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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Title/Style of Cause: Marco Arana, Mirtha Vasquez et al. v. Peru
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 23 April 2007
Citation: Arana v. Peru, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.130, doc. 22 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 44 (2007)

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44. On April 23, 2007, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of priest Marco Arana and attorney Mirtha Vásquez and other members of the organization “Group of Integral Education for Sustainable Development” (GRUFIDES: Grupo de Formación Integral para el Desarrollo Sostenible), an institution devoted to defense of the environment, training, and legal assistance for peasant communities around the city of Cajamarca. The information available indicates that the beneficiaries have been subjected to intimidation and threats by individuals who support mining in the region, and that some persons were assassinated in confrontations between the sectors that support mining and those who protest mining activities. The Commission asked the Peruvian State to adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries, verify the effective implementation of the measures of protection by the competent authorities, provide perimeter surveillance for the headquarters of the NGO GRUFIDES, provide police accompaniment to the GRUFIDES personnel who must travel to the peasant communities, and report on the actions taken to investigate judicially the facts that gave rise to the precautionary measures. The Commission continues to monitor the beneficiaries’ situation.