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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Session: Hundred and Fourteenth Regular Session (25 February – 15 March 2002)
Title/Style of Cause: Patrick Merisier and Benthony Philippe v. Haiti
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 14 March 2002
Citation: Merisier v. Haiti, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117, doc. 1 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 61 (2002)

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61. On March 14, 2002 the Commission adopted precautionary measures on behalf of Mr. Patrick Merisier and Mr. Benthony Philippe, members of the National Coalition for the Rights of Haitians. These measures were adopted for a six-month period and expired on September 15, 2002. According to information received by the Commission, Mr. Patrick Merisier suffered bullet wounds on February 22, 2002 and was pursued until he took refuge in a hospital. Mr. Benthony Philippe was allegedly subjected to persecution and intimidation by certain government agents. According to the same source, these acts of aggression and intimidation were perpetrated because Mr. Patrick Merisier and Mr. Benthony Philippe, acting in their capacity as members of the National Coalition for the Rights of Haitians, had denounced the deterioration in the overall human rights situation in Haiti; drawn the public's attention to the impunity enjoyed by those responsible for the events at La Saline on November 1 and 2, 2001 and to the problem of corruption; and criticized the "zero tolerance" policy and the delay in investigating the murder of Mr. Jean Dominique. On March 14, 2002 the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Mr. Patrick Merisier and Mr. Benthony Philippe and asked the State to take the necessary steps to protect the lives and physical integrity of Mr. Patrick Merisier and Mr. Benthony Philippe and to adopt all measures required to guarantee the exercise of their right to seek, receive, and impart information in accordance with Article 13 of the American Convention and with the second principle of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression. On September 5, 2002 the Commission asked the parties to comment within 2 weeks on the precautionary measures adopted in March 2002. After a hearing at the Commission's headquarters on October 15, 2002 the Commission was informed by the National Coalition for the Rights of Haitians that Mr. Patrick Merisier had left Haiti and that, therefore, precautionary measures were no longer necessary in his case. In a note dated September 18, 2002 and received by the Commission on December 23, 2002 the Haitian State acknowledged receipt of the Commission's communication dated September 5, 2002.