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## **Honduras: Public Employees Protest Government Actions Against Striking Electricity Institute Workers**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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Dec. 9: In Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and along a section of the Troncal Norte highway, over 1,000 public employees and agricultural workers demonstrated and blocked traffic to show their support for striking Electricity Institute (ENEE) employees. The government recently declared the ENEE strike illegal, paving the way for the company to fire 150 strikers and ENEE union (STENEE) leaders. STENEE president Gladys Lanza and other union leaders met with police chief Col. Guillermo Paredes to discuss means to avoid clashes between public security officers and strikers. Local press reports indicated that soldiers evicted over 100 workers and their families from temporary homes at the El Cajon Hydroelectric plant. Dec. 10: President Rafael Callejas said he would not hesitate to call out army troops to maintain "public order" during the Dec. 12-13 Central American summit. Several union leaders have announced plans to stage demonstrations during the summit, while others say plans for a general strike are underway. Dec. 11: Honduran Workers Unitary Federation (FUTH) spokespersons told reporters that Jesus Guerra, a National Agricultural Workers Central (CNTC) leader, was shot to death Dec. 9 by unidentified assailants. Guerra acted as coordinator of the Dec. 9 protest actions in El Progreso, Yoro department. Initial police reports indicated that Guerra had been killed in an auto accident. However, an autopsy report confirmed that he had been shot in the chest. Hundreds of workers demonstrated in Tegucigalpa in defiance of President Callejas' warnings. Although troops were deployed to the area, no violent incidents were reported. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 12/09-11/91; ACAN-EFE, 12/09/91, 12/11/91)

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