

Dr. Santiago Cantón
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA
Fax: (202) 458-3992
E mail: cidhoea@oas.org.

URGENT

**REFERENCE: Precautionary Measures
request.**
**BENEFICIARY: LILIANY PATRICIA
OBANDO VILLOTA.**
**PETITIONER: EDUARDO MATYAS
CAMARGO.**

Dear Dr. Cantón:

The undersigned organizations and individuals have been carrying out work related to the defense of human rights in the United States for years and have been involved in developing solidarity and defense of human rights programs in the member countries of the Organization of American States, and in the states that have ratified both the American Convention on Human Rights, and the OAS's Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.

Whereas, we are persons and organizations in the United States who advocate for human rights and are aware of the history and record of Lilianny Patricia Obando Villota for human rights in Colombia, and whereas some of us have personally met Lilianny Patricia Obando Villota, have witnessed her tireless work for the rights of the poorest, have jointly developed various initiatives to promote and defend human rights in Colombia and that the "amicus curiae" permits the intervention of persons or nongovernmental organizations in causes where the public interest may be compromised or which carry a social significance that exceeds the particularities of the case, we allow ourselves to ENDORSE broadly, in solidarity, and without any restriction both, the petition concerning the REQUEST FOR PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES*, as well as the CONTEXTUALIZATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE FACTS that Dr. Eduardo Matyas Camargo conveyed to your office as defense counsel and on behalf of his client, **LILIANY PATRICIA OBANDO VILLOTA.**

This instrument is a voluntary expression of a qualified opinion in order to contribute to the resolution of the request for precautionary measures in favor of human rights defender Lilianny Patricia Obando Villota; In this sense, the "amicus curiae" is based on the need to seek a wider and more democratic deliberation of the matter being heard, driven by defender Eduardo Matyas Camargo before the Honorable Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In summary, this present document assumes a significant

relevance because the matter concerns fundamental rights infringed on and threatened by the actions of the State.

With this document, we ask that the commission instruct the Colombian state to respect due process and provide judicial guarantees, given the understanding that, although this mechanism does not rule over the issue, it could indeed assist the tribunal by providing an informed opinion or relevant information about any legal issue that could escape the consideration of said tribunal, and therefore collaborate so the case of LILIANY PATRICIA OBANDO VILLOTA will be decided on wisely and following due process.

This instrument is presented because of concern of the undersigned with regard to inadequate considerations and the misapplication of statutes, procedures, rules and laws related to what in Colombia is commonly called “persecución del terrorismo”, (persecution of terrorism) by state agencies such as the Attorney General's Office, Judges, the National Government and Security Forces.

Experience shows, as will be shown for the particular case, that such "persecution" exceeds the limits and responsibilities acquired by the State of the Republic of Colombia in the international arena, exceeds the standards established in human rights international law, international humanitarian law, and its very own domestic legal code, generating public commotion, fear in sectors of the political opposition, trade unionists and human rights defenders, seriously affecting the social dimension taken by the promotion and defense of human rights, and the accompanying of and solidarity with the Colombian people carried out on a daily basis by our organizations.

Thanking you in advance for your attention, we subscribe respectfully,