdes Afiuni*, Venezuela. The request seeking precautionary measures alleges that on Sunday, January 3, 2010, a group of persons deprived of liberty in the <i>Instituto Nacional de Orientación Femenina</i> (INOF) wore distinctive tape in their legs and head, which allegedly means “war” or “mutiny”, and planned to “burn the judge alive,” in reference to Mrs. Afiuni. It is alleged that they also planned to hurt other three persons detained who are perceived to be close to Mrs. Afiuni. The Inter-American Commission asked the State of Venezuela to adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the life and physical integrity of the beneficiary; to adopt the measures necessary to transfer the beneficiary to a safe place, and to inform the IACHR about actions taken to investigate through the Judiciary the facts that led to the adoption of precautionary measures.</p> <p>*Judge Afiuni was detained on December 10, 2009, the day she authorized the conditional liberty of Eligio Cedeño, a banker accused of corruption, on the basis that he had been in pretrial detention for almost 3 years, despite the 2-year limit prescribed by Venezuelan law. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions had declared Cedeño’s detention “arbitrary.” The authorities accused Afiuni of corruption, abuse of authority, and “favoring evasion of justice.” On December 11, President Hugo Chávez said Afiuni was a “bandit” and should be sentenced to 30 years in prison. Cedeño fled Venezuela and requested political asylum in United States a few days later (Human Rights Watch Press Release, April 8, 2010)</p>

<sup>23</sup> Idem, § 257.

<sup>24</sup> Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights 2009, p. 15

<sup>25</sup> PASQUALUCCI, Jo M. Interim Measures in International Human Rights: Evolution and Harmonization 38 *Vand. J. Transnat'l L. 1* (2005), p. 45.



