

# PUERTO RICO Daily Sun



Evidence of foul play in Lorenzo homicide case  
LOCAL PAGE 4

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# Police take over UPR

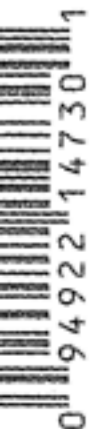
Riot Squad surrounds Río Piedras campus, blocks delivery of provisions

LOCAL PAGE 3



Daily Sun/Francesca Von Rabenau O'Reilly

Puerto Rico riot police block protesting students at the Barbosa Avenue gates of the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras on Friday, during the ongoing strike that has shut down the campus for 24 days. Meanwhile, UPR Board of Trustees Chairwoman Ygrí Rivera announced the closing of the Río Piedras campus until July 31.



# UPR strike flares as Police move in

BY JUAN A. HERNÁNDEZ  
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The student strike at the University of Puerto Rico went into its 24th day with renewed energy after the ratification of the indefinite strike vote by a student assembly and an attempt from the Riot Police to enter the Río Piedras campus early Friday morning.

Students guarding the gate in front of the School of Fine Arts on Gándara Avenue were startled when a little after 4 a.m. Friday a contingent of Riot Police agents cut through the locked slip bolt of the gate and tried to get inside the campus.

"I'm calling to tell you we [the student group] are at the gate at Education [Department]. They woke us up to tell us the Riot Police tried to cut the locks and chains on the gates at Fine Arts and Education. They tried to get in but left after cutting through the Fine Arts gate. I'll keep you posted," said a voicemail left at 5 a.m. by a Daily Sun campus source.

While the police squad was still working to cut through the gate's slip bolt, a group of students ran to block their entrance. The group reminded the agents "these are campus grounds, you cannot come in."

After a couple of minutes of some "light pushing and shoving" the police officers desisted and surrendered control of the gates.

"Riot Police daunts students on the gates. It's real. Pass it on!" read a text message the students circulated at 5:41 a.m. to other students outside the gates and members of the press.

Later in the morning, the Río Piedras campus was almost completely surrounded by the Police, riot squads and police cadets standing some 20 feet apart along the campus fence that extends from Ponce de León Avenue to Gándara and Barbosa Avenues. They blocked the entrance to the few pedestrian gates still open and prohibited pedestrians from going near the fence.

Luis Torres, the father of one of the demonstrating stu-



Daily Sun/Francesa von Rabenau O'Reilly

A UPR students occupying the Río Piedras campus demonstrate atop the university fence demanding the Police be remove from a campus perimeter.

dents, was manhandled by a police cadet, identified only as Rodríguez, while he was trying to pass a breakfast bag to his son through the fence. During the incident, Torres received a cut on his left eyebrow.

Police Cmdr. Miguel Mejías, from the San Juan police division, later explained the agents there had received orders to protect the university perimeter.

"We are not going to allow anything or anyone to come in," Mejías said.

Questioned about what kind of threat pedestrians or demonstrators outside the gates posed for the university, Mejías reiterated, "those are our orders."

UPR Board of Trustees Chairwoman Ygrí Rivera announced Friday the campus was closing down until July 31, but assured negotiations with the students will continue. Nevertheless, Rivera did not specify when the Board of Trustees will meet again with the Student Negotiating Committee.

In the meantime, students living in Resi-Campus (the on campus coed student residence) were given until 3 p.m. to vacate their apartments by the Office of the Dean of Students.

Many students informed they had been threatened with forceful eviction by University Police if they did not comply with the order. They were also ordered to leave their apartment keys at the lobby desk.

Despite the alleged threats, several students who declined to identify themselves assured they were not going to move out of the student residence.

Auxiliary Dean of Students José A. Nieves denied the possibility of a forceful eviction of the students who decide to stay, but did admit "we will work that out on another level."

"We will notify the [university] administration and they will take the necessary steps," said Nieves.

