

## UGT is in Brasilia against interest rate

On November 26, more than 3 thousand workers of UGT and officials from other trade union centrals held, in front of the Central Bank, in Brasilia, a protest against high interest rates.

To UGT, the increase in the Selic Rate is a hard hit against the working class and society, since it halts the economic growth and the creation of jobs.



This protest began in the morning, in order to match with the beginning of the Copom (Committee on Monetary Policies) meeting that would decide the new Selic interest rate, which is currently 9,5%. The announcement of this index is expected to be made on November 27. Trade union centrals complain that Copom consecutively increased the rate over the last months and want to brake this ascent.

To Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, "president Dilma cannot forget her righteous promises to lower the interest rates, since interest rates do not match with economic growth, with growth in commerce and especially with increase in employment".

The Selic rate even went through ten consecutive reductions, down to 7,25% per year, but it was increased in the most recent five meetings of Copom, until it reached 9,5%. In the last meeting of 2013, which ends tomorrow, it is expected that it goes through another increase, possibly to 10%.

This act was also made to step pressure on the government and on the National Congress and to get the attention of the Brazilian society for the importance on approving the requests of the working class: end of the social security factor, termination without cause, adjustment of the IR chart, extinction of the law project that increases outsourcing, valuation of retirements and repudiation to the changes that the government intends to perform on the unemployment checks that damage unemployed workers.

Trade union centrals are supposed to have a meeting within the next weeks with the president to deal with the continuation of these requests..

### Inside this number:

UGT is in Brasilia against interest rate 01

UGT in the 10th March of the Black Awareness Day 02

Dieese: wages of black people are 36% lower 02

UGT's national makes an overview of its action 03

UGT obliges FIFA to change the time of the World Cup games 03

Pressure of UGT prevents changes in NR12 03

Retirees of UGT have new board of directors 04

Institute against slave work is launched 04

Artists hold up red card to child labour 04



## UGT in the 10th March of the Black Awareness Day

On November 20, 2013, it was celebrated 10 years of fight for a Brazil with no racism, in the interspace of MASP - Art Museum, in which several institutions that represent African American Groups, as well as INSPIR - Inter-american Trade Union Institute for Racial Equality, Brazilian trade union and trade union centrals, attended the 10th March of the Black Awareness Day.



The protest, with nearly a thousand people, started at 11 A.M. at Paulista Avenue, had several cultural and religious presentations, amidst speeches and demands. Wagner José de Souza spoke on behalf of UGT and INSPIR (Racial Equality Inter-american Trade Union Institute), and highlighted the need of the Brazilian government to perform its role by making justice in the democratic social constitutional state, Francisco Quintino, secretary general of Inspir, talked about discriminatory practices that violate the rights of black people.

This march left Masp museum, following to the Anhangabaú valley, at 2:30 P.M., where it gathered for festivities of the Black Awareness Day.

### Dieese: wages of black people are 36% lower

Black people in Brazil lack equality of opportunities and, this way, they end up taking job positions of lower qualification and, consequently, lower wages, shows the study "Black people in the job market", released on November 13 by Dieese (Inter Union Department of Socioeconomic Studies).

The research showed that a black workers earn, on average, 36,11% less than non black workers. However, the research does not compare the two segments in equal positions - it only verifies how much black workers earn and not black workers in different sectors, and it establishes an average.

The black people segment, in the research, is composed by blacks and mulattos, the non black segment covers white and yellow people

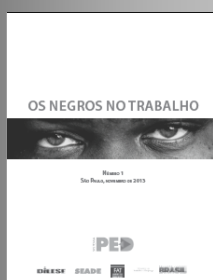
In Sao Paulo, for example, in 2011 and 2012, the ratio of black workers per sector was 67,4% in construction, as masons, servants, painters and handymen. To the not black workers, this percentage was 52,6%.

