
**INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
RESOLUTION 32/2024**

Precautionary Measure No. 140-24
Aldemar Solano Cuellar and his son regarding Colombia¹
May 16, 2024
Original: Spanish

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On February 2, 2024, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“the Inter-American Commission”, “the Commission” or “the IACHR”) received a request for precautionary measures filed by Víctor Mosquera Marín Abogados (“the applicants” or “the requesting party”), urging the Commission to require that the State of Colombia (“Colombia” or “the State”) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity in favor of Aldemar Solano Cuellar and his family unit. According to the request, the proposed beneficiaries are at risk as a result of threats and harassment from an illegal armed group targeting journalist Aldemar Solano Cuellar, solely because he exercises his freedom of expression.

2. Pursuant to Article 25(5) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested information from the applicants on February 20, 2024, and from both parties on March 27, 2024. The IACHR received a response from the applicants on February 29 and April 5, 2024. On April 11, 2024, the request for information was reiterated to the State, and it responded on April 24 and May 10, 2024.

3. Upon analyzing the submissions of fact and law furnished by the parties, the Commission considers that the information provided shows *prima facie* that the proposed beneficiaries are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life and personal integrity are at serious risk. Therefore, it requests that the State of Colombia: a) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of the beneficiaries; b) implement the necessary measures so that Aldemar Solano Cuellar can carry out his activities as a journalist without being subjected to threats, harassment, or other acts of violence in the exercise of his work; c) consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and d) report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent them from reoccurring.

II. SUMMARY OF FACTS AND ARGUMENTS

A. Information provided by the applicants

4. The proposed beneficiary is Aldemar Solano Cuellar, director of the digital newscast “Conexión” who resides in Villavicencio, located in the Meta Department [referring to a regional administrative division]. He has also described himself as an opposition leader. The proposed beneficiary allegedly resides with his son, Aldemar Felipe Solano Obando, his daughter G.S.A., and his grandchildren, T.G.S. and S.G.S. Due to his professional activities, he allegedly faces threats from reported members of the “Clan del Golfo,” a paramilitary group with a significant presence in the Meta Department.

5. On November 20, 2023, the proposed beneficiary received a call from someone who said he was “Gustavo Salazar,” an alleged member of the “Clan del Golfo”. During the conversation, “Salazar” proved he knew personal information regarding the proposed beneficiary’s residence and the names of his

¹In accordance with Article 17.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR, the Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, of Colombian nationality, did not participate in the debate and deliberation of this matter.

children. He claimed to have received orders to apprehend him and transport him to a rural location for a “political dialogue” with the local commander of the “Clan del Golfo”. The objective of the meeting was reportedly for the proposed beneficiary to align himself with this criminal organization in order to facilitate a campaign of a “social cleanse” within the Meta Department. The individual demanded that he supply war materials and informed him that upon compliance, he would receive a card designating him as a member.² The proposed beneficiary reportedly indicated that he did not want to get involved in the issue. Faced with his refusal, they allegedly insisted on negotiating the delivery of war supplies with the commander of the “Clan del Golfo”, “Christian Bustamante”, under threat of serious consequences if he refused.

6. In the attached audio of the conversation, “Salazar” and “Bustamante” responded as follows:

“Look, right now we are not receiving orders from you. We are the ones giving the orders here, so communicate with the commander or we will proceed with the necessary actions [...] Listen to me carefully, the peace of mind of your family, especially your daughter, is invaluable. We have never called you to a meeting, this is the first one [...] You won’t have any problems or misunderstandings with us, as long as you proceed with caution and remain calm. [...] Zero comments on this situation [...] because if this area is militarized, it will have a problem with us. You are free to cut off communication with me, run to file a complaint if you want, [...] but it is also clear, in advance, that we operate above or below the law, and if killing one or two of your relatives hurts you, I will kill them. So, how do we proceed? Will we resolve this amicably through political and peaceful dialogue, as I am suggesting, or will I have to take action against you and your family? [...] You are not going to belong to the group, you are going to collaborate with the social cleanse so that you can continue working in the area, if you do not collaborate you cannot continue working here, you have to pay for the activity and leave the Department, is that clear?”

