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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
File Number(s): Petition 981-05
Title/Style of Cause: Reshi Bissoon v. Trinidad and Tobago
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 19 September 2005
Citation: Bissoon v. Trinidad and Tobago, Petition 981-05, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.124, doc. 5, Ch. III, para. 39 (2005)

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39. On September 19, 2005, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of Mr. Reshi Bissoon in the context of petition P981-05, which alleged violations of Mr. Bissoon's rights under Articles I, II, XVIII, XXV and XXVI of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. The petitioners claimed that Mr. Bissoon was sentenced to death by the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago on October 29, 1999 and they challenged his punishment before the Commission based upon allegations that Mr. Bissoon was sentenced to death under a mandatory sentencing law, that his sentence had not been commuted to life imprisonment in accordance with the decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the cases of *Charles Matthew v. The State* and *Pratt v. Morgan*, that his legal proceedings did not comply with fair trial and due process protections, and that his conditions of detention contravened his right to humane treatment. The petition also stated that Mr. Bissoon had exhausted domestic remedies available to him through appeal proceedings, and that Trinidad and Tobago had taken steps to recommence executing persons on death row in the same position as Mr. Bissoon. In view of these circumstances, the Commission asked the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to take the urgent measures necessary to preserve Mr. Bissoon's life pending the Commission's investigations into the allegations in his petition, on the basis that Mr. Bissoon's execution would render any eventual decision by the Commission ineffective and cause him irreparable harm. The State did not respond to the Commission's request for precautionary measures.