Year	Country	Description
2009	Guatemala	<p>On April 8, 2009, the IACHR granted precautionary measures for Raúl Santiago Monzón Fuentes, Director of the Prosecution Department of the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor of Guatemala; Gladys Monterroso Velásquez de Morales, wife of the Human Rights Prosecutor of Guatemala; and employees of the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor in Guatemala. The request seeking precautionary measures alleges that these individuals were victims of various acts of violence as a result of actions undertaken by the Office of the Prosecutor with regard to the publication of historical archives of the Guatemalan National Police. The acts of violence specified include the kidnapping of Mrs. Gladys Monterroso Velásquez de Morales and a series of threats targeting Mr. Raúl Santiago Monzón Fuentes. The request also indicates that unidentified individuals had tailed employees and conducted surveillance on the buildings of the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor. The Inter-American Commission requested that the State of Guatemala adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the life and physical integrity of Raúl Santiago Monzón Fuentes and Gladys Monterroso Velásquez de Morales; assign protection to the perimeter of the buildings of the Office of the Human Rights Prosecutor of Guatemala, so as to protect the life and physical integrity of the employees; and inform the IACHR about actions taken to investigate the facts that led to the adoption of precautionary measures.</p>
2009	Honduras	<p>On August 7, 2009, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decided a new amplification of precautionary measures PM 196-09, in order to safeguard the life and personal integrity of persons in Honduras, who, according to information received, are at risk. The following persons are now included in the framework of precautionary measures 196-09:</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>Eduardo Castañeda Perdomo, lawyer. According to information received, the military has followed him and members of the armed forces have raided his residence.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>The IACHR set a 48 hour deadline to receive information about the implementation of the required measures. This list of protected persons complements lists transmitted via communications dated June 28 and 29 as well as communications dated July 2, 3, 10, 15, 24 and 30, 2009.</p>
2008	Colombia	<p>On September 24, 2008, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Hugo Antonio Combariza Rodríguez. The request seeking precautionary measures alleges, inter alia, that Mr. Combariza Rodríguez had received threats because of his representation of victims of the armed conflict in proceedings being conducted under the Justice and Peace Law in the city of Cúcuta and that he was shot on April 25, 2008. On May 28, 2008, the Commission requested the State to provide information on the situation in question. After examining the information supplied by both parties, the Commission decided to grant precautionary measures in which it asks the Colombian state to adopt the measures needed to guarantee the life and physical integrity of the beneficiary and to report the measures taken to conduct a judicial inquiry into the events that prompted the adoption of precautionary measures. The Commission continues to monitor the situation.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2008	Colombia	<p>On December 22, 2008, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of an Auxiliary Justice in the Criminal Chamber of the Colombian Supreme Court, Iván Velásquez Gómez, who was serving as coordinator of an “Investigative Support Commission” to establish the possible links between members of Colombia’s National Congress and paramilitary organizations. The request seeking precautionary measures states, inter alia, that state agents were alleged to be targeting Justice Velásquez, who was allegedly being threatened because of his role in the so-called “parapolitics” trials, and that the protective measures previously established for him were not sufficient. On February 22, 2008, the IACHR instituted the process of requesting information from the State concerning the degree of the threat facing Justice Iván Velásquez and the security measures arranged for him. After examining the information supplied by the parties on the circumstances under which Auxiliary Supreme Court Justice Iván Velásquez Gómez must perform his functions, the Commission decided to grant precautionary measures and asked the State to guarantee the life and physical integrity of Iván Velásquez Gómez, to arrange, jointly with the beneficiary and the petitioners, the measures to be taken, and to report the steps intended to remove the threat factors that warrant enforcement of precautionary measures.</p>
		<p>On December 22, 2008, the IACHR granted precautionary measures for an Auxiliary Justice in the Criminal Chamber of Colombia’s Supreme Court, María del Rosario González de Lemos, who has actively participated in the prosecution of members of the Colombian National Congress accused of having ties to paramilitary organizations. The request seeking precautionary measures states, inter alia, that Justice González de Lemos was being threatened because of her role in the so-called “parapolitics” trials and that the previously established protective measures were allegedly inadequate. On May 19, 2008, the IACHR instituted the process of requesting information from the State on the threat level in the case of Justice María del Rosario González de Lemos and the security arranged for her. After examining the information supplied by both parties on the circumstances under which Justice María del Rosario González de Lemos must perform her functions, the Commission decided to grant the request for precautionary measures and accordingly asked the State to guarantee the justice’s life and physical integrity, to arrange with her and the petitioners the measures to be adopted, and to report to the Commission on the measures intended to eliminate the risk factors that warrant enforcement of the precautionary measures.</p>
2008	Honduras	<p>On October 14, 2008, the IACHR granted the request seeking precautionary measures for public prosecutor Luis Javier Santos and his children. The request for precautionary measures alleges, inter alia, that Public Prosecutor Luis Javier Santos is being threatened because of his work on various corruption cases in the city of San Pedro Sula. On August 21, 2007, the IACHR requested information from the Honduran State concerning the security of public prosecutor Luis Javier Santos. After considering the information supplied by both parties on the circumstances under which Public Prosecutor Luis Javier Santos performs his functions and concerning an attempt made against his life, the Commission decided to adopt precautionary measures and requested the Honduran State to adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the life and physical integrity of the beneficiaries and to report the measures taken to conduct a judicial inquiry into the events that warrant enforcement of the precautionary measures. The Commission continues to monitor the situation.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2007	Mexico	<p>On July 26, 2007, the IACHR issued precautionary measures in favor of Alejandro Noyola, Jesús Manuel Grijalva Mejía, Alba Gabriela Cruz Ramos, Alma Delia Gómez Soto, César Grijalva, Flora Gutiérrez, and Jesús Alfredo López García, all attorneys members of the Comité de Liberación 25 de Noviembre, devoted to providing psychological care for and legal assistance to members of the Movimiento Popular of Oaxaca detained in November 2006. The information available indicates that the beneficiaries have been subject to attacks, threats, and harassment because of their work in that organization. It is indicated that from December 2006 to July 2007, the beneficiaries and some of their family members received threats by telephone and were victims of persecution and assaults promoted by private persons and members of the police of the state of Oaxaca. The most serious attacks were said to have taken place on July 16, 2006, in the context of the traditional festivity known as the “Guelaguetza Popular” in the city of Oaxaca. The Commission asked the Mexican State to adopt the measures needed to guarantee the life and physical integrity of the beneficiaries, and to report on the actions taken to investigate judicially the facts that gave rise to the precautionary measures. The Commission continues to monitor the beneficiaries’ situation.</p>
2007	Peru	<p>On April 23, 2007, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of priest Marco Arana and attorney Mirtha Vásquez and other members of the organization “Group of Integral Education for Sustainable Development” (GRUFIDES: Grupo de Formación Integral para el Desarrollo Sostenible), an institution devoted to defense of the environment, training, and legal assistance for peasant communities around the city of Cajamarca. The information available indicates that the beneficiaries have been subjected to intimidation and threats by individuals who support mining in the region, and that some persons were assassinated in confrontations between the sectors that support mining and those who protest mining activities. The Commission asked the Peruvian State to adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries, verify the effective implementation of the measures of protection by the competent authorities, provide perimeter surveillance for the headquarters of the NGO GRUFIDES, provide police accompaniment to the GRUFIDES personnel who must travel to the peasant communities, and report on the actions taken to investigate judicially the facts that gave rise to the precautionary measures. The Commission continues to monitor the beneficiaries’ situation.</p>
2006	Colombia	<p>On February 3, 2006, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Ernesto Moreno Gordillo, María Restrepo Vélez, Miguel Ángel González Reyes, and Alberto Acevedo, all members of the Colombian Association of Democratic Lawyers, an organization which, inter alia, is dedicated to the legal defense of community and civic leaders, mayors, ex mayors, councilors, leftwing members of parliament, trades people, all of whom have been affected by so-called “mass arrests.” The information states that after denouncing the violations of the right to due process of its defenders, the members of the association were followed, harassed, and became the objects of death threats, and on November 17, 2005, there was an attack against the lawyer Moreno Gordillo in which he was shot five times. The Commission requested that the State, inter alia, adopted the necessary measures to protect the life and physical integrity of the beneficiaries and report on actions taken to judicially investigate the events that gave rise to the precautionary measures. The Commission is monitoring the beneficiaries’ situation.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2006	El Salvador	<p>On October 10, 2006, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of the lawyer and army major Adrián Meléndez Quijano, his brother Eurípedes Meléndez Quijano, and their respective families in El Salvador. The information available states that Major Meléndez Quijano and his family have been harassed on several occasions, and since June 2006 have been subjected to observation, in particular at home and when attending the Human Rights Institute of the Central American University “Jose Simeón Cañas,” and have received telephone death threats. It is stated that his mother received telephone threats which caused her to leave the country and in November 2005, his brother, Eurípedes Meléndez was the victim of a knife attack. In view of this, the Commission requested that the Government of El Salvador should adopt the measures necessary to protect the life and physical integrity of the beneficiary and report on action taken to investigate judicially the events that gave rise to the precautionary measures.</p>
2005	Bolivia	<p>On March 11, 2005, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of the Tacana indigenous community of Miraflores (Riberalta), a group comprising 53 families (270 people) settled on Multiethnic Indigenous Territory II (“TIM II”) in Gonzalo Moreno municipality of Madre de Dios province, Pando department, in the Northern Amazon region of Bolivia, and on behalf of members of the Center for Juridical Studies and Social Investigation (CEJIS). The information available indicates that on December 17, 2004, armed individuals attacked and violently evicted 50 members of the Miraflores indigenous community, set fire to their homes, made threats against them, and occupied a part of the community’s land. Subsequently, on January 5, 2006, thirty armed individuals with ties to the Riberalta Agroforestry Association (ASAGRI) forcibly entered the offices of the CEJIS, made death threats, and ransacked and destroyed office equipment and documents that proved the existence of a large estate in the Northern Amazon region. During this incident the armed individuals gave the CEJIS a deadline of “48 hours to get out of Riberalta” and threatened to harm Cliver Rocha, the person responsible for the office, if he ever returned to the municipality. In light of the risks facing the beneficiaries, the IACHR asked the Bolivian State to adopt the measures necessary to ensure the lives and personal integrity of the Tacana and Cavineño indigenous community of Miraflores (Riberalta) and to guarantee the physical integrity of CEJIS members Carlos Gustavo Romero Bonifaz, Leonardo Tamburini, Ignacio Franco Semo, Mónica Lijerón Aponte, Mabel Herrera Montaña, Leslie Peñarrieta Justiniano, Juan Carlos Mérida Romero, and Margot Céspedes, including the installation of a police guard post for the indigenous community during the nut harvest and a permanent police guard post at the offices of CEJIS in the municipalities of Riberalta (Beni department) and Cobija (Pando department). The Commission also asked the State to conduct an exhaustive investigation of the reported acts of intimidation and threats. On May 11, 2005, the IACHR requested that the precautionary measures be amplified in favor of Cesar Blanco Álvarez and Oscar Vargas Herrera, <u>two lawyers</u> connected with the CEJIS office in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. The Commission continues to monitor the situation of the beneficiaries.</p>
2005	Ecuador	<p>On December 22, 2005, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of the lawyers and human rights defenders Alejandro Ponce Villacís, Ermel Chávez, Pablo Fajardo, and Luis Yanza. The information available indicates that the beneficiaries had suffered acts of harassment and threats, and that their office had been broken into and robbed due to their professional work on one high-profile case. Given the risks facing the beneficiaries, the Commission asked the Ecuadorian Government to adopt the measures necessary to protect the lives and personal integrity of Alejandro Ponce Villacís, Ermel Chávez, Pablo Fajardo, and Luis Yanza, and to inform the Commission of the steps taken to investigate the incidents that gave rise to the adoption of precautionary measures. The Commission continues to monitor the situation of the beneficiaries.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2005	Peru	<p>On June 12, 2005, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Carlos Rivera Paz, the attorney defending Luís Ramírez Hinostroza. The information available indicates that the beneficiary had received threats and attacks against his life and personal integrity for publicly assuming the defense of Luís Alberto Ramírez Hinostroza, a witness in proceedings brought against General Pérez Documet for human rights violations. Given the risks facing the beneficiary, the Commission asked the Peruvian State to adopt measures to protect the life and personal integrity of Mr. Carlos Rivera Paz. On July 27, 2005, after learning that the lawyer in question had received no protection whatsoever more than one month after the adoption of the precautionary measures, the Commission asked the Inter-American Court to adopt provisional measures pursuant to Article 63.2 of the American Convention. The provisional measures were granted on November 18, 2005 (see section, infra, on matters pending before the Inter-American Court)</p>
2005	Guatemala	<p>On July 19, 2005, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Nery Roberto Barrios de León, the president and legal representative of the Popular and Trade-Union Action Unit, UASP, Jovial Acevedo Ayala, a representative of the Union of Education Workers of Guatemala, STEG, and Walter Robles, an attorney-at-law and legal advisor to the UASP. The information available indicates that Messrs. Nery Roberto Barrios de León, Jovial Acevedo Ayala, and Walter Robles had been harassed and had received a series of threats to their lives and physical integrity. Additionally, the headquarters of the Union of Education Workers of Guatemala was raided by unidentified persons between June 25 and 26, 2005. During that raid, information concerning the organized teachers' movement in Guatemala, which had been stored on computers since 1989, was removed from the premises. Given the risks facing the beneficiaries, the IACHR asked the Guatemalan State to adopt the measures necessary to protect the lives and personal integrity of Nery Roberto Barrios de León, Jovial Acevedo Ayala, and Walter Robles, and to inform the Commission of the steps taken to clarify the incident through judicial mechanisms. The Commission continues to monitor the situation of the beneficiaries.</p>
2004	Guatemala	<p>On October 18, 2004, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Alexander Toro, Legal Aid of the Department Prosecutor's Office of Retaluelo, and his family. Available information indicates that Mr. Alexander Toro has been the target of death threats after his intervention as a mediator between the occupants, owners, and public authorities in the search of a peaceful solution to the occupation of the Nueva Linda Farm. The farm was taken over by 1,800 campesinos in October 2003 after the murder of the leader Héctor René Reyes Pérez, and they were evicted on August 31, 2004, in episodes of violence that left 11 dead. In view of the risk to the beneficiaries, the Commission requested the Guatemalan State to adopt the necessary measures to protect the life and personal safety of the beneficiaries and to report on the actions undertaken to investigate the threats made against him. The Commission continues to monitor the situation of the protected persons.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2004	Guatemala	<p>On February 27, 2004, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Rafael Castillo Gándara and his attorney, Walter Robles. Available information indicates that Mr. Gándara Castillo has been the target of persecution and death threats by members of the Attorney General's Office, where his ex-wife worked under the orders of the Attorney General at the time, Carlos David de León Argueta. Although the Presidential Military Staff and the Human Rights Prosecutor arranged for the adoption of perimeter security measures in favor of Messrs. Gándara Castillo and Robles, they continued to be the targets of threats and persecution. In view of the risk for the beneficiaries, the Commission requested the Guatemalan State to adopt the measures necessary to protect the life and personal safety of Messrs. Gándara Castillo and Robles and to report on the actions undertaken to investigate the threats made against them. The Commission continues to monitor the situation of the protected persons.</p>
2004	Colombia	<p>On October 29, 2004, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of Francisco Eladio Ramírez Cuellar, Chairman of SINTRAMINERCOL and a prominent attorney known for his investigative work and defense of the rights of workers and indigenous communities, campesinos, and Afro-Colombians. Available information indicates that the offices of SINTRAMINERCOL were the target of a series of assaults and harassment. On October 10, 2004, Mr. Ramírez was the victim of an armed assault at the corner of Calle 49 and Carrera 15 in the city of Bogotá, which he survived unharmed by shielding himself behind electricity and telephone poles and preventing the assassin from hitting him. In view of the situation of the beneficiary and the context of violence against trade union workers and human rights defenders by paramilitary groups, the Commission requested the Colombian Government to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the life and physical integrity of Francisco Eladio Ramírez Cuellar and to report on the actions adopted to clarify judicially the incidents justifying the adoption of precautionary measures. The commission continues to monitor the situation of the beneficiary.</p>
2003	Paraguay	<p>On April 22, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Arturo Luis López Reyes, Luz María Menocchio de López, Arturo Luis López Menocchio, Luz Dahiana López Menocchio, and Luis Alberto Arévalo, Mr. Reyes's lawyer. The information available indicates that the beneficiaries have received death threats and have been subject to harassment and attempted extortion by members of the Police. Specifically, they state that on April 14, 2003, Arturo López was detained by agents of the Police's economic crimes division in order to extort him for a given sum of money and a luxury car, in exchange for temporarily respecting the privacy of Mr. López and his family. They also state that on April 15, 2003, heavily-armed members of the police carried out a search of the beneficiary's home in an operation which, according to one prosecutor's findings, took place without a judicial warrant. In view of the risk to the beneficiaries, the Commission asked the Paraguayan State to adopt measures to protect the life and physical integrity of the López family and their attorney. In response, the State reported that the Office of the Police Commander had adopted the measures needed to prevent any risk to the López family. In addition, it noted that the pertinent inquiries were being made into the facts alleged. Subsequently, the State continued to provide up-to-date information on the status of the investigations.</p>



