

# *Colombian Teachers to End Strike*

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Bogota, May 7 (Xinhua-RHC)-- Colombia's Minister of Education Gina Parody announced on Wednesday that a preliminary agreement, including a wage increase, with the Colombian Federation of Education Workers was reached to end the ongoing 14-day strike.

"Colombian President (Juan Manuel) Santos pledged in May last year to generate wage increases aiming at a wage leveling, and he fulfilled this to a certain extent. In addition, it granted them premium (pay) services that teachers didn't enjoy previously," Parody said at a press conference in Bogota.

"Everything we have done is aimed at better education quality for our children, and this is what President Santos wants. This preliminary agreement should be approved by all the union's members," Parody said.

The Colombian government sought to end the ongoing nationwide teachers' strike that began 14 days ago and that has left some nine million students without classes. Thousands of teachers were camping outside the Ministry of Education in Bogota demanding higher pay, saying they will stay as long as the strike continued.



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