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200 laid-off workers protest

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More than 200 laid-off construction workers yesterday protested outside the Kowloon Bay headquarters of their former employer.

UDL Argos Engineering and Heavy Industry Company, the contractor for China Light & Power's Black Point Power Station near Tuen Mun, laid off 520 workers on Saturday.

The protest outside Chevalier Commercial Centre was held after a mediation meeting convened by the Labour Department failed to find a solution.

Demands were made for compensation for 310 workers who had worked at the site for less than two years.

But the company says it will only compensate those who had worked for more than two years.

"The majority of the workers have worked less than two years," said labour legislator Lee Cheuk-yan, representing the workers. "All we ask is proportional compensation for everyone."

Argos' deputy general manager, Peter Law Kee-leung, said the company would hold more meetings with the workers but ruled out any immediate agreement.