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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Michele Montas v. Haiti
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 7 January 2003
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51. On January 7, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of journalist Michèle Montas, the director of Radio Haiti and widow of journalist Jean Dominique, who was assassinated in April 2003. The information available indicates that on December 25, 2002, two armed men showed up at the beneficiary's residence and shot one of her two security guards, Mr. Maxime Seide, as the guards tried to cut them off. The attack is allegedly related to her active work to clarify the facts in the assassination of her husband, just as the judge in charge of the investigation was to rule on concluding the preliminary investigation. In view of the risk to which the beneficiary is exposed, the IACHR asked the Haitian State to adopt the measures needed to protect the life and personal integrity of Ms. Michèle Montas. Subsequently, on December 19, 2003, the IACHR learned that the beneficiary had left the territorial jurisdiction of the Haitian State, and so proceeded to inform the parties that it had lifted the precautionary measures.