7. According to the proposed beneficiary, shortly after getting off the call, two armed men showed up at his home. They reportedly told him that he had made a serious mistake and that he could lose his life, as could one of his children, as a result. They also indicated that the following day they would go to get him to meet with the commander. These events were reported to the Office of the Attorney General on November 21, 2023. According to the applicants, the members of the said Office who received the complaint, “told him that it was best for him to leave the country, since what the “Clan del Golfo” told him was a ‘death sentence.’” As a result, the proposed beneficiary and his family fled the Meta Department and temporarily moved to Bogotá. On December 4, 2023, the proposed beneficiary also denounced the facts in a public way on social networks and the story was reported on national and international media.

8. According to the applicants, the proposed beneficiary does not have any protection measures in his favor. Neighbors reported that suspicious individuals were observed near his residence. They reportedly returned to Villavicencio on January 25, 2024 due to their economic activities being centered in the city. On February 29, 2024, the applicants stated that the proposed beneficiary continues to receive threatening calls and that they had also begun to address his son, Aldemar Felipe Solano Obando. On February 16, 2024, the proposed beneficiary and his son reportedly received new threatening calls in

² According to the audio provided, the person identified as “Salazar” stated the following: [...] That’s why I’m telling you. Right now, I’m organizing with the guys so that they get here, go through it, and talk here at the farm. [...] Very cautious, very calm. Zero comments in the area. So that the area isn’t militarized because of your comments. [...] At this time, we’re calling you so that you aren’t blindsided by what we’re going to do in the Meta department, a social cleanse [...]. We have been calling for a political and peaceful dialogue [...]. You will be integrated into the brotherhood and granted unrestricted mobility throughout the country without any hindrance. Additionally, you will be provided with two direct communication channels to the leadership of Urabá – Antioquia, should you encounter any issues. This is a direct order from our commander Giovanni de Jesús Ávila alias “Chiquito malo”. We aren’t asking for any money, we aren’t here to oppress civil society [...] Whether you tell me that they are going to give us 100 or 200 million, that money does not interest us right now. What we’re interested in right now is a supply of weapons and provisions that we’re asking from you. The war material being requested consists of 40 hand grenades, 10 rifle cases, 156 rifle ammunition, and 7 high-frequency Thompson diamond-tip 8000 communication radios. This equipment is intended to enable the complete blockade of the Meta Department.

which they were warned that having decided to denounce would not exempt them from their responsibility and that they could order their deaths at any time. On February 26, 2024, the proposed beneficiary extended the complaint filed with the Office of the Attorney General and reported the new death threats received from the “Clan del Golfo”.

9. On April 5, 2024, the applicants warned that the proposed beneficiary and his son have continued to receive calls “in which they state that they are going to be murdered, expressing things such as that ‘they have not forgotten them’ and that very soon ‘they are going reap the consequences of their actions’ (implying that they are going to be murdered).” The new threats, directed at both him and his son, were reportedly communicated to the Office of the Attorney General on April 1, 2024. The situation has allegedly resulted in the proposed beneficiary being confined to his home and unable to leave, thereby affecting his ability to carry out his work. According to the applicants, despite the multiple written documents sent to the Prosecutor’s Office, there is allegedly no progress in the complaints filed by the proposed beneficiary.

10. Regarding the request for protection measures filed before the National Protection Unit (UNP) on February 5, 2024, it was indicated that they were again requested information that they had already submitted. On February 29, 2024, Solano returned the form with the requested annexes and the UNP responded that a risk assessment should be carried out by the Technical Risk Analysis Corps (*Cuerpo Técnico de Análisis de Riesgo*, CTAR). The interview for the study was conducted and he was informed that the results would take 90 days. Despite the UNP request to the Metropolitan Police Command of Villavicencio on March 4 to implement preventive measures, only a brief visit was conducted on April 3, and no concrete measures were adopted.

