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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
Title/Style of Cause: Toronto Markkey Patterson v. United States  
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures  
Dated: 10 June 2002  
Citation: Patterson v. United States, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117, doc. 1 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 83 (2002)

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83. On June 10, 2002 the Commission authorized precautionary measures in favor of Toronto Markkey Patterson. According to the petition requesting the measures, Mr. Patterson was convicted and sentenced to death in November 1995 for the June 1995 murder of three people. The petition also alleged that the United States was responsible for violations of the American Declaration because Mr. Patterson was 17 years of age at the time of the crime for which he was sentenced to death, and that Mr. Patterson's execution was scheduled to take place on August 28, 2002. In its June 10, 2002 communication to the United States, the Commission indicated that if Mr. Patterson 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. Patterson. Accordingly, the Commission requested that the State take precautionary measures to stay Mr. Patterson's execution pending the Commission's investigation of the allegations in his petition, and requested an urgent response to its communication. In a note dated June 12, 2002 the State informed the Commission that it had forwarded the Commission's request for precautionary measures to the Attorney General of Texas. The Commission subsequently received information that Mr. Patterson's execution remained scheduled for August 28, 2002. Consequently, the Commission reiterated its request for precautionary measures in a note to the State dated August 26, 2002. In a communication dated September 23, 2002 the State indicated that on August 28, 2002, it had forwarded the Commission's August 26, 2002 note to the Governor of Texas with a request that it be transferred to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. The Commission subsequently received information that Mr. Patterson's execution proceeded as scheduled on August 28, 2002.