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Institution:	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause:	Mariana Epinayu, Carmen Cuadrado Fince, Debora Barros and Karmen Ramirez v. Colombia
Doc. Type:	Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated:	23 September 2004
Citation:	Epinayu v. Colombia, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.122, doc. 5 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 22 (2004)
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22. On September 23, 2004, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Mariana Epinayú, Carmen Cuadrado Fincé, Débora Barros, and Karmen Ramírez, women leaders of the Wayúu indigenous people in the Department of La Guajira. Available information indicates that during the past three years, the Wayúu indigenous community has sustained acts of violence by paramilitary groups led by “Jorge 40,” with the collaboration or acquiescence of State agents. The petitioners claim that some of the so-called “leaders” (spokeswomen for Wayúu families with national and international entities) have been the target of threats against their life and personal safety as a result of their reports. Among them are Mariana Epinayú, Carmen Cuadrado Fince, Débora Barros Fince, and Karmen Ramírez Boscán, leaders and relatives of indigenous men who were murdered or missing as a result of a massacre perpetrated on April 18, 2004, who have been the target of threats and harassment. In view of the situation of the beneficiaries, the Commission requested the Colombian Government to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the life and physical integrity of Mariana Epinayú, Carmen Cuadrado Fincé, Débora Barros, and Karmen Ramírez; and to report on the actions adopted to put an end to the situation justifying the adoption of precautionary measures, including judicial proceedings that might be relevant. On November 16, 2004, the IACHR extended the precautionary measures to include Roland Fince Uriana, Ana Julia Fince Uriana, Telemina Barros Cuadrado, José Miguel Barros Fince, and Katty Fince Uriana. The Commission continues to monitor the situation of the protected persons.