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Title/Style of Cause: Rafael Alfonso Martínez v. Venezuela
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65. On January 13, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Gen. Rafael Alfonso Martínez. The information available indicates that the beneficiary was arbitrarily deprived of liberty on December 30, 2002, by officials of the Dirección General Sectorial de los Servicios de Inteligencia y Prevención (DISIP: Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services), of the Ministry of Interior and Justice of Venezuela. It is alleged that the officers who carried out the detention of Gen. Alfonso Martínez did not show any judicial or other warrant, did not provide information on the reasons for the detention, nor did they indicate which authority had ordered the detention. In addition, it was indicated that on December 31, 2002, the judge of the 18th Court of First Instance sitting in review of the Criminal Judicial Circuit for the Metropolitan Area of Caracas ruled favorably on a petition for habeas corpus, ordering the immediate cessation of any measure involving deprivation of liberty; that judicial order was not carried out. In view of the failure to carry out that decision, the Commission asked the Venezuelan State to implement immediately the habeas corpus order on behalf of Gen. Alfonso Martínez, and to guarantee him, adopting the pertinent security measures, his personal security and that of his family, and the exercise of his civil and political rights. The Commission has continued receiving information from the parties on Gen. Alfonso's situation.