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Institution:	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
File Number(s):	PM 118/09
Title/Style of Cause:	Eliseo Vargas, Tony Vargas, Oscar Vargas, Lupita Cargas, Marcial Gamarra, and Lucho Gamarra v. Panama
Doc. Type:	Decision on Precautionary Measures
Dated:	30 November 2009
Citation:	Vargas v. Panama, PM 118/09, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II., doc. 51, corr. 1, Ch. III, para. 44 (2009)
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44. On November 30, 2009, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to protect the life and physical integrity of Naso People leaders Eliseo Vargas, Tony Vargas, Oscar Vargas, Lupita Cargas, Marcial Gamarra, and Lucho Gamarra; to prevent the continuation of collective forced evictions and/or removal of dwellings; and to guarantee the free circulation and security of the Naso Indigenous People of the Bocas del Toro Region in Panama. The request for precautionary measures alleges that on March 30, 2009, police and employees of the Ganadera Bocas company arrived at the Naso community of San San Druy to execute an eviction order. According to the information received, the police agents proceeded to violently evict the families that occupied the land in conflict with the company, throwing tear gas bombs where there were children and destroying some 30 houses, the Naso cultural center, the school, the church, and other community facilities. The request indicates that the indigenous people who were evicted had installed themselves in encampments and that agents of the National Police had surrounded several Naso communities and used roadblocks to restrict the free movement of community members, which impeded the delivery of food and water to the people inside the camp. It adds that on April 15, 16, and 17, 2009, Ganadera Boca employees escorted by police agents allegedly fired gunshots into the air and knocked down six houses and the community's encampment. It was also reported that on October 2, 2009, approximately 40 heavily armed police arrested eight Naso indigenous people, including Eliseo Vargas and Lucho Gamarra, who were conducting a peaceful protest in front of the Cathedral Plaza. These individuals were reportedly freed on October 4. The information adds that on November 19, 2009, presumably without a court order, some 200 police agents arrived at the Naso communities of San San and San San Druy and threw tear gas bombs, and employees of the Ganadera Bocas company allegedly knocked down several houses with their equipment. The IACHR asked the State of Panama to take the measures necessary to prevent the continuation of collective forced evictions and/or removal of dwellings of the Naso indigenous people; provide emergency health care and housing to the members of these communities who were victims of eviction and of the destruction of homes, crops, and animals; adopt the measures necessary to preserve the life and physical integrity of the beneficiaries; guarantee the free movement and security of the members of the Naso Indigenous

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People so that they do not become targets of new acts of violence or intimidating measures; and investigate the facts that led to the adoption of these precautionary measures.