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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
Session: Hundred and Fourteenth Regular Session (25 February – 15 March 2002)  
Title/Style of Cause: Embera Chami Indigenous Persons v. Colombia  
Doc. Type: Decision on Precautionary Measures  
Dated: 15 March 2002  
Citation: Embera Chami v. Colombia, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117, doc. 1 rev. 1, Ch. III, para. 25 (2002)

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25. On March 15, 2002 the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of 40 Embera Chamí indigenous persons in the reservations and settlements of Cañamomo-Lomaprieta, San Lorenzo, Nuestra Señora Candelaria de la Montaña, Escopetera-Pirza, Totumal, La Trina, La Albania, Cerro Tacón, and La Soledad and members of the Regional Indigenous Council of Caldas (CRIDEC). Since June 2001, these communities—which State agents have publicly named as collaborators of the guerillas—had been the victims of threats, harassment, and violence by the AUC. Available information indicated that an armed group made an incursion into the community of Escopetera-Pirza causing material damage, intimidating those present, killing Leonardo Díaz Becerra (former town councilor for the reservation) and wounding Luis Eduardo Flórez (alternate treasurer of the indigenous town council). The petitioners indicated that despite efforts by a number of nongovernmental organizations, the authorities had not taken any steps to prevent paramilitary incursions in the area and did not provide support for going into the area for humanitarian purposes. The IACHR was subsequently informed of the assassination of indigenous leader María Fabiola Largo and an assassination attempt against former indigenous governor Miguel Antonio Largo Pescador, both of whom were beneficiaries of the precautionary measures granted on April 9, 2002 for the Cañamomo-Lomaprieta reservation. The State also reported on a mission conducted by the Administrative Security Department (DAS) to shed light on the attacks, but indicated that the testimony compiled “... did not provide information of interest to individually identify the perpetrators or provide evidence to the investigating authority.” It also said that the Ayacucho Battalion had conducted counter-insurgency raids in Riosucio and that the municipal police were providing security at Community meeting sites. The Commission has continued to receive information on the situation of the indigenous community and the threat of incursions.