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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
File Number(s): Case 12.360  
Title/Style of Cause: Santander Tristan Donoso v. Panama  
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures  
Dated: 15 September 2005  
Citation: Donoso v. Panama, Case 12.360, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.124, doc. 5, Ch. III, para. 33 (2005)

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33. On September 15, 2005, the Commission granted provisional measures in favor of Santander Tristán Donoso in the context of Case 12.360. The information available indicates that Panama's Attorney General had charged Mr. Tristán Donoso with slander and defamation after he publicly reported in July 1996 that the attorney general's office had tapped, recorded, and published his telephone calls. The first-instance trial ended with Mr. Donoso's acquittal but this decision was later overturned and Mr. Donoso was ordered to pay a fine, in default of which he would face imprisonment for 18 months. Consequently, Mr. Donoso's nonpayment led to an order for his arrest. In light of the situation, the Commission asked the Panamanian State to suspend execution of the sentence (the arrest) until the Inter-American Commission could conclude its examination of the case and adopt the corresponding report on merits, in accordance with the precedent set by the Inter-American Court in the La Nación case, in which an order was issued requiring that execution of a judicial sentence be suspended.