Year	Country	Description
2003	Colombia	On May 16, 2003, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of attorney María Victoria Fallon, a prominent human rights defender and director of the Grupo Interdisciplinario por los Derechos Humanos (GIDH). The information available indicates that the beneficiary is at risk as a result of her work related to the situation of the district known as Comuna 13 of Medellín, Antioquia. Accordingly, the IACHR asked the Colombian State to adopt the measures needed to protect her life and physical integrity, and to report on the actions taken to investigate the facts and put an end to the threats. The Commission has continued receiving information on her situation.
2003	Colombia	On July 2, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures to attorney José Ramiro Orjuela Aguilar. The information available indicates that he has been the target of persistent threats against his life and personal integrity by the AUC due to his legal work and his membership in the Unión Patriótica. Prior to the request for precautionary measures, his colleague, attorney Absalón Achury, was kidnapped by members of the AUC and his corpse was found in San Juan de Arama, department of Meta. In view of the situation the IACHR asked the Colombian State to take the steps necessary to protect the life and physical integrity of the beneficiary, and to report on the actions taken to investigate the facts and put an end to the threats. The Commission has continued receiving information on his situation.
2003	Colombia	On July 10, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of human rights defenders Gloria Inés Flórez Schneider and Martha Cecilia Monroy, who are, respectively, executive director and staff attorney with the Asociación para la Promoción Social Alternativa (MINGA), a prominent human rights organization and petitioner in individual cases and precautionary measures before the IACHR. The information available indicates that the beneficiaries have been receiving anonymous phone calls and threats against their persons and against MINGA in the context of attacks against the work of human rights organizations in the Republic of Colombia. On June 27, 2003, they received a phone call in which a threat was made to kill ("darle a") Martha Cecilia Monroy. In view of the situation the IACHR asked the Colombian State to take the measures needed to protect the life and physical integrity of the beneficiaries and to report on the actions taken to investigate the facts and put an end to the threats. The Commission has continued receiving information on the situation of the persons protected.
2003	Mexico	On April 8, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Samuel Alfonso Castellanos Piñón, Beatriz Casas Arrellanos, José Raymundo Díaz Taboada, Graciela Calvo Navarrete, and Mayra Iracema Jarquín Lujan, all members of the organization Acción de los Cristianos para la Abolición de la Tortura (ACAT: Action by Christians for the A Abolition of Torture). The information available indicates that on March 1, 2003, attorney Samuel Castellanos Piñón and other members of the organization received an anonymous threat at the ACAT offices in Oaxaca presumably from members of the community of Santiago Xochiltepec, related to the organization's participation in the "Agua Fría Massacre" case. In view of the risk to which the beneficiaries are exposed, the Commission asked the Mexican State to adopt the measures needed to protect the life and personal integrity of the members of ACAT. In response, the State reported to the IACHR that it had adopted measures aimed at implementing the IACHR's requests in terms of police surveillance of the ACAT office and launching an investigation into the facts. Later, the IACHR learned of new threats to Mr. Castellanos, of which the State was duly informed.

