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Nicaragua: Over 2,000 Police Watch 1,500 Teachers Demonstrate In Front Of National Assembly

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 26, more than 2,000 police surrounded the National Assembly complex in Managua to prevent incidents during a protest march attended by an estimated 1,500 teachers. Deputies had commenced debate on a bill opposed by educators. Although only 1,500 of the nation's 30,000 public school teachers participated in the demonstration, the Education Ministry has threatened educators with undefined sanctions. According to the Agence France Presse, the Nicaraguan Teachers Association (ANDEN) is opposed to a clause in the proposed legislation that would expose 3,000 primary school principals to dismissal. The Associated Press reported that teachers were protesting "rumors" of imminent layoffs of 9,000 teachers nationwide. (Basic data from AFP, AP, 09/26/90)

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