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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
File Number(s): Case 12.338
Title/Style of Cause: Twelve Saramaka Clans v. Suriname
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 8 August 2002
Citation: Twelve Saramaka Clans v. Suriname, Case 12.338, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117, doc. 1 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 75 (2002)

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75. On August 8, 2002 the Commission issued precautionary measures to protect the twelve Saramaka clans which inhabit 58 villages located on the Upper Suriname River. The Petitioners claimed that the State of Suriname had granted numerous logging, road-building and mining concessions in the Saramaka territory, without consulting the clans and that this constituted an immediate, substantial and irreparable threat to the physical and cultural integrity of the Saramaka people. The Petitioners claimed that an estimated 30,000 Brazilian gold miners operated in the Saramaka territory and that as a consequence 20 to 30 tons of mercury had been released into the environment, contaminating the water sources and the fish. The Commission requested that the State take the appropriate measures to suspend all concessions, including permits and licenses for logging and mine exploration and other natural resource development activity on lands used and occupied by these clans, until the substantive claims raised in by the petitioner were examined in Case 12.338, still pending before the IACHR. The Commission also requested that the State take all appropriate measures to protect the physical integrity of the clan members.