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Argentina: Prison Inmates Stage Protests

by Erika Harding

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On Sept. 18, about 900 inmates at various prisons around the country initiated a hunger strike to demand equal treatment before the law and amnesty for inmates suffering from the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The strike involved inmates held at the Mercedes facility in Buenos Aires, the Women's Prison in Ezeiza, the Rawson Prison, and AIDS victims at the Muniz Hospital facility. The protesters were angered by the case of nationally- famous soccer trainer Hector Veira, who was sentenced to six years in prison for rape but then released following a Supreme Court decision which reduced the charges against him. Veira's release had previously provoked riots and other incidents at the Villa Devoto and Caseros prison facilities in Buenos Aires.
(Source: Spanish news service EFE, 09/19/92)

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