"There is a 30-day recess during which we cannot guarantee their safety here," he added.

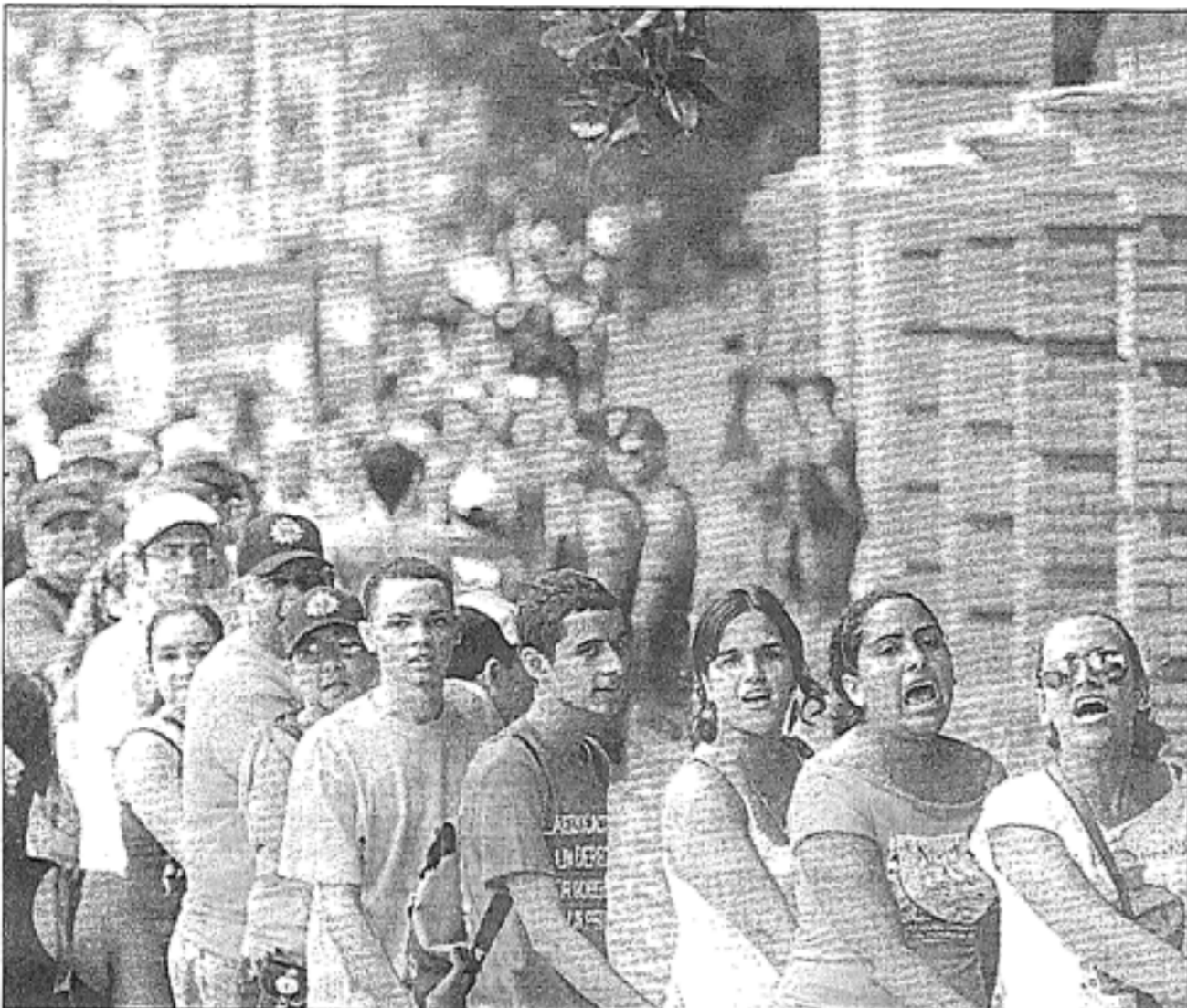
More than 350 students live at Resi-Campus, of which some 30 still had not checked out as of 3 p.m. Friday. Those leaving their apartments had to carry their belongings to Gándara Avenue to where their cars, or their relatives' waited because no vehicle was allowed to enter the campus.

