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Dominican Republic: 48-hour General Strike Underway

by John Neagle

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On June 19, the first day of a 48-hour general strike, most shops and factories in Santo Domingo were closed, and buses were not running. Thousands of soldiers and police patrolled deserted streets. Radio reports, according to AFP, said broad support for the strike was evident in other cities in the Dominican Republic. Last week, the government and the military declared the strike illegal. Virtudes Alvarez, a spokesperson for the strike committee said security forces tried to head off the strike by arresting more than 1,000 labor leaders nationwide. Francisco Antonio Santos, secretary general of the General Workers' Federation, said the government was arming civilian groups to provoke violence during the strike. (Basic data from AFP, 06/19/89)

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