

Peruvians to Protest US Military Presence

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Social organizations called to a general strike to protest against the presence of US troops in Ayacucho, in central Peru. The general strike will take place on July 8, according to a decision taken by the Ayacucho Defense Front after it was announced that 70 US American soldiers had been deployed in the area. Another 350 military troops will arrive soon.

Front chairman Iver Maravi said protesters will demand the withdrawal of the foreign troops, because its presence, which was approved by congressional conservative forces, goes against national sovereignty and dignity.

Army chief Gen. Edwin Donayre claimed the US troops will only perform humanitarian tasks, without settling a permanent base in Peru.

However, former Army officer and opposition leader Ollanta Humala ruled out Donayre's words.

Humala said the water wells and school classrooms to be built by the American troops can be built by Peruvian workers and engineers.

Former Minister of Defense and Congressman David Waisman agreed with military analyst Jose Robles on that the Ministry of Defense is lacking transparency regarding the number of US military troops that has been authorized to enter Peru.

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