Year	Country	Description
2003	Guatemala	<p>On July 25, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Rodolfo Rohrmorser, Juan Francisco Flores Juárez, and Gloria Evangelina Melgar, members of the Constitutional Court. The information available indicates that the beneficiaries received death threats due to the performance of their work as judges in the context of deliberations on the appeal on facts and law (recurso de hecho) presented by the Frente Revolucionario Guatemalteco (FRG) against the provisional amparo decree issued by the Supreme Court of Justice, which temporarily nullified the registration of Mr. Efraín Ríos Montt as a presidential candidate. The threats were made in the context of the acts of violence in Guatemala City on July 24, 2003, when mobs wearing hoods and armed with sticks, stones, and other objects attacked the journalists gathered around the Supreme Court of Justice and the Court's staff. Mr. Rohrmorser had to be aerially evacuated from his home since the building where he was living had been packed by sympathizers of the Frente Revolucionario Guatemalteco. In view of the risk to which the beneficiaries are exposed, the IACHR asked the Guatemalan State to adopt the measures needed to protect the life and personal integrity of Rodolfo Rohrmorser, Juan Francisco Flores Juárez, and Gloria Evangelina Melgar. Later the IACHR expanded its request to cover judges Saúl Dighero, Carlos Luna Villacorta, and Carlos Reynoso Gil. On December 4, 2003, the Commission proceeded to lift the precautionary measures in response to an express request by the petitioners.</p>
2002	Brazil	<p>On September 23, 2002 the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Manoel Bezerra, Rosmary Souto, and Luiz Da Silva. The request indicated that along the border between the states of Paraíba and Pernambuco there was an "extermination group" that existed with the acquiescence of the police and state authorities, received financing from local merchants, and had allegedly killed over 100 persons (street children, alleged criminals, and homosexuals) in the last seven years. It alleged that Councilman Manuel Matos and Justice Advocate Rosmary Souto had received death threats for having denounced and investigated those deaths. It also indicated that Luiz Da Silva was a member of the extermination group and later withdrew from the group and made public statements on its activities; as a result, he was the victim of an attack in which he was shot five times. The precautionary measures requested by the IACHR were aimed at protecting the life and person of those threatened and at investigating the threats. The State did not provide any information on compliance with the measures. On October 30, 2002 the petitioners informed the Commission that some of the measures were being fulfilled.</p>
2002	Colombia	<p>On April 25, 2002 the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Amelia Pérez Parra, Leonardo Augusto Cabana Fonseca, Lucía Margarita Luna Prada, Amparo Cerón Ojeda, Luis Augusto Sepúlveda Reyes, and Giovani Alvarez Santoyo, members of the National Human Rights Unit, and Martha Cecilia Camacho, an investigator with the Technical Investigative Body (CTI), who were threatened by paramilitary leaders Carlos Castaño and Salvatore Mancuso because of their involvement in a series of investigations being conducted by the National Human Rights Unit of the Government Attorney's Office, involving high-level members of the armed forces. One of the prosecutors, Luis Augusto Sepúlveda Reyes, was dismissed from his post on April 23, 2002 before he could issue an arrest warrant. The Commission asked the State to take the necessary steps to protect the life of the beneficiaries and investigate the threats against them.</p>