11. According to the applicants, the proposed beneficiary was appointed coordinator of the “Great National March” in Villavicencio, scheduled for April 21, 2024. Given his role in organizing the march, Solano would participate publicly and thereby expose himself to dangers. Additionally, it was noted that the overall environment for journalists in the region is complex.

B. Response from the State

12. On April 24, 2024, the State reported the actions that were allegedly adopted by the Ministry of the Interior, including the National Development Plan 2022-2026 “Colombia, World Power of Life,” assigned the Ministry of the Interior the responsibility of formulating, executing, and evaluating the public policy of Human Rights to achieve Total Peace, with a comprehensive and differential approach. As part of this strategy, there are efforts allegedly aimed at updating public policy regarding prevention, security, and protection; enhancing and modernizing the UNP; and improving coordination between the State and communities to ensure the safety of human rights defenders and vulnerable populations. The National Security Guarantees Process (*Proceso Nacional de Garantías*) has reportedly been reactivated to strengthen human rights defense policies. The Ministry of the Interior also reportedly developed a strategy to rationalize the prevention policy, agree upon guarantees, and evaluate the Peace and Human Rights Board, based on guidelines that reflect the State’s international obligations and focus on ethnic, gender, territorial, and intersectional approaches.

13. According to the State, in 2023, the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of Colombia held regional meetings to build the Public Policy on Guarantees for the Defense of Human Rights.³ This process allegedly facilitated gathering information to enhance the diagnosis of the problem,

³ These meetings had three stages: a plenary session to introduce the process of building public policy and the guidelines of the Human Rights platforms; five working groups focused on issues such as respect, prevention, protection, fight against impunity, and non-repetition; and a session to present the results of the deliberations to obtain feedback.

identifying needs, and proposing solutions to address issues such as the effectiveness of prevention measures, the role of local authorities, and the coordination between national and local authorities.

14. In relation to actions to protect journalists and defend their freedom of expression, the Ministry of the Interior has taken the following measures: i. Meetings have been held with the Colombian Federation of Journalists (*Federación Colombiana de Periodistas*, FECOLPER) and the Foundation for Press Freedom (*Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa*, FLIP) to review the status of the construction of Public Policy under the current government; ii. Along with FECOLPER and FLIP, the sectors that must participate in the construction of the Public Policy were identified to ensure broad representation; iii. In a circular letter dispatched in March to municipal and gubernatorial offices, an item was included emphasizing the obligation to ensure resources for addressing cases of attacks against journalists. The communication also recommends incorporating a gender approach into the routes, protocols, and strategies to take into account the specific risks and acts of aggression towards women in journalism; iv. The Ministry of the Interior is currently in the process of recruiting an individual who will oversee the formulation of the Public Policy concerning the protection of journalists.

15. The Human Rights Commissioner for the National Police detailed the actions taken by the Bogotá Metropolitan Police and the Villavicencio Metropolitan Police. In the case of the Metropolitan Police of Bogotá, upon receiving the request for preventive measures, the files sent by the Human Rights Group were reviewed. Reportedly no documentary records related to damages or requests regarding Aldemar Felipe Solano Obando were found.

16. Regarding the Villavicencio Metropolitan Police, the Human Rights Group reported that, on October 11, 2022, preventive measures were requested in favor of Aldemar Solano Cuellar for a term of six months. The same measures were again requested on March 11, 2024 for a period of four months. Furthermore, on May 4, 2022, the Special Services Branch held a meeting with the proposed beneficiary to deliver self-protection guidance and security measures. Following this, they requested the UNP to assess the level of risk. The Special Services Department also ordered the implementation of preventive measures on December 6, 2022, also for a term of four months.

