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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
Title/Style of Cause: Union Leaders v. Colombia  
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures  
Dated: 21 June 2000  
Citation: Union Leaders v. Colombia, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser./L/V/II.111, doc. 20 rev., Ch. III, para. 21 (2000)

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21. On June 21, 2000, the Commission granted precautionary measures and requested that the Colombian State take steps to protect the life and physical integrity of union leaders of the Municipal Utility Workers Union of Cali-SINTRAEMCALI, National Union of University Workers and Employees of Colombia, Cali Division, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores Subdirectiva Valle del Cauca, and the Union of the Department of Valle del Cauca. The available information indicates that these union leaders are in imminent danger due to the constant plotting and accusations of the civil and military authorities in the Department of Valle del Cauca, who claim the aforementioned persons are guerillas, terrorists, or sympathizers with insurgent groups. On July 6, 2000, the Commission decided to broaden these precautionary measures to include Mr. Roberth Cañarte Montealegre and Fredy Ocoró B., in light of the request it received on July 4, 2000. The available information indicates that Roberth Cañarte Montealegre was detained by a group of uniformed men with long weapons who said they were members of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC); there has been no news of his whereabouts since then. Regarding Mr. Fredy Ocoró B., prosecuting attorney with the Union of Municipal Workers of Bugalagrande, his name appears on a list of the paramilitary group operating in the center of the Department of Valle alongside another union leader who was recently executed. Following the State's reply, the parties continued to present information and observations on these precautionary measures.