Year	Country	Description
2002	Colombia	<p>On August 6, 2002 the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of members of the Colombian Legal Foundation (CORPOJURÍDICO), headquartered in Apartadó, Antioquia, and the relatives of the victim in petition P0597/2001 on the disappearance of Alcides Torres Arias. The petitioner requested a hearing to present the testimony of the victim's mother during the 114th regular session of the IACHR in Washington, D.C.; however, before departing, attorney María del Carmen Flores Jaime, a member of CORPOJURÍDICO, was killed after she met with the victim's mother. The petitioners claim that, since then, they have received threats and members of the organization have had to move or go into exile abroad for security reasons.</p>
2002	Colombia	<p>On October 29, 2002 the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Dr. Teresa Cedeño Galíndez, president of the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH) of Arauca. The petitioners claimed that on October 2, 2002 a man who identified himself as Commander Mario of the AUC made repeated calls to the cell phone of attorney Teresa de Jesús Cedeño Galíndez, threatening her with death and ordering her to leave the city and to "stop defending the guerillas." He also said that he would post a guard at her house and expected not to see her there. The AUC commander repeated the calls and a prosecutor from the support structure had the opportunity to verify the veracity of the calls and threats. On October 22, 2002, Dr. Cedeño Galíndez detected persons following her, as well as movement of suspicious persons in front of her home. In its reply, the State reported that the prosecution office assigned to work with the Criminal Law Judges of the Special Circuit in Arauca was in the preliminary phases of an investigation and the Ministry of the Interior had evaluated the situation of Teresa Cedeño Galíndez and provided the beneficiary with a transportation and cellular telephone allowance.</p>
2002	Colombia	<p>On November 7, 2002 the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Virgilio Hernández Castellanos, who in the past twelve years has held the positions of judge, regional prosecutor, director of the attorney general's office, chief of the National Human Rights Unit, and chief of the National Anti-Corruption Unit of the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation. According to the background information, during his tenure as chief of the National Human Rights Unit from 1997 to 1999, the beneficiary received direct and/or veiled threats from Víctor Carranza Niño, Carlos Castaño, "Commander Yara", El Zarco, Co. Hernando Navas Rubio, Nelson Lesmes, and others accused of committing serious human rights violations. On September 27, 2002 in an interview circulated in the media, Carlos Castaño, commander of the AUC, said: "...I believe that the current attorney general deserves all due respect, our full confidence, however before... you only have to look at the human rights unit, at Virgilio Hernández, ... people who support the guerrillas. Since I was going to surrender, I am surrendering to justice, not to the enemy." This statement by the AUC commander rendered the beneficiary a target for that armed organization. The IACHR has learned that the beneficiary temporarily left the territorial jurisdiction in order to protect himself.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2002	Mexico	<p>On September 10, 2002 the IACHR granted precautionary measures to protect the life and person of Miriam García, Blanca Guadalupe López, and attorney Dante Almaraz. The beneficiaries have received death threats as a result of their work to defend the husbands of Miriam García and Blanca Guadalupe López, who are being detained in Chihuahua and are accused of killing eleven women in Ciudad Juárez. [2] The petitioners reported that the attorney was killed by the judicial police in that city. Dr. Escobedo also reported that his representatives had been tortured. Dr. Dante Almaráz, in turn, claims that he is defending the detainees based on the fact that they were tortured to give false confessions. The parties regularly presented information to the Commission on implementation of the precautionary measures.</p>
2001	El Salvador	<p>On November 20, 2001, the Inter-American Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Mauricio García Prieto Hirlemann, Gloria Giralt de García Prieto, and their legal advisors from the Human Rights Institute at José Simeón Cañas Central American University (IDHUCA). The measures were granted after the petitioners supplied information claiming that the aforesaid individuals' right to life and physical integrity was in grave danger. They claim that the threats are intended to dissuade them from continuing to search for justice in the murder of Ramón Mauricio García Prieto Giralt, the aforesaid couple's son, which is currently being processed by the IACHR as case 11.697. A preliminary report from the Salvadorian State noted that a meeting between the nation's attorney-general and the García Prieto family and their representatives had been scheduled for November 22, when the necessary protection measures would be agreed upon. On December 5, 2001, the petitioners submitted a series of specific proposals for the Salvadorian authorities to pursue, including appointing a special prosecutor and a special investigator from the National Civilian Police, assigning the García Prieto family and their advisors security guards, details on the equipment needed to protect them, and holding regular meetings with the competent authorities.</p>
2001	Colombia	<p>On March 28, 2001, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Ligia Garzón Pinzón, a public prosecutor on Colombia's specialized judicial circuit, and her family, who for security reasons had relocated outside the country. The request for precautionary measures states that Dr. Ligia Garzón was denied an extension of the leave of absence allowing her to remain outside the country and, consequently, she was being forced to return to the Republic of Colombia immediately in spite of her security concerns. The Commission asked the Colombian government to take the steps necessary to guarantee the right to life and person of Ligia Esther Garzón Pinzón and her family, and it undertook a series of measures that concluded satisfactorily for the parties.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2001	Colombia	<p>On August 9, 2001, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Pedro Díaz Romero, Virgilio Hernández Castellanos, Lucía Margarita Luna Prada, Gonzalo Alirio García Gómez, Maritza González Manrique, Fernando Niño Quintero, Ramiro Sánchez Pardo, and Jaime Tapias Carlier, all members of the National Human Rights Unit of the Colombian attorney-general's office; in addition, the requested measures were to apply to their families. The protected persons, in discharging their duties, began a judicial investigation of Gen. Rito Alejo del Río Rojas (ret.) in connection with the alleged creation and support of private vigilante groups during his tenure as the commander of the army's XVII brigade in the Urabá region of Antioquia. This investigation led to his home being searched and his arrest. Almost simultaneously, Pedro Díaz Romero was asked to resign, Gen. Rito Alejo del Río Rojas (ret.) was released, and criminal and disciplinary proceedings were ordered against Lucía Margarita Luna Prada, Gonzalo Alirio García Gómez, Maritza González Manrique, Fernando Niño Quintero, Ramiro Sánchez Pardo, and Jaime Tapias Carlier. At the same time, Virgilio Hernández Castellano, who had previously served as the director of the Human Rights Unit and was at that time the head of the Anticorruption Unit, was asked to resign. The Commission asked the Colombian government, as a matter of urgency, to take the steps necessary to protect the lives and persons of the aforesaid individuals, to agree on security measures with them, and to refrain from taking any action in reprisal against the prosecutors and the members of the CTI for the actions in discharging their duties as prosecutors. After the State replied, the parties have continued to submit information and comments in connection with these precautionary measures.</p>
2001	Haiti	<p>The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, on July 5, 2001, asked the Haitian State to adopt precautionary measures for a period of six months with respect to Judge Claudy Gassant, the magistrate in charge of the investigation into the slaying of the Haitian journalist Jean Dominique on April 3, 2000. He was assigned the case after two earlier judges received threats against their persons and subsequently withdrew from the investigation. On June 8, 2001, a plot to kill Judge Gassant was uncovered. This situation, together with the lack of adequate protective measures, forced the judge to withdraw from the case; his withdrawal was, however, not accepted. The Commission, with the beneficiary's agreement, has asked the Haitian State to adopt the following precautionary measures: (1) Immediate adoption of all measures necessary to protect the life and personal integrity of Mr. Claudy Gassant; (2) Adoption of all measures necessary to ensure the exercise of his right to investigate, receive, and disseminate information with respect to the investigation of the facts surrounding the death of the journalist Jean Dominique, pursuant to the provisions of Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights and the second principle of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression. On November 15, 2001, after the deadline had passed, the Haitian State reported that "it had taken the steps necessary to guarantee the security of Mr. Gassant, the judge charged with investigating the murder of the journalist Jean Léopold Dominique." The IACHR asked the Haitian State to indicate what specific measures it had adopted.</p>
2000	Colombia	<p>On May 11, 2000, the Commission granted precautionary measures and requested the Colombian State to take steps to protect the life and physical integrity of Alirio Uribe Muñoz, a well-known human rights defender and active member of the "José Alvear Restrepo" Lawyers Collective. Available information indicates that Mr. Uribe was identified in a military intelligence report as part of the "ELN support network." The persons mentioned in the intelligence report have been victims of nonjudicial execution, forced disappearance, arbitrary detention, or constant threats, forcing them to move or exile themselves. Following the State's reply, the parties continued to present information and observations on these precautionary measures.</p>

