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Agricultural Workers March In San Salvador

by Deborah Tyroler

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On June 10, 200 members of the National Association of Agricultural Workers (ANTA) marched through the streets of the capital protesting forced evictions of squatters in the countryside. They called on the government to redistribute unutilized land as mandated in present agrarian reform legislation. The demonstrators rallied in front of the El Rosario church, where 15 ANTA members commenced a hunger strike two weeks ago. Three of the hunger strikers were later hospitalized. ANTA spokespersons said that since May, 3,000 families have occupied 39 plantations. In the wake of the June 4 eviction of 60 families from the Amulunga plantation, the Committee in Defense of Evicted Salvadoran Agricultural Workers has been created. Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrales reiterated the government position that land "usurpation" will not be tolerated. (Basic data from AFP, 06/10/91)

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