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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Christopher Simmons v. United States
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 19 April 2002
Citation: Simmons v. United States, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117, doc. 1 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 81 (2002)

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81. On April 19, 2002 the Commission authorized precautionary measures in favor of Christopher Simmons. According to the petition requesting the measures, Mr. Simmons was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death in the state of Missouri on June 16, 1994. The petition alleged that the United States was responsible for violations of Articles I and II of the American Declaration because Mr. Simmons was 17 years of age at the time of commission of his offense. The petition also stated that Mr. Simmons' execution was scheduled to take place on May 1, 2002. In its April 19, 2002 communication to the State, the Commission indicated that if Mr. Simmons was executed before the Commission had an opportunity to examine the allegations in his petition, any eventual decision would be rendered moot in respect of the availability of potential remedies and irreparable damage would be caused to Mr. Simmons. The Petitioners subsequently informed the Commission that the Missouri Supreme Court had postponed Mr. Simmons' execution.