17. In addition, the *Fundadores* Police Station stated that it officially served the legal notifications issued in favor of the proposed beneficiary on December 13, 2022. On February 13, 2023, a mayor and a patrolman from the Special Services Section met with Solano Cuellar to “offer him a briefing on self-protection and security measures.” On April 4, 2024, through an official communication, the Station Commander outlined the activities conducted by that police unit “with the aim of safeguarding life and integrity.” Regarding the self-protection measures implemented by the National Police, the State specified that Executive Order No. 1066 of 2015 establishes various preventive measures situations that present risk, such as the self-protection course, patrols, and police rounds. These measures reportedly are designed to reduce vulnerabilities and improve the ability to manage risk. These actions are not intended as material protection measures, but rather as preventive and dissuasive measures.

18. The State reported that the Secretariat of Government and Security of the Meta Department was not previously aware of the alleged risk that the proposed beneficiary has been facing. According to the State, upon learning of the case, a protection protocol was activated. The relevant entities responsible for implementing security measures were reportedly notified and they allegedly swiftly provided protection and conducted an investigation pertinent to their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the Secretariat of Government and Post-Conflict of the Mayor’s Office of Villavicencio reported that Mr. Aldemar Sola Cuellar was at his offices on April 25, 2024. Currently, his request for protection measures is allegedly being evaluated by the UNP. In response to Mr. Solano Obando’s communication, they reportedly called on the Metropolitan Police and Villavicencio (MEVIL) to implement preventive measures. Moreover, the Mayor’s Office of Villavicencio stated that it had “information that indicates that the level of risk is imminent,

in accordance with the facts that Mr. Aldemar Solano reported. Therefore, I reiterate the urgency to take appropriate measures to safeguard his safety and well-being.”

IV. ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS OF SERIOUSNESS, URGENCY, AND IRREPARABLE HARM

19. The precautionary measures mechanism is part of the Commission’s function of overseeing compliance with the human rights obligations set forth in Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States. These general oversight functions are provided for in Article 41 (b) of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as in Article 18 (b) of the IACHR Statute; while the mechanism of precautionary measures is set forth in Article 25 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. In accordance with that Article, the Commission grants precautionary measures in serious and urgent situations in which these measures are necessary to avoid an irreparable harm to persons.

20. The Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (“the Inter-American Court” or “I/A Court H.R.”) have repeatedly stated that precautionary and provisional measures have a dual nature, both protective and precautionary.⁴ Regarding the protective nature, these measures seek to avoid irreparable harm and protect the exercise of human rights.⁵ To do this, the IACHR shall assess the problem raised, the effectiveness of state actions to address the situation described, and how vulnerable the persons proposed as beneficiaries would be left in case the measures are not adopted.⁶ Regarding their precautionary nature, these measures have the purpose of preserving legal situations while under consideration by the IACHR. They aim to safeguard the rights at risk until the petition pending before the inter-American system is resolved. Their object and purpose are to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of an eventual decision on the merits and, thus, avoid any further infringement of the rights at issue, a situation that may adversely affect the useful effect (*effet utile*) of the final decision. In this regard, precautionary or provisional measures enable the State concerned to comply with the final decision and, if necessary, to guarantee the ordered reparations.⁷ In the process of reaching a decision, and according to Article 25(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission considers that:

- a) “serious situation” refers to a grave impact that an action or omission can have on a protected right or on the eventual effect of a pending decision in a case or petition before the organs of the inter-American system;
- b) “urgent situation” refers to risk or threat that is imminent and can materialize, thus requiring immediate preventive or protective action; and

⁴ Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.), Case of the Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center (Yare Prison), Request for Provisional Measures submitted by the IACHR regarding the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Order of March 30, 2006, considerandum 5; Case of Carpio Nicolle et al. v. Guatemala, Provisional Measures, Order of July 6, 2009, considerandum 16.

