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Panama: Riot At Modelo Prison

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On June 25, some 500 inmates broke padlocks to their cells, grabbed machetes and empty bottles from the kitchen, and headed for the prison armory. Police gained control of the situation by firing into the air and throwing tear gas canisters before the prisoners reached the armory. No injuries were reported. AFP reported that witnesses said they heard one of the prisoners shout from a window that the revolt was to protest jail conditions and reduced visitation rights. Prison officials met with three inmate leaders after the insurrection had been quelled. (Basic data from AFP, 06/25/90)

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