



# Global



UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES

Sindicalismo Cidadão, Ético e Inovador

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## In search of development, civic rights and valuation of work!

### The largest march of workers in the history of Brazil

On March 06, Brasilia experienced a historical day. Through a combined action for unitarian agendas, the 6th March of Trade Union Centrals and Social Movements took place. This protest, which gathered approximately 50 thousand people, is a reflex of popular initiatives in pro of growth of Brazil, for strengthening of labour and generation of income.



Thousands of militants from UGT representing several Brazilian trade unions gathered with protestors from CUT, CGTB, Nova Central, CTB and Força Sindical, as well as with other representatives of social movements connected to women, students, peasants, African-Americans, among others.

This march, which did not occur for two years, has the primary request of restoring the dialogue among trade union centrals and social movements with the Dilma Rousseff government, aiming to negotiate the fight ideals of the working class.

According to **Ricardo Patah, president of UGT**, this is an act that shows the energy and commitment of Brazilian trade union centrals. "2013 is the year of the working class and in this period we will be able to reach the expected achievements so that Brazil continues in the path of growth", he lectured.

These centrals had a hearing with the president, Dilma Rousseff, on a occasion in which the agenda of requests of the working class was handed in to her. This same document was sent to Joaquim Barbosa, president of the Supreme Court, Henrique Alves, president of the House of Representatives and Renan Calheiros, and president of the Senate.

### Women

Several movements of women attended this act that precedes the celebrations of the International Women's Day. "Without the female force, Brazil would not be on the level of development that it currently is", **Ricardo Patah** emphasized. (*Fábio Ramalho – from Brasília*)

## Dilma Rousseff receives the visit of Ricardo Patah

Delegation of UGT dealt with an extensive agenda with the president

The president Dilma Rousseff received the visit of the president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, who was with Francisco Pereira (Chiquinho), UGT's secretary of political and union organization, and Eleuza de Cássia Bufelli Macari, secretary of UGT's Women Department, along with the congressmen Ademir Camilo, Roberto de Lucena, Roberto Santiago and João Dado, to deal with the regulation of commerce workers and motorcycle couriers, and ILO Convention 151, which guarantees collective bargaining in public work, among other issues.



The deadline for the presidential sanction regulating the commerce worker profession is March 8. According to Patah, the trade area suffers from high levels of informality and precariousness. "This new law will provide more security to commerce workers. Out of 12 million of Brazilian workers in this sector, 37% are informal workers", and completed by saying that the regulation will be used as a model to other classes. "Dilma was sympathetic and we imagine that she will sanction this law as soon as possible".

The regulation of the motorcycle couriers class was also on debate, and the deputy Roberto Santiago (SP), vice-president of UGT, talked to the president about the negative index. "We have around 120 thousand motorcycle couriers who work in Sao Paulo, and 23 thousand were able to adapt to the new legislation over the last 2 years, therefore, 85% were not able to do so, and that is an extremely serious problem to our city and to several regions of Brazil". Santiago got off the meeting feeling optimistic concerning this issue.

The International Labour Organization will hold in June its annual conference, which is attended by trade unions officers from all countries. This year, the trade union officer from Brazil is Ricardo Patah, who affirmed that if the Convention 151 is not regulated until then, he will denounce the government.

**Roberto de Lucena, national vice-president of UGT**, mentioned the importance of this meeting. "More than UGT itself, the trade union movement and workers, who had their agendas defended, gained a lot in this meeting".

The president of UGT also handed in a document to Dilma Rousseff which was elaborated by economists of the trade union central as a contribution of workers to the debate that, for now, reaffirms in the relationship between the president and the Brazilian trade union movement.

## ILO Conference will discuss the Public Service

**The International Labour Conference**, which will take place in Geneva from June 5 to 21, will offer an opportunity to the discussion of essential issues for life and the future of workers. This year, the Brazilian trade union representative will be Ricardo Patah, president of UGT.

Among other issues, this international conference will deal with Labour Relations (Public Service - ILO Convention 151). Patah already stated that he will denounce Brazil in ILO if Convention 151 is not regulated. This Conference will also discuss the challenges that the degradation of the environment presents to the labour world. Our proposals include the promotion of green and decent jobs and the implementation of a fair transition.

Last January, Otton Mata Roma, secretary of UGT's International Department, promoted a preparatory seminar for UGT's delegation which will represent the trade union central in the conference, in June, in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Nissan workers make a protest

Nissan workers from a factory in Mississippi, United States, held a protest against this company in a tree planting ceremony which took place in front of Geneva Auto Show, on March, 07.

