

# Hotel Conflict Right in The Middle of High Season

## Employees from four hotels will be picketing between Thursday and Saturday

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A TOTAL OF 1,216 UNION EMPLOYEES from four mayor hotels in Puerto Rico will be protesting against their employers between Thursday and Saturday, for what they consider to be violations of their rights and unfair treatment.

The President of Gastronomic Union Local 610, of Unite Here Puerto Rico, Félix Mejías, told El Nuevo Día that the membership will be conducting several protests, at the Caribe Hilton, the Conrad Condado Plaza Hilton, the El San Juan Hilton, and the Radisson Ambassador Plaza hotels.

The Union employees belong to key areas within the hotels, including housekeeping, front desk, kitchen, food and beverage, and casino.

Mejías said that the Union is negotiating a “master” contract for the 1,100 employees of the Caribe Hilton, the Condado Plaza, and the El San Juan, as these three belong to the Hilton Corporation.

“The last negotiations were held on November 12, and it was obvious that they had not shown up prepared to negotiate in a serious manner”, said Mejías.

The Union leader said that the employers are enacting changes in scheduling, hours, and days off without any regard for employee seniority, and have even dismissed employees in violation of the contract.

“We even had to make a written request for them to allow the employees to speak Spanish among

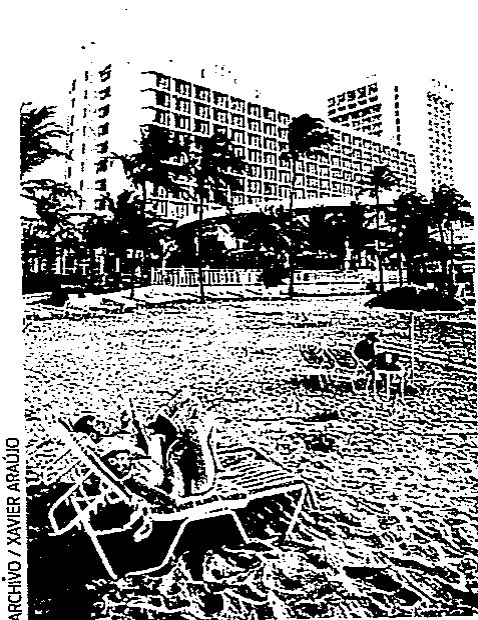
themselves”, he indicated.

“If we do not reach an agreement with this collective bargaining session, the membership is prepared to hit the streets” said Mejías.

It is expected that the Union members will be marching on Thursday at 5:15 p.m. from the Conrad Condado Plaza to the Radisson Ambassador, and on Friday they will be protesting at the same time in front of the Caribe Hilton.

On Saturday, at 5:45 p.m., they will be conducting a demonstration near the El San Juan Hotel, on Isla Verde.

He added that they are asking for negotiations to be restarted on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month.



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THE GASTRONOMIC UNION negotiates a collective contract for 1,100 employees from three hotels in Puerto Rico that are part of the Hilton hotel chain, among them the Caribe Hilton (pictured here).