On February 20, 1996, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights submitted to the State of Colombia a request for precautionary measures on behalf of the Group of the Committee on Solidarity with Political Prisoners, Cúcuta Sector. The persons whose lives and personal integrity were gravely and imminently threatened were Rafael Lozano Garaba, Gerson Edecio Leal Granados, Blanca Inés Rodríguez, José Merchan Basto, Alvaro Fernando Sanjuan Quintero and Jairo Ordoñez. The measure indicated was also extended to the attorneys Juan José Landinez and Israel Vargas, who, in performing their activities as defenders of political prisoners, had been receiving threatening and intimidating calls.