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Costa Rica: Labor Groups Announce Strike Actions To Protest Austerity Policies

by Deborah Tyroler

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On July 10, the Costa Rican Workers Permanent Council issued a call for a general strike on July 24 to protest the government's economic austerity measures. Next, the United Workers Central (CUT) announced a mobilization for July 19 to protest fiscal deficit reduction policies. Both labor groups are also demanding a 20% wage hike, rejecting the government's offer of an 11% increase. Since May 8, President Rafael Angel Calderon's government has implemented a variety of new and higher taxes, and price hikes of up to 40% for public services, fuel, transportation, and basic foodstuffs. Calderon's Social Christian Unity Party has accepted terms under an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to reduce the fiscal deficit from 6% to 2% of GDP within 18 months. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/10/90)

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