⁵ I/A Court H.R., Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 8; Matter of Bámaca Velásquez, Provisional Measures regarding Guatemala, Order of January 27, 2009, considerandum 45; Matter of Fernández Ortega et al., Provisional Measures regarding Mexico, Order of April 30, 2009, considerandum 5; Matter of Milagro Sala, Provisional Measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5.

⁶ Matter of Milagro Sala, Provisional Measures regarding Argentina, Resolution of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5; Matter of Internado Judicial Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Resolution of February 8, 2008, recital 9; Matter of Instituto Penal Plácido de Sá Carvalho, Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Resolution of February 13, 2017, considerandum 6.

⁷ I/A Court H.R., Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 7; Matter of “El Nacional” and “Así es la Noticia” newspapers, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of November 25, 2008, considerandum 23; Matter of Luis Uzcátegui, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of January 27, 2009, considerandum 19.

- c) “irreparable harm” refers to injury to rights which, due to their nature, would not be susceptible to reparation, restoration or adequate compensation.

21. In analyzing those requirements, the Commission reiterates that the facts supporting a request for precautionary measures need not be proven beyond doubt. The information provided should be assessed from a *prima facie* standard of review to determine whether a serious and urgent situation exists.⁸ Similarly, the Commission recalls that, by its own mandate, it is not called upon to determine any individual liabilities for the facts alleged. Moreover, in this proceeding, it is not appropriate to rule on violations of rights enshrined in the American Convention or other applicable instruments.⁹ This is better suited to be addressed by the Petition and Case system. The following study relates to the requirements exclusively set forth in Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, which can be resolved without determining the merits.¹⁰

22. In accordance with the terms of Article 25 (6) of the Rules of Procedure, and considering that in this matter the proposed beneficiary is a journalist in the municipality of Villavicencio, Meta Department, the Commission will proceed to analyze the elements provided by the parties in light of the context in which they are inserted.

23. In its 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports, the Commission and its Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression noted that journalism continued to be a profession of risk in Colombia.¹¹ In February¹² and April¹³ 2024, the Special Rapporteurship condemned the murder of four Colombian journalists, one of which took place in the Meta Department. The Special Rapporteurship observed that “the murder, kidnapping, intimidation of and/or threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of communications media violate the fundamental rights of individuals and strongly restrict freedom of expression”.¹⁴ It further emphasized that States are obligated to implement measures to safeguard the lives and integrity of journalists facing specific risks, measures that should be tailored according to the prevailing circumstances within the country.¹⁵

24. When analyzing the requirement of *seriousness*, the Commission considers that it has been met. In reaching this determination, the Commission observes regarding the proposed beneficiary:

⁸ I/A Court H.R., Matter of Members of the Miskitu Indigenous Peoples of the North Caribbean Coast regarding Nicaragua. Extension of Provisional Measures. Order of August 23, 2018, considerandum 13; Matter of the children and adolescents deprived of their liberty in the “Complexo do Tatuapé” of the Fundação CASA. Request for extension of provisional measures, Provisional Measures regarding Brazil. Order of July 4, 2006, considerandum 23.

⁹ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Resolution 2/2015, Precautionary Measures No. 455-13, Matter of Nestora Salgado regarding Mexico, January 28, 2015, para. 14; Resolution 37/2021, Precautionary Measures No. 96/21, Gustavo Adolfo Mendoza Beteta and family regarding Nicaragua, April 30, 2021, para. 33.

¹⁰ In this regard, the I/A Court H.R. has indicated that “[it] cannot, in a provisional measure, consider the merits of any arguments pertaining to issues other than those which relate strictly to the extreme gravity and urgency and the necessity to avoid irreparable damage to persons.” See: I/A Court H.R., Matter of James et al. regarding Trinidad and Tobago, Provisional Measures, Order of August 29, 1998, considerandum 6; Case of Barrios Family v. Venezuela, Provisional Measures, Order of April 22, 2021, considerandum 2.

