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Panama: University Students Demand Increase In Education Budget, Withdrawal Of U.S. Troops

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On Aug. 14, over 5,000 students, faculty and staff members from the Universidad de Panama and other institutions of higher education in the country organized a march in downtown Panama City to the presidential palace to publicize their demands for larger education budgets, respect for university autonomy, and the withdrawal of US troops. Secretary general of the Universidad de Panama, Miguel Angel Candanedo, said the mobilization is "a clear message" to President Guillermo Endara's government condemning the "frequent violations of university autonomy in recent months...We come to tell the president that the university cannot remain silent in the face of the country's serious problems. [Panama] has been invaded and occupied, and urgently requires a reconstitution of national sovereignty and full independence." The march on Tuesday was the first of its kind since the US invasion. (Basic data from Notimex, 08/14/90)

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