



PUERTO RICO Daily Sun



Daily Sun/Francesca von Rabenau O'Reilly, File

U.S.V.I. seeks to plug into P.R. power grid
LOCAL PAGE 6

YEAR 2, NO. 570

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010

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Earthquake rocks island

5.8 magnitude temblor hits near Mayagüez, some homes damaged

LOCAL PAGE 3

Perez Reisler v. Figueroa Sancha et al

Doc. 178 Att. 5



Standoff over food and water

Handing food to striking students was a point of contention at the gates of University of Puerto Rico's Río Piedras campus Sunday morning when tactical forces police officers prevented strike supporters from feeding and providing water and other beverages to students held up inside the campus. Amnesty International called the prohibition a human rights violation, while a San Juan court is slated to rule on the matter.

Courtesy

LOCAL PAGE 5

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UPR president says he is confident an accord can be reached

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University of Puerto Rico President José Ramón de la Torre said Sunday that he continues talks with university students, professors and administrators, adding that if an accord is reached between the parties he would nix the order shuttering the UPR until July 31 and reopen the university.

De la Torre said he was confident an accord could be reached to put an end to the nearly month-long strike, while labor and political organizations said they would hit the streets during the general strike Tuesday slated by All Puerto Rico for Puerto Rico in support of striking students.

Students are asking for tuition waivers to be left untouched, for university tuition to remain at current rates and to have a say in any austerity measures the UPR chooses to implement to ameliorate its current fiscal woes.

"I maintain constant communication with the leaders of the Puerto Rican Association of University Professors and with the Brotherhood of Non-Teaching Personnel and I trust that we can reach accords that will allow me to go to the board of trustees and ask that the order closing the Río Piedras campus be rescinded," De la Torre said during a panel on NotiUno radio station.

By July 1, the UPR's deficit will reach \$200 million, De la Torre said, adding he is the one calling the shots in terms of the decisions being taken at the UPR.

Puerto Rican Association of University Professors President Yolanda Rivera and Brotherhood of Non-Teaching Personnel President Wilberto Jiménez said appeasing students won't be the only thing the UPR administration will have to do to get the university up and running again, adding they won't return the work until their labor demands are also met.

To date, 10 of the UPR's 11 campuses have been shut down, with only its Medical School, which held a 24-hour work stoppage, remaining operating.

Food controversy

Handing over food to striking students caused controversy Sunday morning, when tactical forces police officers prevented strike supporters from handing over food and beverages to students holed up in the Río Piedras campus. The San Juan Superior Court is scheduled to rule whether this prohibition is legal.

Among those trying to feed students Sunday, the 24th day of the strike, were local personalities Silverio Pérez, Danny Rivera, Josie Latorre and Mikie Rivera.

Amnesty International denounced the police's prohibiting people from feeding and providing water to strikers, saying this constituted a violation of students' human rights.

"The excessive deployment of police to the areas near the university in and of itself is an abuse of power, as its only aim is to intimidate and frighten and intimidate. The administra-



Daily Sun/Mauricio Pascual

Hundreds of demonstrators of all ages gathered in front of the UPR Río Piedras campus.

tion is losing focus that it is dealing with students, not criminals or terrorists. Far from guaranteeing peace and safety, the excessive deployment of police creates a tense environment that could explode into confrontations with serious consequences," said Pedro Santiago, executive director of Amnesty International in Puerto Rico.

Galeano speaks on strike

The ongoing face-off at the UPR prompted renown Uruguayan journalist, writer and novelist to speak on the strike.

"The people who do not listen to the demands of their students are in danger of losing their future. Student citizenship is the custodian of the sacred fire of hope for the people ... We must listen to students ... When the rest think not today, maybe tomorrow, stu-

dents say now. When the rest get used to what is, students show us the shining path of the future," said the author of "Memory of Fire" (1986) and "Open Veins of Latin America" (1971).

