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Guatemala: Report On Public Sector Employees' Strike Actions

by Deborah Tyroler

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As of July 1, about 40,000 primary and secondary school teachers throughout the country had completed four weeks of a general strike, while postal and telegraph employees had embarked on the 11th day of a walkout. President Vinicio Cerezo has stated on numerous occasions that the government will not authorize a wage hike for state workers for the remainder of this year. Meanwhile, members of the National Electrification Institute Workers Union (STINDE) and unionized employees of state-run financial institutions were scheduled to decide in the coming week whether they will join public sector counterparts in a walkout. On July 1, the Ministry of Education commenced applying "disciplinary measures" to teachers. Legal action was taken against nearly 400 teachers for "absence from the workplace." The next step, said the ministry, will be temporary suspension, followed by permanent dismissal. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/01/89)

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