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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Manoel Bezerra, Rosmary Souto and Luiz Da Silva v. Brazil
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 23 September 2002
Citation: Bezerra v. Brazil, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117, doc. 1 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 17 (2002)

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17. On September 23, 2002 the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Manoel Bezerra, Rosmary Souto, and Luiz Da Silva. The request indicated that along the border between the states of Paraíba and Pernambuco there was an “extermination group” that existed with the acquiescence of the police and state authorities, received financing from local merchants, and had allegedly killed over 100 persons (street children, alleged criminals, and homosexuals) in the last seven years. It alleged that Councilman Manuel Matos and Justice Advocate Rosmary Souto had received death threats for having denounced and investigated those deaths. It also indicated that Luiz Da Silva was a member of the extermination group and later withdrew from the group and made public statements on its activities; as a result, he was the victim of an attack in which he was shot five times. The precautionary measures requested by the IACHR were aimed at protecting the life and person of those threatened and at investigating the threats. The State did not provide any information on compliance with the measures. On October 30, 2002 the petitioners informed the Commission that some of the measures were being fulfilled.