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Barbara Khol

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Ecuador: Indigenous Organizations & Labor Unions Launch 48-hour Strike In Imabura Province

by Barbara Khol

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On June 11, members of indigenous organizations blocked the Panamerican highway in Imbabura province, as part of a 48-hour province-wide general strike. In addition to indigenous communities, trade unions, public school teachers, and civic organizations organized the strike. Indigenous groups are demanding funding for purposes of land acquisition and coping with the cholera epidemic. They are also demanding dismantlement of paramilitary organizations, and prosecution of persons responsible for the recent assassination of an indigenous rights leader. Imbabura public school teachers are demanding payment of back wages, reopening of schools closed down via fiscal cutbacks, and the creation of new jobs. Trade unions are demanding sanitation infrastructure upgrade and expansion, and the resolution of labor conflicts. (Basic data from AFP, 06/11/91)

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