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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Edgar Quiroga and Gildardo Fuentes v. Colombia
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Dated: 29 November 1999
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23. On November 29, 1999, the Commission granted precautionary measures and requested that the State of Colombia take the necessary actions to ascertain the whereabouts of Messrs. Edgar Quiroga and Gildardo Fuentes, spokesmen for the peasant migration from Magdalena Medio, and to protect their lives and physical integrity. According to the information received, on November 28, 1999, Messrs. Edgar Quiroga and Gildardo Fuentes had been arrested by units of Battalion 45 Héroes of Majagual at the place known as La Vereda La Placita, in the district of Cerro Azul, municipality of San Pablo. According to eyewitness accounts, the detained persons are alleged to have been tied to a tree and tortured, after which they were kept in detention by the self-defense units ("Autodefensas"), which publicly acknowledged their participation in the incident. The Commission also requested that measures be adopted to guarantee the security of the residents of La Vereda La Placita who had witnessed and denounced the acts of torture.