

**ESTADOS UNIDOS**

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### ***Basques Release Factory Official Held for 10 Days***

VITORIA, Spain, March 1 (UPI) — Basque separatists today released Luis Abaitua Palacios, 47, the manager of a Michelin tire factory, who was kidnapped 10 days ago to force the French firm to negotiate a new contract with workers.

Mr. Abaitua's wife said last night that she was sure that her husband's release was imminent because Michelin had reached an agreement with the workers.

Mr. Abaitua was kidnapped the day after workers at the plant ended a weeklong strike that failed to bring Michelin to the bargaining table. The Basque separatist organization ETA issued a communique saying that he would be held until Michelin negotiated.

Workers at the factory condemned the kidnapping, but radical political parties in the Basque region supported the action as a legitimate means of bringing pressure on the firm.