

## **Costa Rican Unions Protest Economic Austerity Measures**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On April 1 and 2, Costa Rican unions organized street demonstrations to protest price hikes on subsistence foodstuffs and public services and a 13% sales tax. Union leaders said the government implemented austerity against workers in order to obtain a loan from the International Monetary Fund. On April 9, union leaders called for a general strike on April 26 to protest austerity measures. Albino Vargas, of the National Association of Public Employees, told reporters that the agreement with the IMF finalized April 8 brings "greater misery, hunger, wage restrictions, price hikes and layoffs." (Basic data from AFP, ACAN-EFE, EFE, 04/08/91; Inter Press Service, 04/09/91)

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