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## **Brazil: Hydroelectric Company Employees' Strike Causes Blackout In Northeastern State**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On the evening of Aug. 9, 80% of Bahia state (population 12 million) experienced two hours of electricity blackout, result of a strike by employees of the San Francisco Hydroelectric Company. The strike by 5,500 workers commenced Aug. 1. The company union is demanding a 216% pay hike. On the evening of Aug. 7 strikers occupied 7 of the company's 11 sub-stations in Bahia state. On Friday, the sub-stations had been surrounded by military police. Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva said he would request from President Fernando Collor de Mello an act making the Bahia Electricity Workers Union criminally responsible for the blackout. He added, "There is no union radicalism that can justify an act of this nature." The company, however, did not blame the union for the blackout. (Basic data from AFP, 08/10/90)

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