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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
File Number(s): PM 240/09
Title/Style of Cause: Mauricio Meza Blanco v. Colombia
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated: 18 November 2009
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21. On November 18, 2009, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to protect the life and physical integrity of Mauricio Meza Blanco, in Colombia. The request for precautionary measures alleges that the human rights defender and environmentalist Mauricio Meza resumed his efforts in September 2009 after having moved away from his family and his job in order to reduce the level of risk he was facing. The request states that it is unknown what progress has been made in the investigations into the kidnapping attempt of March 2009 and the threats that were reported to the appropriate authorities, and that the protection system granted by the Ministry of the Interior continues to be temporary, since the evaluation of the risk level was given as "ordinary." The request adds that in a public environmental hearing held on October 23, 2009, security guards allegedly followed Mr. Meza and took photographs of him, and that an automobile assigned to the Judicial Investigation Section (SIJIN) had tailed him. It is also alleged that on October 25, 2009, an unknown individual shot at his house with a firearm and that on October 31, 2009, he had been subject to harassment, allegedly on the part of intelligence agents. The Inter-American Commission asked the Colombian State to adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the life and physical integrity of Mauricio Meza Blanco and to inform the IACHR about actions taken to investigate the facts that led to the adoption of precautionary measures.