At mid-morning Friday, rumors started to spread about the University administration having ordered the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority to shut off the water and electric ser-



Daily Sun/Francesa von Rabenau O'Reilly

Riot Squad members take position in front of the UPR gates on Barbosa Ave. blocking access to campus.



Daily Sun/Francesa von Rabenau O'Reilly

Students and families and friends create a human chain along UPR Rio Piedras campus perimeter in front of Riot Police officers.



Daily Sun/Francesa von Rabenau O'Reilly

René Pérez from the "Calle 13" group showed his support for the students protesters at the Barbosa Ave. university gates.

FROM PAGE 3  
**UPR**

vices to the campus. PRASA and PREPA spokespersons denied later having received such requests.

**Students react**

For Student Trustee-elect René Vargas the possibility of continuing negotiations are rapidly waning. "This is about over [negotiations]. The strat-

egy now seems to be starving [the students] to death," Vargas said.

"Nevertheless, they [university administrators] will have to change their strategy because the students have proved they are very resourceful. We will find a way to get them the food and water they need," Vargas added.

General Student Council president Gabriel Laborde said on his part that the sheer number of police officers surrounding the campus is evidence of the administration's "desperation" to end "a situation they themselves created."

"I urge Chancellor Ana Rosa Guadalupe

to step into the shoes of a mother whose son or daughter studies here and someone is blocking them access to food and water. Or into the shoes of a mother whose child is being evicted from his or her home," said Laborde.

"How would she feel? She must ponder this very seriously before taking any action," Laborde added.

The student leader also urged First Lady Lucé Vela to step "into those same shoes."

"Step into those same shoes, think about and talk to Luis [Fortuño] about ending this situation. Allow us to take food and water

to our fellow students ... don't let them be evicted from their homes," Laborde said.

Late on Friday, the San Juan Superior Court issued an injunction ordering the delivery of food and water be allowed on campus.

In the "afternoon, demonstrations in front of the gates at the Ponce de León and Barbosa Avenues grew stronger with support from students' families and friends, labor unions, performing artists and media personalities and the general public.

As of press time neither UPR president José R. De la Torre nor Guadalupe had reacted to the demonstrations.

# Pierluisi wants to extend P.R.'s drug courts to federal level

BY ROBERT FRIEDMAN  
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WASHINGTON

Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi, pointing to the apparent success of Puerto Rico's drug courts, has told U.S. Attorney General Justice Secretary Eric Holder that he was preparing legislation to extend the program to the island's federal courts.

The exchange took place during a House Judiciary Committee hearing Thursday at which Holder appeared. The resident commissioner is a member of the panel.

President Obama announced this week a shift in national drug policy that would treat illegal drug use more as a public health issue and put more resources into prevention and treatment. The new strategy accents community-based anti-drug programs, encourages health care providers to screen for drug problems before addiction sets in and expands treatment beyond specialty centers to mainstream health care facilities.

Obama called the plan a "balanced approach to confronting the complex chal-

lenge of drug use and its consequences."

During the hearing, Pierluisi proposed that the U.S. Justice Department consider federal drug courts as an alternative to imprisoning non-violent offenders and as a re-entry court for offenders who have just completed a prison term.

He noted that the drug courts have lowered the recidivism rate among addicts "by providing intensive treatment and supervision in lieu of-or subsequent to-incarceration."

Drug courts handle the cases of non-violent substance abusers. They attempt to integrate the work of court officials with mental health, social service and treatment specialists. The goal is to help non-violent offenders recover and become productive citizens.

There are currently over 2,140 drug courts in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

The resident commissioner said during the hearing that studies have shown for every dollar invested in a drug court, taxpayers save roughly three times that amount.

