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Colombia: Puerto Colombia Residents Riot To Protest Lack Of Public Services

by Erika Harding

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On Feb. 24, residents of Puerto Colombia, Atlantico department, staged a six-hour riot, sparked by a protest against the shutoff of electricity and running water over the previous five days. Protesters burned and destroyed the municipal government building, voter registration office and local telephone company offices. Buildings located nearby were also damaged. According to Atlantico police chief Fabio Campo, no casualties were reported despite "severe police intervention" and the arrest of an unspecified number of people. Campo said most of the town's 18,000 residents participated in the protest, and erected street barricades using trees and automobiles. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 02/24/92)

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