¹¹ IACHR, Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 2020, Vol. II, [Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 64 rev. 1, May 26, 2022, Paras. 222 y 223; IACHR, Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 2022, Vol. II, [Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 50, March 6, 2023, para. 359.

¹² IACHR, Press Release N. R026, [The Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of journalist Mardonio Mejía Mendoza in Colombia and calls on the State to investigate the facts](#), February 1, 2024;

¹³ IACHR, Press Release N. R082, [La RELE Condemns the Murder of Journalists Jaime Vásquez, Julio Zapata, and Hilton Eduardo Barrios, and Calls on the State to Investigate the Facts and Ensure the Protection of Journalists](#), April 30, 2024.

¹⁴ IACHR, Press Release N. R026, [The Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns the murder of journalist Mardonio Mejía Mendoza in Colombia and calls on the State to investigate the facts](#), February 1, 2024.

¹⁵ IACHR, Press Release N. R082, [La RELE Condemns the Murder of Journalists Jaime Vásquez, Julio Zapata, and Hilton Eduardo Barrios, and Calls on the State to Investigate the Facts and Ensure the Protection of Journalists](#), April 30, 2024.

- He has been receiving death threats and extortive messages from an armed or paramilitary group in Colombia, identified as “Clan del Golfo”. This group reportedly has strong presence in the Meta Department, where the proposed beneficiary carries out his journalistic work.
- The armed group allegedly indicated that it possesses personal information of the proposed beneficiary, such as his place of residence and names of relatives.
- The armed group reportedly summoned the proposed beneficiary, through extortion messages, with the aim of having him provide war supplies. The members of the armed group warned him that, if he failed to comply with their demands, he would allegedly not be able to continue his activities or leave residence.
- The proposed beneficiary reportedly had to relocate from Villavicencio after two armed men visited him at his home because he refused to acquiesce to the demands of the armed group.
- In January 2024, the proposed beneficiary returned to his home in Villavicencio and reported that suspicious people were loitering around his property while he was away.
- After returning to Villavicencio, the proposed beneficiary allegedly had to stay in his house due to security concerns, which consequently hindered his ability to carry out his work.
- The messages reportedly sent by the armed group allegedly persisted on later dates, such as February 16 and 29, 2024. The message suggested that the group could issue a death order for the proposed beneficiary and his son at any moment. Additionally, on April 5, 2024, they reportedly received another death threat.

25. The Commission understands that the death threats against the proposed beneficiary have not ceased, and are ongoing to this day. Despite the fact that the proposed beneficiary relocated due to safety concerns, he had to return to the city of Villavicencio to continue his journalistic work. The foregoing is concerning to the extent that the armed group which is allegedly responsible for the threats was already present at his home, and that the proposed beneficiary has received a direct death threat. It is also of particular concern that, according to the applicants, after receiving the complaint against the armed group in November 2023, the Office of the Attorney General has replied that it would be best for the proposed beneficiary to relocate. In this regard, the Commission understands that the said Office did not activate any concrete measure or action for the protection of the proposed beneficiary. This situation has been reportedly maintained despite the various complaints he has filed.

26. The Commission takes note of the information provided by the State. The Commission observes that the State reported the general measures that it is implementing in terms of human rights and for the protection of journalists. Regarding the proposed beneficiary’s specific case, the State reported that the Metropolitan Police of Villavicencio and by the *Fundadores* Police Station adopted preventive measures in his favor in 2022 and 2023. In March 2024, preventive measures were again required in favor of the proposed beneficiary. In light of the foregoing, the Commission notes that the applicants stated that the Villavicencio Metropolitan Police only visited once April 3, 2024.

