Peru: Health Sector Employees Suspend Strike For 30 Days

Barbara Khol
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by Barbara Khol
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On July 19, Health Minister Victor Yamamoto announced that trade unions representing nurses and non-professional public health sector employees had agreed to a 30-day temporary suspension of a four-month strike. The unions rejected a government offer raising salaries to an average 61 nuevos soles (US$72), and will pursue salary negotiations with the government over the next month. Meanwhile, a small group of employees opposed to ending the strike demonstrated in front of Health Ministry headquarters. Police dispersed the crowd with tear gas. Also on Friday afternoon, public school teachers participating in a street march in downtown Lima were dispersed by tear gas. The teachers’ union, United Education Workers Union (SUTEP), rejected a government offer to raise salaries to an average $84 per month. Nelly Juscamayta, nurses union leader, said that of 5,500 nurses nation-wide, 2,500 have resigned their posts or emigrated to Brazil, Spain and Italy. On July 20, the 4,500 physicians employed by the Social Security Institute, who suspended a previous walk-out a month ago, announced plans to resume their strike. (Basic data from AFP, 07/19/91; EFE, 07/20/91)

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