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Guatemala: 70,000 Plantation Workers On Strike

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As of Jan. 24, over 70,000 plantation workers in southern Guatemala were on strike in an effort to obtain a 100% wage hike. The strike was organized by the Committee for Campesino Unity (CUC). Riot police arrived on the scene after workers set fire to property on some estates in the area in retaliation for repressive measures taken by the owners. The plantation owners, represented by the Guatemalan National Agricultural Union, refused to negotiate with the workers and called upon the government to intervene. President Vinicio Cerezo appealed to both workers and landowners to negotiate, asserting that higher wages would not be achieved through violence. (Basic data from Xinhua, 01/25/89)

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