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In interviews with Notimex on Sept. 21, Salvadoran labor union leaders said that security forces had arrested more than 100 workers in the past week. On Sept. 18, about 70 union members demonstrated in San Salvador in an effort to pressure the government for release of nine union leaders recently detained by the armed forces. Violence reportedly broke out between demonstrators and government security forces, resulting in the arrest of 45 persons. As of Sept. 21, they had not been released from custody. Febe Elizabeth Velazquez, member of the executive board of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS), told Notimex that no amount of government repression will "force us to hide under our beds." Velazquez said, "We are going to continue the struggle, we are going to continue going into the streets...While the government of Alfredo Cristiani is talking of dialogue, everything to the contrary takes place here and our union organizations are attacked by the armed forces." FENASTRAS has organized several protests demanding the release from custody of labor union members and workers. Employees of three companies in San Salvador commenced a series of work stoppages to emphasize their demands. The government and the armed forces claim that FENASTRAS is linked to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Velazquez said the federation categorically denies such accusations which are used to "justify repression and detention of workers." On Sept. 21, armed forces spokespersons warned that "vandalism" will not be tolerated. (Basic data from Notimex, 09/21/89)

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