The same way, the non black people represented 22,8% in services in Sao Paulo, in jobs such as cleaners, garbage men, chambermaids and housekeepers. To the non blacks, this percentage reached 11,1%.

As this study shows, black people are concentrated in job positions of less prestige and valuation, consequently, they earn lower wages. "The problem is lack of equal opportunities for black and non black people, in order for them to reach more valued job positions, said the economist Lúcia Garcia, coordinator of the System of Research on Employment and Unemployment of Dieese.

Besides, black people find it more difficult to reach direction and planning positions. When it comes to Sao Paulo, for example only 5,7% of the black people were in such positions in the period 2011-2012 compared to 18,1% of non blacks. Black people, however, represented 61,1% in operational positions and 24,7% in supporting positions, compared to 52,1% and 23,3% of non black workers, respectively. "Black people not only face the problem of selectivity at work as well as they face obstacles that direct them to lower qualification jobs", said Lucia.

The information that were analyzed were ascertained by the PED system, and they were made through a covenant between Dieese, Seade Foundation, Ministry of Labour and Employment and regional partners in the Federal District and metropolitan regions of Belo Horizonte, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Recife, Salvador and São Paulo. *Agência Estado*



**Os Negros  
no Mercado  
de Trabalho**

## UGT's national board of executives makes an overview of its action in 2013



UGT held, on November 22, in Sao Paulo, the 19th plenary meeting of its National Board of Executives. This meeting, the last one of 2013, was an important moment to make an overview of the activities that the central developed over a year, as well as making a survey on its growth in this period.

In the opening, Ricardo Patah, president of the national UGT, emphasized the importance of this meeting, once another year is coming to an end and a new period is starting and, in order for UGT to continue on its path of growth and fight in pro of the working class and for a fair society, it is necessary that goals are established to reach new goals in 2014.



During the meeting, Patah announced the affiliation of five trade unions that represent workers of several branches of activities in the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Goiás.

In the plenary session, it was also announced that the federal deputy Lourival Mendes (PTdoB), from Maranhao, is the new vice-president of the national UGT and he comes to strengthen the parliamentary bench of the trade union central. "I come to UGT to add positive gains, since our commitments and responsibility will raise and, therefore, we will intensify our fight so that the government is able to provide a higher quality public service to the population", explains parliamentarian Lourival. (Fábio Ramalho - UGT / Photo - FH Mendes)

## UGT obliges FIFA to change the time of the World games

On November 23, the trade union of Professional Soccer Athletes of Sao Paulo, an institution affiliated with UGT, achieved an important victory once the news that FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) already admits changing the time of the World Soccer Cup games was announced. These games will take place in cities of North and Northeast Brazil.

Rinaldo Martorelli, president of this trade union, has been raising this fight for months, since it is inhuman for the athletes and for the audience to schedule these games for 1:00 P.M., depending on the city in which such games will take place, he even went to Zurich, Switzerland, to reinforce the request of this institution that, via studies, proved how much it is harmful for the athletes to play a soccer game in Manaus or in Fortaleza in hot days.

With the support of FIFPro (International Federation of Professional Footballers) and, even after being questioned by pope Francisco, Joseph Blatter, president of FIFA, announced that the request of the Trade Union of Athletes should be respected and the times of the games will be changed in order to avoid high temperatures.

## Pressure of UGT prevents changes in NR12

On November 19, Francisco Pereira (Chiquinho), national secretary of UGT's department of Trade Union Organization and Policies, represented UGT, in Brasilia, in a public hearing at the Labour Commission of the House of Representatives, which had the goal of discussing the regulatory norm 12 (NR12), which deals with security and health at work in machines and equipment, and debate the law project that definitely suspended the normative effects.



This law project, written by federal deputy Arnaldo Faria de Sá (PTGB-SP), was removed of the agenda of discussion after UGT stepped pressure, still, the hearing took place and was attended by all the businessmen sector.

