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Deborah Tyrold

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Guatemala: Teachers & Communications Workers On Strike

by Deborah Tyroler

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On June 21, employees of Guatemala's state-run communications company commenced a strike to demand a wage hike. Union leaders said their intent was to join the strike effort of public kindergarten, primary and secondary teachers. An estimated 40,000 teachers initiated progressive work stoppages throughout the country three weeks ago. The stoppages were intensified June 19 when talks negotiations with the Education Ministry broke down. The communications workers are demanding a wage increase of 300 quetzals per month (about $180). Teachers are requesting a 200 quetzal increase ($120), equivalent to a nearly 100% salary hike for the lowest-paid instructors. President Vinicio Cerezo has asserted that no more salary increases for any public employees will be authorized for 1989. (Basic data from Notimex, 06/21/89)

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