A recent study has shown that over 9,000 drug offenders have gone through the island's nine drug courts and that the recidivism



Daily Sun/

Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi

rate after the first year is just 5 percent. Of the drug offenders sent to prison in the states, 44 percent are caught up in legal

offenses after the first year of their release.

Pierluisi noted that drug courts have been implemented in less than one-third of federal judicial districts.

He told Calder: "I hope you will encourage the U.S. attorneys and assistant U.S. attorneys that work under you to give their full support to the federal drug courts in their districts."

The resident commissioner also had an exchange with the attorney general about the recent law adopted by Arizona requiring residents to prove they are in the country legally if they are confronted by police who suspect they are non-documented immigrants.

Pierluisi told Holder that he was "very disturbed" by the law, and that it was "offensive to all Hispanics, including the millions of U.S. citizens and legal residents of Hispanic origin in the nation."

He suggested that the Justice Department challenge the law in court or take action on possible civil rights violations.

Holder responded that the department was looking into whether the Arizona law "contravenes" both federal immigration and civil rights laws.

## On the new Arizona law

The U.S., including Puerto Rico and USVI, has some 275 million native born people, and some 35 million foreign born. Of this total of 310 million, about 47 million are hispanic or Latino (a number expected to rise to 30 percent of the population or 132 million people by 2050).

Of the some 35 million foreign born, more than 50 percent are Latino or "brown-skinned."

These 35 million foreigners comprise some 1 million so-called "illegal" immigrants, about 60 percent (six to seven million) of whom come from Mexico; 10 to 25 percent (one to three million) from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Caribbean; 4 to 5 percent from the Philippines and India; and less than 10 percent from Europe and the rest of the world. Thus, laws targeted against so-called "illegal" immigrants are targeted overwhelmingly against "brown-skinned" people.

As reported in the Daily Sun, on April 23, Gov. Jan Brewer, R-Arizona, (successor to Department of Homeland Security's Janet Napolitano) signed into law that state's mean-spirited, controversial immigration measure, which requires any (probably) brown-skinned people in Arizona to, at all times, carry work and travel papers on their person, and which, according to the American Immigration Lawyers Association, or AILA, "effectively makes all Latinos the target of arrest or interrogation."

The Arizona law makes it a state crime "to be an undocumented immigrant in Arizona," and that law is contrary to federal law which deals with the subject administratively, not criminally; that law requires Arizona state law enforcement officers "to question individuals about their immigration status if the officer has 'a reasonable suspicion' that they are undocumented;" if the individual doesn't have proof of legal status on their person, they are subject to immediate arrest. AILA President Bernie Wolfsdorf said, "a green card holder who goes ... in his front yard in his bathrobe ... to fetch the newspaper is a criminal if he doesn't carry his green card with him ..."

The 29,000 Arizonans who are of Puerto Rican ancestry can now, like many other brown-skinned Americans, anticipate being stopped by police officers just because of how they look.

A Republican governor affirming and signing this outrageous state law is no surprise in a state (Arizona) where its two Republican senators, John McCain and Jon Kyl, voted against the appointment of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, herself of Puerto Rican descent.

Even President Obama himself, while declaring the Arizona law "misguided," said on April 23, that any road to naturalization would require a person "to learn English" (and, of course, absent naturalization, an undocumented person faces deportation). This, in a nation where Spanish is the primary language for more than 34 million people, and where another 45 million Americans speak Spanish as their first and second language, and where, in Puerto Rico, Spanish and English are both recognized as the official language.

The new Arizona law emphasizes, once again, the vital need for the U.S. Congress to enact moral, legal and compassionate immigration reform at the federal level.

