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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Orlando Blanco Lapola v. Guatemala
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Dated: 17 February 2004
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30. On February 17, 2004, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Orlando Blanco Lapola, director and spokesperson for the National Human Rights Coordinator of Guatemala. Available information indicates that Mr. Lapola has been the target of repeated death threats, an illegal search of the offices where he works, and intimidation on a public highway, because of his activity as a defender of human rights and the steps taken to promote the establishment of the Commission for the Investigation of Clandestine Security Corps and Devices (Comisión de Investigación de Cuerpos y Aparatos Clandestinos de Seguridad—SICIACS) in 2002 and 2003. In view of risk to the beneficiary, the Commission requested the Guatemalan State to adopt the necessary measures to protect the life and physical integrity of Mr. Blanco and to report on the actions undertaken to investigate the incidents and the threats made against him. The Commission continues to monitor the situation of the protected person.