

Institution:	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause:	Pedro Diaz Romero, Virgilio Hernandez Castellanos, Lucia Margarita Luna Prada, Gonzalo Alirio Garcia Gomez, Maritza Gonzalez Manrique, Fernando Nino Quintero, Ramiro Sanchez Pardo, Jaime Tapias Carlier and their families v. Colombia
Doc. Type:	Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated:	9 August 2001
Citation:	Diaz Romero v. Colombia, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser./L/V/II.114, doc. 5 rev., Ch. III, para. 20 (2001)
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20. 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.