Year	Country	Description
2000	Colombia	On December 19, 2000, the Commission granted precautionary measures and requested that the Colombian State take steps to protect the life and physical integrity of Dr. Carlos Arturo Romero Jiménez, attorney, university professor, and former member of the Communist Party and the Unión Patriótica, and his wife Dr. Clara López Obregón. The available information indicates that in November 2000, Dr. Romero Jiménez received a series of pamphlets threatening his life. On December 13, 2000, Dr. Romero's driver was intercepted by two men on a motorcycle, who asked him if Dr. Romero had left the country and told him that they were "going to kill him." Following the State's reply, the parties continued to present information and observations on these precautionary measures.
2000	Brazil	On December 21, 2000, the Commission requested precautionary measures on behalf of three Justice Advocates of São Paulo and their family members, as well as 16 persons detained in the Public Prison of Sorocaba in the State of São Paulo, who had received death threats presumably linked to the mistreatment and torture taking place in that prison (case 1.263). The measures requested guarantees for the right to life and physical integrity and the ability to testify without fear of reprisal. The State reported that it had transferred the guards involved in the case to administrative positions. The measures remain in effect until May 21, 2001.
1999	Brazil	On June 24, 1999, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of attorney Joaquín Marcelo Denadai, a human rights defender and a key witness in corruption cases, and on behalf of Public Prosecutor, José Luis Azevedo da Silveira, both of the State of Espírito Santo, on account of the serious death threats made against them by the para-military organization Scuderie Le Coq (this matter is being processed as case 12.003). This request was reiterated to the State on September 7, 1999. During the period of the present report, the parties continued presenting information and observations in relation to these measures.
1999	Guatemala	On April 16, 1999, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of attorney Ronalith Ochaeta and his family. The Commission requested that the State of Guatemala adopt the precautionary measures necessary to preserve the lives and personal integrity of the persons named. The measures were a result of the fact that on April 16, three unidentified and armed individuals had violently burst into the home of Mr. Ochaeta, threatened and assaulted his maid, seized one of his daughters and searched his house. The individuals indicated that they had brought Mr. Ochaeta a message which consisted of a slab of concrete and stone. It must be recalled that Mr. Ronalith Ochaeta had worked on the REMHI report with Monsignor Juan José Gerardi Conedera, and that the first anniversary of the latter's murder was being commemorated at that time. On April 27, the State of Guatemala informed the Commission of the measures that had been adopted, which consisted principally of uniformed personnel deployed to keep a constant watch on their residence. The Commission received information on this matter until the persons concerned left the country.
1999	Guatemala	On September 24, 1999, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Mr. Calvin Manolo Galindo and his family and Mr. Marcos Anibal Sánchez and his family. Mr. Calvin Galindo was at that time the special prosecutor investigating the murder of Monsignor Juan José Gerardi Conedera, while Mr. Marco Sánchez was the deputy prosecutor in the same case. According to the information received, Mr. Galindo had been threatened with death on several occasions and harassed. In the case of Mr. Sanchez, the brake lines of his car had been cut and he had also been threatened. In both cases, their private and office telephones had allegedly been tapped. In response to the Commission's request, the State of Guatemala provided personal security to both and assigned a police patrol to guard their respective residences. Mr. Calvin Manolo Galindo resigned as the prosecutor of the case of Monsignor Gerardi and went into voluntary exile with his family to the United States.

Year	Country	Description
1999	Mexico	<p>On September 9, 1999, the Commission granted precautionary measures and requested that the State adopt specific and urgent measures to protect the lives and physical integrity of Digna Ochoa y Plácido, Edgar Cortéz Morales and the members of PRODH (this matter is being processed as case 12.229). According to the information received, on September 3, 1999, PRODH received three envelopes containing threats made against the Center's Director and staff, apparently in relation to the Center's activities in the defense of human rights. The petitioners claimed that there was a connection between these activities and the kidnapping of Ms. Digna Ochoa y Plácido, the Center's attorney, which was carried out by unknown persons on August 9, 1999. They indicated that during the kidnapping, the assailants took certain personal items of Ms. Ochoa y Plácido, including her personal calling cards, one of which was placed in one of the envelopes referred to above containing the threats. On September 21, 1999, the State reported that the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) had taken steps to protect the persons named, that preliminary investigations had been initiated by the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federal District, and that the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District had also intervened. Within the time period set for receiving comments, the petitioners reported on another serious attack against Ms. Digna Ochoa, which led to the request for provisional measures submitted to the Inter-American Court on November 11, 1999. (See section D.1, infra).</p>
1998	Peru	<p>On November 13, 1998, the Commission requested that the State of Peru adopt precautionary measures on behalf of Attorney Heriberto Manuel Benítez Rivas, President of the Executive Commission on Human Rights of the prestigious Lima Bar Association. The precautionary measures requested are connected with the adoption of measures to guarantee the lives and physical integrity of Mr. Benítez Rivas and his family.</p>
1997	Guatemala	<p>On February 25, 1997, the State of Guatemala forwarded current information with respect to the precautionary measures requested to protect the life and physical integrity of Rosario Hernandez Grave, Manuel Hernandez Ajbac, Manuel Mendoza Jolomox, Jesus Chaperon Marroquin, Gustavo Vasquez Peralta and Rogelio Cansi. These persons are all witnesses, complainants and attorneys participating in the legal proceedings associated with the murder of Martin Pelico Coxic, who had become the targets of threats as a result of their efforts. The state reported that on February 12, 1996, it had ordered the local authorities of El Quiche to supervise the police protection measures for those persons.</p>
1997	Guatemala	<p>On April 30, 1997, the Commission presented new information to the State of Guatemala in connection with the precautionary measures that had been requested for the first time on July 25, 1994, following threats and attacks perpetrated against a number of judges, including Judge Maria Eugenia Villasenor, and which remain in effect for her and her family. According to the petitioners, these serious threats that have been directed toward the judge have been repeated from time to time as of February 1997. The Villasenor family has been protected by police security measures for more than two years. Both parties continue reporting to the Commission on the status of the measures.</p>
1997	Paraguay	<p>On August 14, 1997, without opening a specific case, the Commission requested the State of Paraguay to provide information on the request of precautionary measures to protect the life of attorneys Nelson Garcia Ramirez and Raul Marin, and Judge Carlos Ortiz Barrios in the case of Napoleon Ortigoza, which was pending consideration by the Commission as Case No.1843. These persons have been the targets of threats. The Commission gave 21 days to respond. To this time, there has been no response from the government.</p>

