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Panama: Settlers To Vacate Indigenous Land

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 20, Plutarco Arrocha, governor of Panama department, told reporters that violence will erupt in the absence of a rapid solution to a land use conflict in the Alto Bayano region. Members of the Emberas indigenous community are prepared to take action, he said, against outsiders who have occupied their land. During a Jan. 21 meeting organized by President Guillermo Endara, Embera leaders and settlers agreed that the government would supervise relocation of the settlers to state-owned land over the next three months. Representatives of the Interior, Presidency and Agricultural Development Ministries as well as from the Natural and Renewable Resources Institute participated in the meeting. (Basic data from Agence France- Presse, 01/20/92; ACAN-EFE, 01/20/92, 01/21/92)

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