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Peru: Public School Teachers End Strike

by Barbara Khol

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On Aug. 22, Jose Ramos, secretary general of the United Education Workers Union (SUTEP), said about 260,000 public school teachers had agreed to return to work Friday, Aug. 23, after a 106-day strike. About 800 teachers, who commenced a hunger strike Aug. 19, he added, have also ended their strike. According to Ramos, union members decided late Thursday to suspend the strike in order to "save the school year." The school year, which traditionally ends in December, will be extended until the end of January 1992. After lengthy negotiations with SUTEP, the government of President Alberto Fujimori ordered pay hikes at the end of July. The union rejected the government offer as insufficient, and continued the strike. Ramos said the strike was called off, despite the government's unwillingness to meet union demands, at the request of the Roman Catholic Church, of parents and of the eight million public school students. "We will continue to fight for our rights and if the government stays stubborn, we will resume the strike," Ramos said. (Basic data from AFP, 08/23/91)

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