Year	Country	Description
1997	Peru	On May 23, 1997, without opening a specific case, the Commission requested the State of Peru to take precautionary measures to protect the life and physical integrity of Mrs. Leonor la Rosa Bustamente, her family and her attorney, who had been receiving threats. On June 12, 1997, the case was opened, as No.11756. On September 23, 1997, the Government of Peru, while not mentioning the request for precautionary measures, responded to the charge by requesting that the case be declared inadmissible because internal remedies had not been exhausted.
1997	Peru	On August 15, 1997, the Commission requested the State of Peru to take precautionary measures to protect the life of Judge Elva Greta Minaya Calle, whose case is pending consideration by the Commission as No.11790. The prosecuting attorney prepared criminal charges against her on August 13, for presumed crimes of violence, resisting authority, abuse of authority against the jurisdictional function for having declared in order the writ of habeas corpus that called for the freedom of Mrs. Carmen Caceres, a person under arrest for the crime of terrorism. On December 19, 1997, the Government of Peru responded by saying that it is not appropriate to allow a solution of precautionary measures since the decision to charge Dr. Minaya has been voided. The case is now pending a decision on admissibility.
1997	Peru	On September 3, 1997, the Commission requested the State of Peru to take precautionary measures to protect the lives of Superior Court of Lima judges Sergio Salas Villalobos, Elizabeth Roxana Macrae Thays and Juan Cancio Castillo Vasquez, whose case is before the Commission as No.11798. Charges are pending against them for the presumed crime of prevarication, since they declared writs of habeas corpus in order. According to the Peruvian Penal Code, this crime has a sentence of 3 to 5 years of prison, thereby constituting a threat against their individual liberty. On October 2, 1997, the Government of Peru responded by saying that the charges brought by the Public Ministry against these judges for presumed criminal responsibility in the performance of their functions cannot be considered a threat against their individual liberty. This case is pending a decision on admissibility.
1997	El Salvador	On June 20, 1997, the Commission requested the Government of El Salvador to adopt precautionary measures to safeguard the life, liberty and personal integrity of Mauricio Garcia Prieto Hillerman, Gloria Giralt de Garcia Prieto and Carmen de Garcia Prieto, as well as the attorneys and witnesses associated with the investigation and trial of those guilty of the death of Ramon Mauricio Garcia Prieto Giralt. On September 4, 1997, the government reported that it had given instructions to the Director General of the National Civil Police Force to protect the life and personal integrity of Mauricio Garcia Prieto Hillerman, Gloria Giralt de Garcia Prieto and Carmen de Garcia Prieto, to start or continue the investigation of the acts of intimidation against the Garcia Prieto family and to review the out-of-court steps that the National Civil Police Force took to gather information concerning the death of Ramon Mauricio Garcia Prieto Giralt. In response to a new request from the Commission, on September 26, 1997, the Government of El Salvador reported that it was continuing the investigations aimed at clarifying the facts. On January 12, 1998, the Government sent information about a meeting that had been held with the participation of the Director of the National Police Force and other public officers, a representative of the Office of the Attorney for the Defense of Human Rights, another person from the Institute of Human Rights of the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University, and Mauricio Garcia Prieto Hillerman, Gloria Giralt de Garcia Prieto and Carmen de Garcia Prieto. During this meeting, a number of options were discussed relating to implementing a security plan designed to protect the lives and integrity of these persons and the witnesses in connection with the murder of Ramon Mauricio Giralt and the acts of intimidation suffered by Mauricio Garcia Prieto Hillerman, Gloria Giralt de Garcia Prieto and Carmen de Garcia Prieto.



Year	Country	Description
1996	Colombia	On February 20, 1996, the Commission requested the adoption of precautionary measures in behalf of Rafael Lozano Garsa, Gerson Edecio Leal Granados, Blanca Ines Rodriguez, Jose Merchan Basto, Alvaro Fernando Sanjuan Quintero, Jairo Ordonez, Rosa Elpidia Alzate Corredor, Juan Jose Landinez, Israel Vargas and Jairo Ordonez, members of the Political Prisoners Solidarity Committee (CSPP), Cucuta division. The facts behind the request start with a series of death threats from members of local paramilitary groups to these people that began in 1994. The groups promised that they would execute "the lawyers who worked for the guerrilla force." On January 29, 1998, the Commission communicated to the petitioners and to the government that it had decided to file such precautionary measures.
1996	Colombia	On February 20, 1996, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights submitted to the State of Colombia a request for precautionary measures on behalf of the Group of the Committee on Solidarity with Political Prisoners, Cúcuta Sector. The persons whose lives and personal integrity were gravely and imminently threatened were Rafael Lozano Garaba, Gerson Edecio Leal Granados, Blanca Inés Rodríguez, José Merchan Basto, Alvaro Fernando Sanjuan Quintero and Jairo Ordoñez. The measure indicated was also extended to the attorneys Juan José Landinez and Israel Vargas, who, in performing their activities as defenders of political prisoners, had been receiving threatening and intimidating calls.
1996	Colombia	On December 6, 1996, the Commission requested the State of Colombia to take urgent precautionary measures to protect the life and personal integrity of Mr. Antonio Suárez Niño, Penall Circuit Judge No. 22 of Bogota and President of the National Association of Judicial Employees and Officials. Mr. Suárez Niño had been the object of grave threats and harassment since 1993. On January 20, 1997, the State of Colombia responded to the Commission's request.
1996	Honduras	On April 2, 1996, the Commission requested the State of Honduras to take precautionary measures on behalf of Mr. Abencio Fernández, legal advisor to the Committee on Human Rights of Honduras, CODEH, who, along with members of his family, had been receiving constant death threats because of his work as an attorney in the human rights organization indicated. The State of Honduras has not responded as yet.
1996	Brazil	On May 20, 1996, the Commission requested the State of Brazil to take urgent precautionary measures to protect the life and personal integrity of the attorney Osmar Barcelos do Nascimento, who had been receiving grave death threats as a consequence of his work as an attorney in defending human rights in the state of Espiritu Santo. On July 21, 1996, the State of Brazil reported that the precautionary measures requested had been taken.
1995	Mexico	On January 29, 1995, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights contacted the State of Mexico and requested exceptional measures for the protection of Mr. David Fernández Dávalos, Director of the Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Human Rights Center, the attorney José Lavadero Yanez and Rocío Culebro Bahena, Technical Secretary of the National System of Human Rights Civil Organizations "Every Right For All", whose lives and personal integrity were gravely and imminently threatened. Subsequently, the Commission requested the Mexican Government to extend and broaden these measures to other persons. This situation is being reviewed under Case No. 11.682. The State of Mexico, on February 9, September 10 and October 15, 1996, has sent responses with regard to this case.
1994	Colombia	On September 28, 1994, the Commission requested the adoption of precautionary measures in behalf of Dr. Hernando Valencia Villa, the Delegated Attorney General for Human Rights of Colombia, who was accused by a member of Congress in September 1994 of supporting the guerrilla forces. Given the context of the domestic situation of Colombia, he was putting his life and personal integrity in danger. On January 29, 1998, the Commission communicated to the petitioners and to the government its decision to file the precautionary measures requested.

*Provisional measures granted by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights*

(all Court Orders of Provisional Measures are available at [www.corteidh.or.cr](http://www.corteidh.or.cr))

