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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Marcos Perales Mendoza and family v. Colombia
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 1 August 2006
Citation: Perales Mendoza v. Colombia, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.127, doc. 4 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 18 (2006)

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18. On August 1, 2006, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of the journalist Marcos Perales Mendoza and his family, in the Republic of Colombia. The information states that the journalist and his family have been the targets of death threats since May, 2005. It is alleged that the threats, which were made by email, began following the publication of articles about allegedly corrupt acts in the office of the mayor of the city of Barrancabermeja, and the participation of members of paramilitary groups in the administration of that municipality. The articles were published in the Portada daily newspaper, which circulates in the Department of Santander and belongs to Mr. Marcos Perales Mendoza. Given the threats, Mr. Marcos Perales and his family were obliged to leave the city of Barrancabermeja, in spite of which the threats continued. The Commission requested that the Government of Colombia adopt the measures necessary to protect the life and physical integrity of the beneficiaries and report on the action it has taken to investigate legally the events which gave rise to the precautionary measures. The Commission is monitoring the beneficiaries' situation.