George Maurer  
Cataño

I, for one, find no fault in the Arizona Law that seeks to protect its borders against the encroachment of illegal aliens. In fact, Arizona is doing what the United States government should be doing instead of playing politics. Undocumented aliens have no right to be in the U.S. illegally. All of the attributes, rights, immunities and privileges of citizenship have been earned dearly by the people of the U.S. and these unwanted immigrants are appropriating them at no cost. Whatever the U.S. has achieved over so many decades could have also been earned by other countries, but they chose not to do so because of the political cost entailed. Now they are reaping what they themselves sowed.

It is now unfair of the opponents of the law to sow discord by alleging that it is ethnically discriminatory. The law is in fact entirely objective; it is aimed at all people who are not citizens of the U.S. and who are in the State of Arizona illegally. It does not mention color, national origin or any factor other than citizenship and legality.

Indeed, if Puerto Rico were a State of the Union, it would very probably enact similar legislation to protect itself against the influx of illegal aliens because it would be vulnerable to a similar invasion.

Sebastián Pérez  
San Juan

## Honorable leaders

Pierluisi showed the world that Puerto Rico does have some honorable leaders

The principal players arguing on the floor in favor of the status bill were Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi and Resources Committee Chairman, Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., while stateside Puerto Rican Reps. Nydia Velázquez, D-NY, and Luis Gutiérrez, D-Ill., both of whom argued long, hard and passionately against the measure.

Gutiérrez made Puerto Rican patriot arguments against the bill, which he saw as "rigged" in favor of statehood. He said the one indisputable right that the Puerto Rican people had was the "inalienable right" to have the island become an independent nation. He said Puerto Rico was a "nation of people" and said, apparently tongue-in-cheek, that he would support statehood if the island were allowed as a state to have its own Olympic team and its own official language — Spanish. "Would Congress approve that?" he asked. In attempting to show that there is little interest in English on the island, he said that the only daily newspaper in Puerto Rico has gone bankrupt and been forced to close was the English-language San Juan Star. He did not mention the existence of the Puerto Rico Daily Sun. (Daily Sun, April 30)

The more Luis Gutiérrez talked, the more he convinced me to support HR 2499. I cannot believe that this ungrateful, un-American hypocrite is representing Chicago's Puerto Ricans in the U.S. Congress. I got the impression that he is not respected by many members of Congress and does not deserve to be respected. He came across as immature, emotional and dishonest. He appeared like a two-year-old having a temper tantrum every time he talked.

In contrast, Pierluisi was mature, spoke with honesty and conviction from his heart as well as with his intellect. Pierluisi showed the world that Puerto Rico does have some honorable leaders. I was proud of how he debated in the U.S. Congress. I got the strong feeling that he is a patriotic American who deeply loves and honors both the U.S. and Puerto Rico. His supporters in this important debate on HR 2499, such as

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and Rep. José Serrano, D-NY, were also honorable and respectful during the debate.

At the beginning, I had several reservations about supporting HR 2499. However, the debate convinced me more and more that HR 2499 is exactly what we need and this ideal status solution is long overdue.

Robert McCarroll  
Carolina

## An honest reflection

Fairness and democracy won in the House of Representatives, which approved a revised the Puerto Rico status bill. I wrote many letters to the Daily Sun, and to several members of Congress protesting the unfair New Progressive Party legislation sponsored by Resident Commissioner Pierluisi. His proposal absolutely guaranteed that statehood would be the ultimate winner. I am certain that my letter, among thousands pro and for, was not even read by a congressman, but my feelings about fairness were shared by enough congress members that they revised the Pierluisi bill to give the current status quo, commonwealth, a fighting chance.

It gives almost half the voting population of Puerto Rico a fair chance to vote for retaining what they have. Although the revised bill faces a long and uncertain future in the Senate, at least it now has a fighting chance to clear that chamber and move forward to a presidential signature.

The Senate should further revise the bill by eliminating the first plebiscite, which now is meaningless, since the second vote now includes commonwealth. Why waste time and money on an unnecessary first vote? If enacted, I can proudly go vote for statehood, and my wife will accompany me to vote an offsetting ballot for commonwealth. The Pierluisi bill would have kept her from voting for her preference. I wrote that the NPP would not win a corrupt vote in Congress, and I am full of pride that the U.S. Congress saw through that hoax and changed an undemocratic bill to a democratic and fair bill.