Year	Country	Description
2007	El Salvador	<p><b>Matter of Adrián Meléndez-Quijano et al. Regarding El Salvador</b></p> <p>On March 21, 2007, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights submitted to the Court a request for provisional measures with regard to the State of El Salvador, in order to protect the life and personal integrity of Major Adrián Meléndez Quijano and his next of kin, and also of his brother and lawyer, Eurípides Manuel Meléndez Quijano and his next of kin. On March 23, 2007, the President of the Court issued an order on urgent measures in which he decided, among other matters, to require the State to adopt, forthwith, all necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Adrián Meléndez Quijano, Marina Elizabeth García de Meléndez, Andrea Elizabeth Meléndez García, Estefani Mercedes Meléndez García, Pamela Michelle Meléndez García, Adriana María Meléndez García, Gloria Tránsito Quijano viuda de Meléndez, Sandra vette Meléndez Quijano, Eurípides Manuel Meléndez Quijano, Roxana Jacqueline Mejía Torres, and Manuel Alejandro Meléndez Mejía. On May 12, 2007, the Court issued an order on provisional measures in this matter, in which it decided, among other matters, to ratify the order of the President.</p>
2006	El Salvador	<p><b>Case of García Prieto et al. v. El Salvador</b></p> <p>On September 26, 2006, the Court issued an Order on provisional measures, in which it decided to require the State to adopt, forthwith, the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of Gloria Giralt de García Prieto, José Mauricio García Prieto Hirlemann, María de los Ángeles García Prieto de Charur, and their legal representatives (lawyers of IDHUCA - Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University) José Benjamín Cuéllar Martínez, Matilde Guadalupe Hernández de Espinoza and José Roberto Burgos Viale, including the provision of permanent protection of the homes of each of the beneficiaries, as well as the offices of the Human Rights Institute of the Universidad Centroamericana, and that the personnel who provide security have had specialized training and are supplied with adequate equipment; and to require the State to establish the origin of the telephone calls the beneficiaries have been receiving, so as to avoid a repetition of the threats and harassment that gave rise to the adoption of the provisional measures.</p>
2001	Mexico	<p><b>Provisional measures in the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center et al. case (United Mexican States)</b></p> <p>On October 25, 2001, the President of the Court, in consultation with the other judges, issued an order in which he called on the State to adopt urgent measures in this case, and convened the Inter American Commission and the United Mexican States to a public hearing at the seat of the Court in order to hear their opinions on the facts and circumstances that justified the adoption of urgent measures. The hearing was held on November 26, 2001. On November 30, 2001, the Court issued an order on provisional measures in which it decided to ratify all the provisions of the order of October 25, 2001, and call on the State to maintain all necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of the members of the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center and the lawyers, Pilar Noriega García, Bárbara Zamora López and Leonel Rivero Rodríguez; to extend forthwith any necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of Eusebio Ochoa López and Irene Alicia Plácido Evangelista, the parents of Digna Ochoa y Plácido, and her siblings, Carmen, Jesús, Luz María, Eusebio, Guadalupe, Ismael, Elía, Estela, Roberto, Juan Carlos, Ignacio and Agustín, all of them Ochoa y Plácido; and also to investigate the facts that motivated the adoption of these provisional measures in order to identify those responsible and punish them.</p>



Year	Country	Description
2000	Peru	<p><b>Provisional Measures in the Constitutional Court Case (Peru)</b></p> <p>On April 3, 2000, Delia Revoredo Marsano de Mur submitted a request for provisional measures to the Court, in the Constitutional Court case which was pending before it. These measures were requested for herself and for her husband, Jaime Mur Campoverde. The facts that justified the request began at the time that Mrs. Revoredo Marsano formed part of the Constitutional Court of Peru that heard the action for unconstitutionality filed against Law No. 26.657, or the Law on the Authentic Interpretation of Article 112 of the Constitution, which they declared to be irrelevant. At that time, the magistrates of this Court, including Mrs. Revoredo, suffered pressure such as offers, threats and harassment; and both Mrs. Revoredo and her husband suffered attacks on their property and their telephone lines were intercepted. When Mrs. Revoredo Marsano was dismissed, owing to the said declaration of irrelevance, she and her husband went into exile. On their return to Peru, there were further acts against them, such as the reopening of judicial proceedings that sought to deprive them of their freedom and their property and to prevent Mrs. Revoredo Marsano from being reinstated on the Constitutional Court. Owing to these facts, on April 7, 2000, the President of the Court issued an Order ordering the Peruvian State to adopt "without delay, all necessary measures to effectively ensure the physical, mental and moral integrity of Delia Revoredo Marsano de Mur". On August 14, 2000, the Court ratified the Order of its President.</p> <p>Those measures were lifted when the beneficiary was subsequently reinstated on the Court (Order of Mar 14, 2001, §3).</p>
1999	Mexico	<p><b>Provisional measures in the Digna Ochoa y Plácido <i>et al.</i> Case (Mexico)</b></p> <p>On 11 November 1999, the Inter-American Commission filed with the Court a request for provisional measures in the case Digna Ochoa y Plácido <i>et al.</i>, currently pending before the Commission. These measures were requested on behalf of Ms. Ochoa, Mr. Edgar Cortéz Morales, Mr. Mario Patrón Sánchez and Mr. Jorge Fernández Mendiburu, members of the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Center for Human Rights. The incidents on which the request is based began on 9 August 1999, when Ms. Ochoa, an attorney with this non-governmental organization, was abducted for several hours by unknown persons. She and other members of the organization subsequently received anonymous threats and, on 28 October 1999, she was again abducted for approximately nine hours. As a result, on 17 November, the Inter-American Court passed a resolution stating that the State of Mexico should adopt measures necessary to protect the life and personal safety of these individuals.</p>

Year	Country	Description
1996	Colombia	<p><b>Matter of Giraldo Cardona regarding Colombia</b></p> <p>On October 28, 1996, the Inter-American Court ordered Colombia to take provisional measures to protect human right workers of the Colombian human rights organization <i>Meta Civic Committee</i> whose president and attorney Giraldo Cardona was assassinated in spite of precautionary measures ordered in his favor by the Commission. «On November 22, 1995, the Inter-American Commission had requested precautionary measures from the Colombian government on behalf of the members of the Civic Committee, including Mr. Josué Giraldo Cardona. In January of 1996 the threats against the Committee intensified, motivating the President of the Civic Committee, Josué Giraldo Cardona, to temporarily abandon the country and the Board of Directors of the Civic Committee definitively close its headquarters. When Mr. Giraldo returned to the country, after participating in one of the sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1996, the threats against him continued and supposedly “a paramilitary group installed itself in Villavicencio with the sole purpose of killing Josué Giraldo [Cardona]”. This event was repeatedly denounced to the Attorney General of the Nation without results. Despite the request for precautionary measures by the Commission to the State, on October 13, 1996, Josué Giraldo Cardona was murdered by shots fired from an unknown person in front of his home in the city of Villavicencio, while he played with his daughters, Sara and Natalia (these two witnessed the murder of their father), and in the presence of the North American citizen, Michael López.» (Giraldo Cardona et al. V. Colombia, Provisional Measures, Order of October 28, 1996, Inter American Court of HR, §3)</p>
1994	Guatemala	<p><b>Matter of Colotenango regarding Guatemala</b></p> <p>On June 22, 1994, the Inter-American Court required the Government of Guatemala to adopt without delay all necessary measures to protect the right to life and the personal integrity of witnesses and their relatives in danger, as well as to protect PATRICIA ISPANEL-MEDIMILLA, an attorney with the Pastoral Social Office of the Diocese of Huehuetenango who has thoroughly documented the case and provides advice to the victims, has on at least three occasions been followed by a suspicious-looking vehicle. The Court further requested Guatemala to guarantee to Attorney Patricia Ispanel-Medimilla the right to exercise her profession without being subjected to undue pressures.</p>
1991	Guatemala	<p><b>Matter of Chunima regarding Guatemala</b></p> <p>On July 15, 1991, the Court ordered Guatemala to protect the life and physical integrity of witness human rights defenders in danger, as well as of two judges at risk because they were carrying out investigations on murders of human rights defenders and had issued warrants against the alleged perpetrators.</p>