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Tell Orbitz to Stop Sending Customers Across the Picket Line!

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6/14/2004. *Chicago Tribune*

Hotel Workers Plan Big Stink
6/11/2004. *Crain's Chicago Business*

Congress Plaza Strike Entering its Second Year
6/11/2004. *Chicago Sun-Times*

Major Action Planned for Congress Hotel Strike One-year Anniversary
6/9/2004.

Judge to hear hotel dispute
5/24/2004. *Chicago Sun-Times*

One year later ... and still going strong
5/24/2004. *Columbia Chronicle*

Congress Plaza Hotel Labor Trial Begins Monday
5/21/2004.

Report Documents Abuses at Nasser-Owned Gelmart Industries
4/30/2004.

Hotel Strikers Take Fight Overseas
3/21/2004. *Chicago Sun-Times*

NEWS ADVISORY For Immediate Release June 9, 2004

Major Action Planned for Congress Hotel Strike One-year Anniversary

Over one thousand to attend rally and civil disobedience

What: Congress Hotel Strike anniversary demonstration

Who: Chicago's labor and progressive community

Where: Outside the Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave.

Date: Tuesday, June 15

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 15 th, over one thousand supporters will march on the Congress Plaza Hotel as dozens partake in a major civil disobedience on Michigan Avenue during rush hour. The event marks the one-year anniversary of Chicago's first hotel strike, when Congress workers walked off the job in response to illegal wage cuts and other unfair labor practices committed by hotel management. Strikers will be joined by HERE General President John Wilhelm and community allies such as the Chicago Federation of Labor, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Chicago Jobs with Justice, the Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues, Centro Sin Fronteras and ACORN.

"The Congress Hotel is a rogue employer with no respect for its workers, its customers or the Chicago community," said Henry Tamarin, President of HERE Local 1. "After a year on strike, this once-grand hotel is now an embarrassment to the city's hospitality industry."

The Congress Hotel is owned by a limited partnership with includes investors Albert Nasser and Ivor Braka. Nasser resides in New York and Geneva, Switzerland, and is CEO and Chairman of Gelmart Industries, a major manufacturer of women's undergarments. Braka is President of New York-based US Realty & Investment Co., whose affiliates own properties in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Texas and Wisconsin, and have recently acquired properties in downtown Chicago.

Over the past year, hundreds of customers have complained about poor service and

Congress Plaza Hotel's
Owners Consider Sale
1/28/2004. *Chicago Tribune*

City orders hotel to clean up
or close up
1/5/2004. *Columbia
Chronicle*

Timetable set for building
issues at hotel
12/19/2003. *Chicago Sun-
Times*

Congress Plaza told to fix
code violations
12/19/2003. *Chicago
Tribune*

City alleges 68 violations at
Congress Plaza
12/17/2003. *Chicago Sun-
Times*

City Sues Michigan Avenue
Hotel; Cites poor conditions,
code violations at Congress
Hotel
12/16/2003. *Crain's Chicago
Business*

City of Chicago Sues
Congress Plaza Hotel
12/15/2003.

Striking Hotel Workers
Stage 'Pink Panty'
Informational Protest
11/28/2003. *WBBM
Newsradio 780*

Haithcock calls for
Congress Hotel's Shutdown
11/20/2003. *Chicago
Journal*

Aldermen seek closure of
Congress Plaza Hotel
11/19/2003. *Crain's Chicago
Business*

City Finds Numerous
Violations at Congress
Plaza, Panel Told
11/19/2003. *Chicago Sun-
Times*

Aldermen Seek To Shut
Down Strike-Bound
Congress Plaza Hotel
11/18/2003. *WBBM
Newsradio 780*

unsafe and unsanitary conditions at the hotel. HERE Local 1 estimates that the Congress Hotel has lost over \$1 million in business since the strike.

"A year is a long time to be on strike," adds Congress striker Sharon Williams. "But we're going to be out there as long as it takes to win justice for ourselves and our families."

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Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union (HERE) Local 1**