"All important employers institutions attended this hearing with a clear position concerning the suspension of the effects of the regulatory norm 12", explains unionist Francisco Pereira (Chiquinho).

Chiquinho also emphasized that, what drew his attention the most was the position of employers institutions that, with no preoccupation with the risks of accidents at work, simply alleged that they could not stop a production line to discuss issues related to accident at work. "This was something that got me astonished and, in my opinion, it is a inhuman attitude", he said.

Chiquinho pointed out that the position of the businessmen class was completely on the wrong way of what is recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO), which values tripartite negotiations in everything, believing that this is a privileged forum that exists in the sense of finding solutions for any type of problem. (Fábio Ramalho – UGT)



Warning:  
Proposition of change of regulatory norm 12 is part of the **the 101 propositions for the labour modernization of the National Industry Confederation**





## Retirees of UGT have new board of directors

UGT's Trade Union of Retired Workers, Pensioners and Elderly People (Sindiap) elected its new board of directors, entitled "Unity Plate", which will represent this class for the next four years.

Among the members of the new board, there is Natal Leo, who will be the president of Sindiap, though he has been performing such position since president Rubens Romano had to be absent due to medical reasons.

On the occasion, Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, talked about the special attention that UGT has concerning retirees and that, therefore, everyone who was at this event, should make an effort to make the life of the retired worker a decent one, providing dignity to the collaborators and constructors of the new society that we live today. [Check out the names of the Unity Plate](#)

## Institute against slave work is launched

Companies and institutions that signed the National Pact for the Eradication of Slave Work launched an institute on November 19, in order to enlarge the promotion of decent conditions for the employed labour in chains of production, in Brazil and abroad. This institute, named InPacto (Institute of National Pact for the Eradication of Slave Work), is a result of more than eight years of work led by a partnership between the Ethos Institute, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the organization Observatório Social and the NGO Repórter Brasil.

In 2005, these institutions invited organizations of the civil society to join it and face the tough reality of people that were submitted to slavery and abuse in the production of consumer goods or in the national agriculture and cattle raising.

Ever since this pact has been signed, the years of 2011 and 2012 presented a higher number of signatures - 112 and 187, respectively -, led by companies of the textile sector, after it was revealed that illegal immigrants were explored in the fashion industry and were responsible for sewing clothes that were sold to large retail chains. In 2013, a mark was reached and there were 413 signatures until now.

This institute has as its founding partners, the following people Caio Magri, from Ethos Institute; Camila Valverde, from Walmart; Juliana Lopes, from Maggi; Leonardo Sakamoto, from Repórter Brasil; Paulo Pianez, from Carrefour; Roni Barbosa, from Observatório Social; Rosa Maria de S. e A. Barbosa, from Eletronorte; and Victor Barau, Tesini Barau and Yuri Fortes, from Cargill.

## Artists hold up red card to child labour

The international Labour Organization (ILO) is relaunching its campaign "Red Card to Child Labour", which already counts on the support of several world famous people, such as the actress Cher, Academy Awards winner. Renowned Brazilian artists, such as Wagner Moura, Camila Pitanga (in the picture), Gilberto Miranda, Priscila Camargo, Osmar Prado, Bete Mendes and Dira Paes made photo shoots and recorded videos for this campaign.

The ILO launched the first Red Card campaign in 2002, to raise public awareness of child labour.

While the number of child labourers across the world has dropped by a third to 168 million over the last decade, progress has been too slow. The 152 countries that participated in the third conference that just ended in Brasilia have renewed their commitment to reach that target.



Half the world's child workers are trapped in the worst forms of child labour. They work in fields, mines and factories and many are sexually abused, exploited in the drug trade or forced to join armies and militias.

The ILO is the UN's specialised agency for the world of work and has the world's largest programme for the elimination of child labour. It has already helped free millions of children across the world.

[Watch the participation of Brazilian artists in this campaign](#)

"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

Press secretary of UGT: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira – MTb 62.224/SP

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