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Title/Style of Cause: Elkyn Johalby Suarez Mejia v. Honduras
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Dated: 4 September 2003
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54. On September 4, 2003, the Commission granted precautionary measures on behalf of Elkyn Johalby Suárez Mejía, a member of the organization Comunidad Gay Sampedrana (Gay Community of San Pedro). The information available indicates that members of this gay community have been subject to constant harassment and violence, including approximately 14 murders from June to September 2003. In that context, he has received death threats aimed at dissuading him from giving testimony against two members of the police involved in the death of Erick David Yáñez, another member of the community, 19 years of age, on July 15, 2003 in San Pedro Sula. While he was assigned official protection at the request of the Office of the Attorney General, on August 23, 2003, the court of San Pedro Sula lifted the protective measures. In view of the risk to which the beneficiary is exposed, the IACHR asked the Honduran State to adopt the measures needed to protect the life and personal integrity of Elkyn Suárez and to include him in a witness protection program. On December 29, 2003, in view of additional information on the security situation of other members of the community, the IACHR expanded the precautionary measures to include Raúl Coto, Oscar Carrión, Ramón Valladares, and Oscar Orellana.