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Deborah Tyroler

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Salvadoran Legislature Votes Against Privatization Of Education

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 11, the Salvadoran National Assembly approved modifications to a presidential decree issued in May calling for privatization of education. Salvadoran teachers staged at least five strikes in the past four months to pressure the government into revoking the decree. The deputies voted in favor of maintaining the government as sponsor and regulator of education, the retention of legislative language specifying the rights and duties of teachers, and of changing school supervisors' functions. Prior to the vote, about 100 teachers marched to national assembly building, while several schools were shut down for the day. Jorge Morales, leader of the Salvadoran Educators Association (ANDES), said that teachers "from Mexico to Chile" would participate in work stoppages on Oct. 17 to demonstrate their "support for free education," and to protest the privatization of education, a "phenomenon promoted by the International Monetary Fund" in the region. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 10/11/90)

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