27. Regarding safety measures, the Commission appreciates the preventive measures implemented in favor of the proposed beneficiary, and further understands that they are not material protection measures, as agreed upon by the State. In this regard, it is noted that, to date, the UNP has not carried out the ordered risk assessment. As alleged, this study could be completed in approximately 90 days after they interview the proposed beneficiary. Throughout this period, the Commission lacks sufficient information to assess what protective measures are reportedly in place for the proposed beneficiary in the

event of another visit by armed individuals to his home and the potential realization of the death threats made by the armed group. In the same vein, the Mayor's Office of Villavicencio stated that it had information that indicates that the proposed beneficiary's level of risk is imminent and reiterated the urgency to take appropriate measures to safeguard his safety and well-being. The aforementioned is concerning, particularly since the proposed beneficiary wishes to continue his work and has garnered visibility by participating in a protest in the city of Villavicencio.

28. With regard to investigations, the Commission observes that the proposed beneficiary's situation has been brought to the attention of various state entities over time. However, the State has not submitted elements on the current status of any ongoing investigations. The Commission therefore does not have information on the possible identification of those responsible for the threats and the times the proposed beneficiary was followed, which is crucial to assess his safety. The aforementioned is a relevant aspect when establishing the risk that the proposed beneficiary allegedly faces and the possibilities of their recurrence.

29. In short, taking into account the elements analyzed in light of the aforementioned context, assessed as a whole, the Commission considers that the requirement of seriousness is met and, *prima facie*, the rights to life and personal integrity of the proposed beneficiary are at serious risk.

30. Regarding the requirement of *urgency*, the Commission observes that it has been met given the ongoing death threats and the fact that the proposed beneficiary has been followed, both of which were attributed to an armed group, have been ongoing. Therefore, given the imminent materialization of the risk, considering that the armed group already knows where the proposed beneficiary lives and has even gone to his residence to threaten him, in addition to the absence of protection measures effectively implemented, it is necessary to immediately adopt measures to safeguard his rights to life, personal integrity, and guarantees for the exercise of his freedom of expression.

31. As it pertains to the requirement of *irreparable harm*, the Commission finds it met, since the possible impact on the rights to life and personal integrity constitutes the maximum situation of irreparability. The Commission emphasizes its concern regarding the described risk, which appears to be aimed at intimidating and silencing the proposed beneficiary to impede the exercise of his journalistic work and directly infringe upon his freedom of expression. This situation, in turn, reportedly instills fear among other journalists in the area.

32. Lastly, with regard to the other members of his family unit, the Commission does not have sufficient information to support a serious and urgent situation of receiving irreparable harm. Notwithstanding, the Commission recalls that the State maintains all of its international obligations set forth in Article 1.1. of the Convention and other applicable instruments, including protecting from possible situations of imminent risk, as appropriate.

V. BENEFICIARIES

33. The Commission declares that the beneficiaries of this precautionary measure are Aldemar Solano Cuellar and his son, Aldemar Felipe Solano Obando, who are duly identified in this proceeding.

VI. DECISION

34. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights considers that the matter at hand meets *prima facie* the requirements of seriousness, urgency, and irreparable harm set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure. Consequently, the Commission requests that Colombia:

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- a) adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries;
 - b) implement the necessary measures so that Aldemar Solano Cuellar can carry out his activities as a journalist without being subjected to threats, harassment, or other acts of violence in the exercise of his work;
 - c) consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and
 - d) report on the actions taken in order to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent them from reoccurring.

35. The Commission requests that the State of Colombia detail, within a period of 15 days from the date of this resolution, on the adoption of the precautionary measures requested and to update such information periodically.

36. The Commission emphasizes that, in accordance with Article 25.8 of its Rules of Procedure, the granting of this precautionary measure and its adoption by the State do not constitute prejudgment of any violation of the rights protected in the applicable instruments.

37. The Commission instructs its Executive Secretariat to notify the State of Colombia and the applicants of this Resolution.

38. Approved on May 16, 2024, by Roberta Clarke, President; José Luis Caballero Ochoa, Second Vice-President; Arif Bulkan; Andrea Pochak; and Gloria Monique de Mees, members of the IACHR.

Tania Reneaum Panszi
Executive Secretary