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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
Title/Style of Cause: Juan Luis Font v. Guatemala  
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures  
Dated: 24 July 2003  
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42. On July 24, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Juan Luis Font, director of the daily newspaper “El Periódico” and the newspaper’s technical and administrative staff. The information available indicates that beginning in February 2003, several investigative journalists from the newspaper received threats brought on by the exercise of their activity, and that, according to certain witnesses, its director has been in imminent danger. In addition, it is alleged that on July 11, 2003, two men entered the facilities of “El Periódico” inquiring after Mrs. María Luisa Marroquín, director of printing facilities, after which they attacked with firearms and wounded the security agent who had received them. On June 24, 2003, a dozen armed individuals who passed themselves off as agents from the National Civilian Police and the Public Ministry took control of the residence of José Rubén Zamora, journalist and president of “El Periódico,” and abused members of his family. As a result of these events and the threats received subsequently, Mr. Zamora had to leave the country. In view of the risk to which the beneficiaries are exposed, and the context of violence against journalists, the IACHR asked the Guatemalan State to adopt the measures needed to protect the lives and personal integrity of the beneficiaries.