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El Salvador: Troops Use Violence To Prevent Peasants From Delivering Food To Striking Electrical Workers

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On July 13, Salvadoran troops used clubs and tear gas to disperse peasants attempting to deliver food to striking electrical workers in San Salvador. Marco Tulio Lima, president of the independent Confederation of Cooperative Associations, a farmers' group, said two people were beaten by soldiers and two were detained. In a statement, the military said the electrical workers and peasants had provoked a confrontation by attacking military vehicles, and that one person had been arrested. About 3,500 repair and maintenance workers of the state-owned CEL utility went on strike June 15 demanding salary hikes and improved vacation and life-insurance benefits. They said that mines planted near utility towers by rebels make their jobs hazardous, and that five technicians have been killed and five disabled by exploding mines. (Basic data from AP, 07/13/88)

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