Statehood may still be the ultimate winner, but it will be with a much smaller majority, or even plurality, and Congress will have a better sense of the mood of Puerto Rico regarding their strong or weak wishes for statehood. But, it will be an honest reflection of the will of Puerto Ricans.

J. D. Aragon  
Old San Juan

## She's horrible!

University of Puerto Rico Chancellor Ana Guadalupe is up to what she does worst: sowing confusion and discord. She called on all the bureaucrats to get back to work, but they said no, they do whatever they want in any event, their union is impregnable, that's why everything there is such a mess. And she says classes are back Tuesday. Students can't twirl their thumbs at her like administrators do, they've got grades and a degree to worry about.

Are fistfights between incomers and strikers what she has in mind? Or an excuse for those SWAT gorillas to beat students, perhaps murder a few like in the 70s. I hear she admires Jaime Benítez, that's what he did.

Miguel Estrada  
Caparra

## Tyranny in the mirror

As follows spoke our illustrious governor, irony intended: "They are suffering from the injustices of the Cuban government. Contrary to Puerto Rico, Cuba doesn't enjoy a democracy where citizens can freely express injustices and human rights violations."

Not that it does us any good. In Cuba citizens have free quality education and free quality medical care. Here it's the ravages and crookedness of the marketplace, the predation of the Golden Mile lords, who are now about to wrest from the poor the chance of a higher education, the only means they have to rise above minimum wacer and to redress anything.

At the University of Minnesota a generation ago a quarter's tuition for grad school was \$300 and undergrad \$100. Now it's \$20,000 a year grad and a third that undergrad. That's what we can look forward to, what the *penepistas* are phasing in on us. It's not the students, but the rest of us, who'd best be demonstrating at UPR and the Capitol. Those kids will be out before the full impact hits the Puerto Rican community, the trickle-up Reaganomic Fortuño-McClintock-Pierluisi trajectory that'll translate into a squalid inner Metro and crime galore. Perhaps only the Obama renaissance can now rescue us, if it's for real.

And how much freedom of speech may you afford when those riot cops, with their shaved heads, their burly builds and the contempt on their faces, brandishing their nightsticks threateningly, even in front to the TV cameras, stand between you and it?

Yes, Cuba. Does quality of life and the dignity of the person mean the number of cars on the road and TVs in each home or does it make more sense to hew to a loftier goal?

Bob Harris  
Condado

## Reichskanzlerführer Fortuño

It was surreal. I was watching on the Military Channel how the SS broke up labor unions in the early days of the Third Reich, shoving and bludgeoning German strikers.

At 11 p.m. I switched to the news to witness the Riot Squad déjà vuing UPR student demonstrators. Only the burly *guardias*, with their hefty builds, body armor, shaved heads, primeval grimaces, and long double-handled nightsticks that they swang back and forth, appeared more intimidating than Hitler's clad-in-black praetorian troops.

Carutha Harris  
San Juan

## Hard to accept

While I have learned to accept the desperate economic circumstance of our government, I cannot accept the treatment I have been receiving from the Family and Children Administration, or ADFAN, which has yet to pay invoices as old as 2007 for my nursing agency's emergency care for children in their custody.

Four months ago I was advised by David Gómez in their finance department that all documents were in order. In March, Administrative executives Angel Figueroa and Eneida Bonilla replied to my inquiries that they "would try to identify a source of funds to pay the debt," but I have yet to receive a payment or reply.

Nor has ADFAN Director Yanitsa Irrizarry or La Fortaleza replied. It appears that all our government knows how to do is to squeeze more money out of its citizens and not pay them the products and services they provide as promised by Gov. Fortuño in February.

Invoices three years old and not paid. Shame!

Glenn Patron  
Caregivers de Puerto Rico

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