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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
File Number(s): Petition 580-04
Title/Style of Cause: Robert Karl Hicks v. United States
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 28 June 2004
Citation: Hicks v. United States, Petition 580-04, Inter-Am. C.H.R.,
OEA/Ser.L/V/II.122, doc. 5 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 48 (2004)

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48. On June 28, 2004, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of Robert Karl Hicks in the context of petition P580-04, which alleged violations of Mr. Hicks' rights under Articles XVIII and XXVI of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. The petitioners claimed that Mr. Hicks was sentenced to death on January 17, 1986 in the state of Georgia and they challenged his conviction and sentence before the Commission on the basis that he had been detained on death row for 18 years since his conviction, that he was not provided with adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense, and that he was not given adequate legal representation at trial. The petitioners also indicated that Mr. Hicks' execution was scheduled to take place on June 30, 2004. In view of these circumstances, the Commission asked the United States to take the urgent measures necessary to preserve Mr. Hick's life pending the Commission's investigations into the allegations in his petition, on the basis that Mr. Hick's execution would render any eventual decision by the Commission ineffective and cause him irreparable harm. On June 30, 2004, the State informed the Commission that its request for precautionary measures had been forwarded to the Attorney General of Georgia. The Commission subsequently received information that on July 1, 2004, Mr. Hicks was executed.