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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

File Number(s): Cases 12.140 and 12.141

Title/Style of Cause: Wilberforce Bernard and Steve Mungroo v. Trinidad and Tobago

Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures

Dated: 1 May 1999

Citation: Bernard v. Trinidad and Tobago, Case 12.140, Inter-Am. C.H.R.,

OEA/Ser.L/V/II.106, doc. 6 rev., Ch. III, para. 58 (1999)

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58. On May 1, 1999, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of Wilberforce Bernard and Steve Mungroo, who are sentenced to death and whose cases, 12.140 and 12,141, are pending before the Commission. The Commission requested that the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago stay their executions until decisions could be reached on the merits of the cases, and based its request on the fact that, should the State execute the victims before the Commission had an opportunity to examine the cases, any eventual decision would be rendered moot in terms of the efficacy of potential remedies, such as a recommendation of commutation of sentence, and would cause the victims irreparable harm. The Commission did not receive a response to its request from the State. As reported in section D.1 infra, in response to the Commission's request, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ordered provisional measures in favor of Mr. Bernard and Mr. Mungroo in May of 1999.