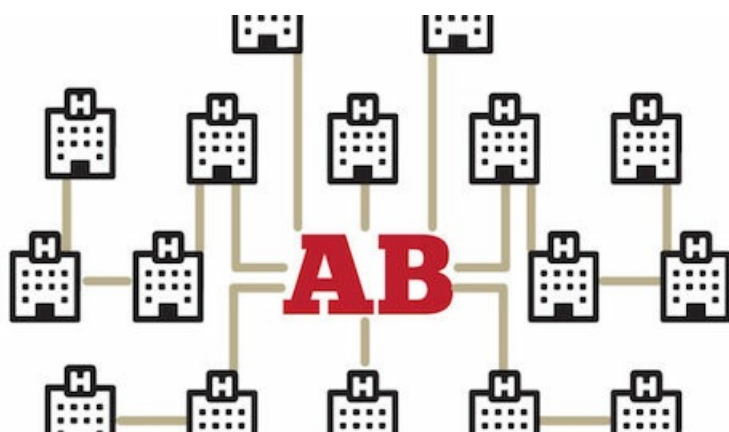


TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Hospitality union pressures Anbang Insurance Group to be transparent

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Graphic courtesy of Unite Here

By STAFF REPORTS

In only a few short years, China's Anbang Insurance Group Co. has purchased more than a dozen high-end hotels located in the United States.

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Although Anbang has closed on 16 high-end property deals since 2014, there is limited information regarding the company's true ownership and its relationship with the Chinese government. In response to unanswered questions, Unite Here, a hospitality labor union, has launched a travel Web site focused on Anbang-owned properties in the U.S.

Security stays

Unite Here has launched a Web site, using the URL Anbanghoteltraveladvisory.org, to share concerns regarding Anbang's connection to the Chinese government.

According to the New York Times, it is Anbang's "deep ties to the Chinese state" that has caused the concerns with U.S. security experts.

Its announcement for Anbanghoteltraveladvisory.org cited three Anbang-related happenings that it feels should raise a red flag among security-conscious business and government travelers.

The first is that former president Barack Obama no longer stayed at the Waldorf Astoria New York after the property was purchased by Anbang in 2014 ([see story](#)). The Associated Press reported "fears of espionage" as the cause for not staying at the hotel, a long time favorite of sitting U.S. presidents while visiting New York.



Waldorf Astoria New York was purchased by Anbang in 2014

Anbang had put in an offer to purchase a California hotel near a U.S. naval base. The deal did not go through because the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States reportedly raised security concerns.

Lastly, Anbang rescinded its attempt to purchase Starwood Hotels & Resorts and Fidelity & Guaranty Life ([see story](#)). The deals fell through when Anbang would not provide detailed information about its ownership or financing.

"We still don't know who ultimately owns and controls Anbang," said Elliott Mallen, research coordinator at Unite Here, in a statement. "Before booking a stay at one of Anbang's hotels, security minded travelers should ask: Is my cybersecurity as good as the president's?"

On the Web site created by Unite Here, the union will provide a list of Anbang-owned hotels. The list will be updated periodically.

According to Unite Here's Web site Anbang currently owns the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess and Four Seasons Scottsdale, AZ; Four Seasons Silicon Valley, Loews Santa Monica, Montage Laguna Beach, Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel, Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay and Westin St. Francis, CA; Four Seasons Washington; Intercontinental Miami; Fairmont Chicago and International Chicago; Four Seasons Austin, TX and Four Seasons Jackson Hole, WY.

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