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Brazil: Metallurgical Workers Terminate Strike After Violent Incident

by John Neagle

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On Jan. 7, workers at metallurgical plants in Tubarao, Planalto da Carapina and Espirito Santo state went back to work after a 22-day strike. The decision to end the strike was adopted at a meeting on Jan. 6, following a clash between strikers and non-union workers on Thursday. In the fracas, 22 persons were injured. Material damages resulting from the violence totaled an estimated \$28.5 million. Company managers claimed the loss of \$47.5 million during the course of the strike. A union official told local reporters that the workers and employers have agreed to establish a commission. The major topic on the commission's agenda is a request to avoid deducting pay for the strike period from workers' wages. The strike commenced on Dec. 15, after metallurgical workers' unions lost a wage hike approved by the Regional Labor Court, result of intervention by a higher labor tribunal, known as the Superior Labor Court. (Basic data from Xinhua, 01/07/89)

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