"At times like this, when our Latin America is suffering with the rest of the world the disastrous consequences of the collapse of the greed of unbridled capitalism, today more than ever, we can not afford to turn our back on our students," Galeano said. "We hope the university and government authorities, with the greatest respect, halt the use of force, sit down and negotiate with them in peace, as equals. Listen to them. Be generous. They are not within the enclosure, entrenched in the campus, on a whim. They are there because they are the heart, the flame of the university"

Inter News Service contributed to this report.

LOCAL BRIEFS

All Puerto Rico for Puerto Rico calls for participation in general strike

The labor union coalition All Puerto Rico for Puerto Rico called on workers to paralyze all work Tuesday, the day they have scheduled a general strike in order to express their indignation with the government.

The general strike will paralyze all public transportation and school classes, said the union leaders who make up the coalition spoke Sunday on their plans for the general strike in front of the gates of the University of Puerto Rico's campus in Río Piedras.

"The 24-hour strike Tuesday will be an expression of discontent and indignation with the repressive policies of fiscal austerity that are killing people's pocketbooks imposed by the current administration and that are placing the weight of the economic crisis on the back of salaried people and the university community," said Bishop Juan Vera, a spokesman for the labor coalition.

During the general strike, employees will congregate in front of their work places early Tuesday to stop work at public agencies and private industry and then will march to the

UPR's Río Piedras campus, where there will be various acts of protest, labor leaders said.

"This is a massive and categorical call against the abuse of a merciless government that has shown its insensibility by declaring a state of siege at the UPR's Río Piedras campus, by firing public employees, by dismantling a large part of public service, by attacking community and environmental organizations and by imposing fiscal and economic measures that affect the best interests and the integrity of working families," the union leaders said.

Zayas Seijo father dies

Priest Héctor Zayas Chardón, 93, the father of former Ponce Mayor Francisco Zayas Seijo, died at 7:10 a.m. Sunday morning at the Santo Asila de Damas Hospital in Ponce from complications after suffering a stroke April 24.

A wake for Zayas Chardón, who would have turned 94 on Nov. 24, will be held starting at 5 p.m. today at J. Oliver Funeral Home on Las Américas Avenue in Ponce, said Nancy Colón de Zayas, the wife of the former Ponce mayor.

Zayas Chardón was a veteran of the island's cooperative movement and became a priest

after he was widowed.

Zayas Seijo had spent Saturday night by his father's side because he foresaw his father could die at any moment, his wife said.

"Ico and I were prepared because we had seen that he was very ill, and this morning he called me at 7 a.m. to go pick him up and when I arrived he asked that I leave him alone with his father; he went in a peaceful manner," Colón Zayas said.

After a mass is held Tuesday at 11 a.m. in his honor at the funeral home, Zayas Chardón will be buried in the Catholic Cemetery.

"He was everything, a lover, father, exceptional person and an incredible priest," Zayas Chardón's daughter-in-law said.

Ponce mayor elected chair of NPP municipal committee

Ponce Mayor María "Mayita" Meléndez Altieri was elected Sunday as the chairwoman of the New Progressive Party's municipal committee in Ponce.

The election was held at the Salvador Dijols Coliseum, which was decorated with posters declaring Meléndez Altieri's plans to run for

reelection as a city mayor for the NPP.

Eight-hundred people, of whom 360 were NPP municipal delegates, attended the event.

"As I told Gov. Fortuño last Thursday, I have no problem, I am going forward," Meléndez Altieri told the crowd after she was elected party municipal chairwoman.

Fine Arts School students slated to strike today

Students of the Fine Arts School in Old San Juan are slated to begin a 48-hour strike today to protest an 89 percent cut to the institution's budget for fiscal 2011 and call for Gov. Fortuño to consider increasing funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Students demand immediate talks between the parties on the budget cuts that threaten the permanence of the Fine Arts School as an institution of public education that is accessible and has high academic and artistic performance, the student council said in a written release issued Sunday.

Students also are calling for the nixing of layoffs under Fiscal Emergency Law 7 which are putting at risk the jobs of more than half the school's professors.