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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Workers at the Hospital del Municipio de Puerto Lleras v. Colombia
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Dated: 19 July 2002
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35. On July 19, 2002 the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of 46 workers (physicians and auxiliary and administrative personnel) at the Hospital del Municipio de Puerto Lleras, department of Meta. According to the information received by the Commission, on June 26, 2002, Front 43 of the FARC-EP convened a meeting of health workers at the Hospital and ordered them to resign from the posts and leave the location. The petitioners alleged that some workers at the Hospital de Puerto Lleras had received direct threats. Mr. Leonidas Buitrago was detained by the Army and accused of assisting the insurgency. Mrs. Milagros Ipia Miranda and Mrs. Betzabeth López were threatened by paramilitary members and accused of helping the insurgency. On July 3, 2002, James Bonilla Jiménez, a worker at the Centro de Salud de Caño Rayado, which is part of the Hospital de Puerto Lleras, was threatened by paramilitary members for helping the insurgency. In its reply, the State reported that it entrusted the Commission of prosecutors assigned to work with the Criminal Judges of the Special Circuit Court in the city of Villavicencio with launching criminal investigations into the alleged threats made to the beneficiaries. Regarding protective measures, the State indicated that it had alerted the Seventh Army Brigade and that the beneficiaries have been working as usual since July 6, 2002.