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Peruvian Government Proposes "solidarity Tax" For Persons Earning Over US$250 Per Month

by Barbara Khol
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The Peruvian government plans to levy a "solidarity tax" on public and private sector workers earning over 200 million intis (US$250) per month. The announcement triggered a flood of protests. As proposed by the administration, the tax is necessary in part to meet wage demands of teachers, health sector workers, police, soldiers, and other government employees. According to officials, by year-end the government will be running a deficit in excess of $400 million. The proposal was approved by the congressional bicameral economy commission. According to economist Dennis Falvy, revenues from the new tax applied to 300,000 workers are estimated at $24 million. Pablo Checa, deputy secretary general of the General Workers Confederation (CGTP), and Romeo Zapata, leader of the Workers Confederation (CTP), told reporters they are planning a nation-wide strike to protest the proposed tax. As of June 9, public school teachers had been on strike for 33 days, and public health sector employees, for over three months. Teacher and health worker union leaders said the proposed tax constitutes an attempt to create conflict among workers. (Basic data from AFP, 06/09/91)

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