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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Title/Style of Cause: Men Deprived of Freedom in POLINTER Police District v. Brazil

Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures

Dated: 11 November 2005

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doc. 5, Ch. III, para. 12 (2005)

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[1] On November 11, 2005, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of more than 1,000 men deprived of freedom in the cells located in the basement of POLINTER Police District, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The available information indicates that the beneficiaries were submitted to inhuman and degrading conditions of detention in those cells, which only had capacity for holding 250 people. Due to the situation of critical overcrowding and inhuman conditions of detention, the IACHR asked the State to immediately suspend further admission of detainees to POLINTER, and to transfer a substantial number of detainees in order to reduce overcrowding and protect the life and integrity of the beneficiaries, among other measures.

[2] In compliance with the precautionary measures, the State informed the Commission that the cells of POLINTER were completely deactivated on January 31, 2006, and all beneficiaries were transferred to state penitentiaries in order to improve their conditions of detention.