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## **Colombia: Government Suspends Legal Charter Of Three Telecommunications Unions**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On Nov. 15, the Communications Ministry announced the suspension of the legal status of three unions, and a freeze on the unions' funds deposited in Colombian banks for a one- year period. The unions' 15,000 members are employees of the state-run telecommunications company (TELECOM). The government action was the result of the unions' adherence to a Nov. 13 strike, despite an official proclamation declaring the strike illegal. A ministry spokesperson said employees blocked all domestic and international long-distance lines, leaving the country "incommunicado." In addition, said the spokesperson, the unions had engaged in work slow-downs and stoppages, and sabotage of long-distance lines for over two months, which the "government cannot tolerate in a public service." In the previous 70 days, long-distance communications had been shut down on 12 occasions by company employees. In the same period, employees staged five work stoppages, and three street demonstrations in major cities. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/15/90)

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