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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Oscar Torres, Cristina Castro, Alfonso Pardo and German Arcos v. Colombia
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 9 November 2001
Citation: Torres v. Colombia, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser./L/V/II.114, doc. 5 rev., Ch. III, para. 24 (2001)

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24. On November 9, 2001, the Commission granted precautionary measures to protect the lives and persons of the journalists Oscar Torres (editor of the *Diario Sur* newspaper), Cristina Castro (a reporter for the RCN newscast), Alfonso Pardo (a reporter for the weekly *VOZ* and peace commissioner for Nariño department), and Germán Arcos (a cameraman with Caracol Televisión); according to information received by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, these persons had received serious threats from members of the Southern Liberators Bloc of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC). The AUC's communiqué urged the journalists to renounce their professions within 48 hours or they would be "executed." The Commission asked the Colombian government, as a matter of urgency, to take the steps necessary to guarantee the lives and persons of the aforesaid individuals; to launch an investigation; and to adopt the measures needed to put an end to the threats against these journalists.