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Argentina: Hospital Employees Demand Salary Increases, Formulate Action Plan Containing Series Of Strikes

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On Oct. 16, hospital workers and professionals throughout Argentina realized a 24-hour work stoppage as part of an action plan to obtain salary increases. Another 24-hour strike was planned for Oct. 21. Included in the plan are "surprise mini-walkouts" of a few hours, and strikes from 48 to 72 hours in coming weeks, such as strikes programmed for Oct. 27 and 29. The action plan was developed by the Civil [Service] Personnel Union (Union Personal Civil-UPCN), the State Workers Association (Associacion de Trabajadores del Estado-ATE), and professional associations pertaining to the Buenos Aires Medical Federation (Federacion Medica de la Capital-FEMECA). According to reports by the three union organizations delivered to official news agency NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, the 24-hour Oct. 16 strike was "total." Spokespersons for the Health Ministry, however, said adherence to the work stoppage was variable. Thus, emergency services, regular feeding and minimum care for patients were not discontinued.

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