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Adoc Footwear Manufacturer Announces Shutdown Of Operations In El Salvador

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Feb. 12, the ADOC footwear manufacturing company announced the "definitive closing of operations" of 16 plants in El Salvador. In recent weeks, company union leaders organized numerous protests to demand wage hikes within and outside factory installations located in San Salvador. Nearly 10,000 workers will be affected by the ADOC shutdown. For several decades, ADOC has exported footwear throughout Central America. The company operates plants in Costa Rica, established about 15 years ago. On Feb. 13, the National Private Enterprise Association (ANEP) requested that labor unions avoid militancy which could lead to "chaos and instability," and thus threaten the peace process. In a press communique, the employer organization said certain demands by labor groups would result in factory shutdowns. ANEP members are particularly concerned about a unionization drive by the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS). (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/12/92; Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 02/13/92)

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