
Spanish metal workers staged protests last week

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AP reported that angry steel workers filled the streets of Vigo in northeastern Spain last week. Metal workers clash with police in northwest Spain. Police fired tear gas and rubber pellets at the workers, many of whom wore handkerchiefs to cover their mouths.

Unions representing around 30,000 metal workers are fighting for better wages. But on June 2nd 2009, talks with management reached deadlock.

The workers said that they'll continue to protest unless an agreement is reached.

It may be noted that on June 3rd 2009, the Spanish government signed a deal with ArcelorMittal allowing temporary layoffs among its 12,000 Spanish workers. They say the move is necessary to combat weak demand and soft prices, by temporarily cutting production.

It's been a hard time for steel workers in Spain in general. Earlier this month ArcelorMittal cut back its Spanish operations. The global recession has taken its toll on the construction industry. And Spain's unemployment rate is currently the highest in Europe.

(Sourced from Associated Press)

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