This protest was organized by United Auto Workers, the trade union of automobile industry workers of the United States. Nissan workers, who want to create their local trade union - a fact that this company actively fights against - invited visitors of the exhibition to "look under the bright light of Nissan".

Nissan is forbidding workers in its Mississippi plant to hold a fair trade union election and it is using a fear campaign to discourage workers from creating their trade union branch. Michael Carter and Willard "Chip" Wells Jr., Nissan workers in Mississippi, described the situation that they face.

"They do not want a trade union in Mississippi. They want to frighten workers by saying that the plant will shut down. We want a clean choice, in which workers are able to vote if they want a union" said Carter.

Chip Wells, a workers who attended the ceremony, said: "We want to jointly work with Nissan. It is a good company that produces good cars. With a representative trade union we will be able to make better cars".

Automobile workers of unionized industries in the USA earn higher salaries and are entitled to better working conditions and better benefits. Automobile industries located in the south are kept away from trade unions through fear campaigns, with treats that the company will be closed.

**Nissan workers and directors of the trade union UAW will come to UGT next week to search for the sympathy of UGT related to their fight.**

## To UAW, Brazil is an example

With the title "Brazil is a role model for the recovery of America", **Bob King, president of UAW**, the trade union of automobile workers of the United States, wrote the main article of the trade union magazine Solidarity. King showed that "it can happen in a country where workers are heard".

Illustrated with pictures of the president Lula, the article of King does not spare compliments to the ex-president. "Anyone who focus on the dramatic problem of reviving the American economy does not need to look at any other place than Brazil under president Lula".

To King, "Lula, twice elected and who left the presidency with an 80,5 approval rating, was an automobile industry worker and a trade union leader, who rose from a humble beginning as a shoe shine and a street vendor to the highest position in the country. His policies took 20 million Brazilians away of misery and changed the course of History".



King finds the achieved results superb. "Economic policies of prosperity in the Lula government increased the growth rate of Brazil from 1,6% to over 7%. Unemployment decreased from 11% to 5,3% and the country created 15 million new jobs. The minimum wage was increased in 67% and Lula began a program to provide direct aide to poor mothers, hugely reducing poverty and hunger.

King states that Lula recently visited Nissan workers in Canton, Mississippi, who told him about the bullying and treats that they suffer for wanting a referendum to create a local trade union.

"He declared full support from Brazilian trade unions to Nissan workers, a support coming from workers of one of the automotive markets that grow the most in the world", King ended.

## Santiago is the new president of the Labour Commission

**Roberto Santiago (PSD-SP), deputy and vice-president of UGT,** took over the Labour, Administration and Public Service Commission (CTASP) under the Chamber of Deputies. Recently he was with the president Dilma, bringing workers requests.



Santiago will be in charge of administrating projects related to urban and rural workers, related to public servants and also to issues concerning public administration.

The deputy states that it is within this commission that strategic debates that concern workers take place, and he has the intention of speeding up the agenda of the working class. "Being president of the Labour Commission, I'll speed up the process of projects that concern workers. It will be a great opportunity for the class to gain this representability in a year that we need to sediment the space that the government is signing to the trade union agenda", the deputy said.

## SINECOFI receives international and national trade union leaders



On February 27, Zé Carlos Neves, president of the Commerce Workers Union of Foz do Iguaçu (Sinecofi) and city councillor, received the visit of an entourage of trade union leaders of Argentina, besides members of the National UGT and UGT State branch of Parana. The Argentinean entourage was led by the secretary of International Relations of Faecys (Argentinean Federation of Commerce and Service Employees) and Ruben Cortina, member of UNI-Global Union.

This meeting had the agenda of holding an event that will gather trade union leaders of Mercosur (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) to establish an agenda to tackle slave work, exploration of minors and exploration of rural workforce.

"Our concern and our fight are focused on the defense of decent work. That is why we are going to gather international unionists in order to guide concrete actions in terms of Mercosur, viewing problems that are common to workers of the Southern Cone, especially those in the borders - those that are to support us in legal premises in order for us to act in favor of them", emphasized Zé Carlos, president of Sinecofi.

## Collective bargaining in public administration

Carmen Benítez Gambirazio, ILO advisor, sent us a **a general study on labour relationships in public administration** which will be discussed in the next International Labour Conference.

This study was prepared with the help of several trade union organization of the region that are affiliated to the International of Public Services (ISP) and also had the collaboration of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA).



"The União Geral dos Trabalhadores reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " **Ricard Patah – UGT's President**

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