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Deborah Tyroler

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Panama: Legislature Approves Dismissal Of Public Employees Who Participated In Dec. 5 Strike

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 14, in a 40 to 7 vote, the National Assembly approved a bill submitted by President Guillermo Endara that authorizes dismissal of workers who participated in the Dec. 5 strike. Demonstrators reacted by pelting congresspersons with rocks and clubs as they left the building. Anti-riot police used tear gas and buckshot to force the protesters to retreat from barricades erected in downtown Panama City. At least 10 persons sustained minor injuries, including three legislators. Union leadership described the legislation as fascist and criminal. (Basic data from Notimex, AP, 12/14/90)

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