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Peru: Update On Various Strikes

by John Neagle

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LIMA, Aug 21 (AF) - Peruvian authorities issued arrest warrants were issued Aug. 22 for the arrest of 140 striking obstetricians for allegedly walking out of maternity wards in the city's hospitals and leaving some 250 pregnant women without adequate medical care. Among the doctors charged with "dereliction of duty," was congressperson Julio Castro, president of Peru's Medical Federation. The obstetricians have been on strike for three weeks. The Medical Federation represents some 8,000 other doctors who have been on strike for 86 days. According to the government, the MDs persist despite an offer of a 100% pay hike. President Alan Garcia announced improvements in retirement programs for thousands of miners on strike. He also announced a hike in minimum wages for all workers. About 9,000 printers and press operators, 5,000 public transport employees and all public school teachers have announced they would go on strike Aug. 24 for higher salaries. On Tuesday, wholesale produce distributors were staging work stoppages in Lima to demonstrate support for a farmer strike. (Basic data from AFP, 08/22/89)

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