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Peru: Physicians Announce Walk-out; Health Sector Employees & Teachers Continue Strike

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On June 2, Oscar Adrianzen, president of the public sector physicians' union, told reporters that more than 4,000 doctors will launch an indefinite strike June 3 for higher wages. Adrianzen said physicians of the Peruvian Social Security Institute are considering resigning en masse if the government fails to address their demand for a 400% wage hike. Some 70,000 hospital workers have been on strike for the past 76 days. "We are prepared to fight for a fair salary with our lives because behind us are our children, who need to eat and go to school," a public health union spokesperson said. Many nurses and other hospital workers in Peru earn less than $50 a month. Some 300,000 teachers and other education workers, also demanding more money, have been on strike for more than three weeks. They have rejected as "laughable and unacceptable" a government offer of a 30% pay increase. (Basic data from AFP, 06/02/91)

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