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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Miriam Jeannette Peralta, Ulda Rebeca Arita Peralta, Clara Luz Leon Castaneda, Jose Leon Arreaza Lopez, Amelia de Arriaza, Gudelfa Cerna Castaneda, Edwin Pasos Cerna, Amilcar Cerna Castaneda, Alberto Cerna Leiva, Clara Castaneda Casasola, Luis Mendez, Carlos Humberto Padilla, Porfirio Sanchez Grijalva, Elio Hernandez Sanchez et al. v. Guatemala
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 13 February 2002
Citation: Jeannette Peralta v. Guatemala, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117, doc. 1 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 55 (2002)
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55. On February 13, 2002 the Commission wrote to the Guatemalan State, pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, to ask it to adopt precautionary measures to protect the life and person of Miriam Jeannette Peralta, Ulda Rebeca Arita Peralta, Clara Luz León Castañeda, José León Arreaza López, Amelia de Arriaza, Gudelfa Cerna Castañeda, Edwin Pasos Cerna, Amilcar Cerna Castañeda, Alberto Cerna Leiva, Clara Castañeda Casasola, Luis Méndez, Carlos Humberto Padilla, Porfirio Sánchez Grijalva, Elio Hernández Sánchez, and other residents of Chocón village in the municipality of Livingston, department of Izabal, Guatemala. The Commission based its request on information indicating that on January 29, 2002 the Chocón Community was occupied by a contingent of agents from the Department of Anti-Drug Operations of the Northern Port Division (DOAN), who burst into the settlement in tour buses, without plates; when they got out, they began to shoot at houses and the neighbors, without any justifiable motive. The State informed the Commission of the steps taken to comply with the precautionary measures. In a letter dated April 22, 2002, the State reported on the installation of a National Civil Police Substation that will operate continually in the settlement as long as the precautionary measures remain in effect. It also reported on the results of the investigation conducted by the Attorney General's Office and the Chiquimula High Criminal Court of the First Instance, which ordered the detention pending trial and indictment of 16 DOAN officials for the offenses of judicial execution and trespassing. After this reply from the State, the parties continued to submit information and observations in connection with these precautionary measures. The Commission views positively the measures taken by the Guatemalan State on behalf of residents of the Chocón village.