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Defense of rights only in the Congress

Without an agreement with the government, revocation or changes in Provisional Measures 664 and 665 now may only take place in the Congress

The Congress will be the next stage for the clash between workers and the government for the revocation or changes in the Provisional Measures 664 and 665, which alter labor and social security rights. The meeting that was held on February 3 between trade union centrals and ministers, attended by Miguel Rossetto (minister of the General Secretariat of the Presidency), Carlos Gabas (Welfare minister), Nelson Barbosa (Planning minister) and Manoel Dias (Labor and Employment minister) did not make any progress.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, said that after next week they will be meeting with the parliament. "In the Congress, we will have the possibility to adapt and improve what the provisional measures remove concerning workers rights.



The meeting with Eduardo Cunha (PMDB party), new president of the chamber of deputies, is scheduled for this Tuesday, February 10.

Patah recalled that UGT supports the sustainability of the social protection system and the fiscal balance, but this can not be done withdrawing labor rights and damaging those who are entering the job market today, especially young people.

"We are searching for alternatives that do not affect our money, which is already so sweaty and suffered to earn. The government can, for example, tax fortunes, reduce the Selic tax and create high quality jobs," said Patah, measures that are part of a broad set of proposals in a document elaborated by UGT and sent to the government at the previous meeting held on January 19.

The **National Fight Day in Defense of Rights and of Employment**, which took place on January 28, at Paulista Avenue in São Paulo, and in other State capitals of Brazil, united workers and militants linked to UGT, CSB, CUT, CTB, Força Sindical and Nova Central.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, emphasized that people want a government of employment, of social inclusion, of decent work, one that do not throw the entire tax burden in the back of the working class in order to pay for public expenses. "We do not want the government to do an adjustment in its proposals, we demand that on March 03, when there will be another meeting between trade union centrals and the government, there is a regression in relation to these measures that damage the working class."

As for **Luiz Carlos Mota, president of UGT's State branch of São Paulo**, the package hurts workers mainly by requiring greater waiting period for the access to unemployment insurance. "Why not make a tax reform? Why only the workers are paying the bill?", he asked.

"In the United States, cradle of capitalism, President Barack Obama has positioned himself in favor of taxing large fortunes. We have to face the beast and move forward in a sustainable development project, with a special look towards the working class, who suffers too much with credit crunches that are being put".

Against high employee turnover

In a meeting with minister, Patah asks for decrease in dismissals

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, had a meeting on February 10 with Miguel Rosseto, minister of the General Secretariat of the Presidency, to request an engagement of the government to detain the high employee turnover in Brazil, especially in the trade area.

During the meeting, Patah recalled that the ILO (International Labour Organization) Convention 158, which deals with this question, was ratified by Brazil by president Fernando Henrique Cardoso (in office 1995-2003) who, later, after a lot of pressure from businessmen, went back and withdrew the Brazilian signature.



This is one of the reasons why Brazilians businessmen perform mass dismissals and nothing happens to them.

"The minister promised to take this issue to president Dilma Rousseff and that satisfies me since I know it will be deeply examined with the seriousness that such issue deserves", stated Patah.

Workers and businessmen discuss pact for industry

Organizations want lower interest rates, low taxes and alternatives to avoid jobs closure

A lunch at the head office of the Brazilian Association of Machinery and Equipment (Abimaq) gathered trade union centrals and businessmen to discuss measures to reactivate the economy and avoid job losses. The idea is to launch a manifest in the week after Carnival, defending a reduction of the interest rates and taxes and changes in the exchange rate, as well as measures to combat de-industrialization.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, Adilson Araújo, president of CTB, Miguel Torres, president of Força Sindical, Ubiraci Dantas de Oliveira, president of CGTB, Sergio Nobre, general secretary of CUT, attended the lunch among others. On the business side, representatives of the chemical, textile, steel and non-ferrous metals. On February 12, there will be another meeting to discuss details of the manifest.

"The report (entrepreneurs) was very drastic. We are also concerned," said Torres. Employers recalled that the participation of industry in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell from 35% in 1980 to 12% in recent times.

It's about Rights, Stupid!

During the campaign that Bill Clinton won for the presidency of the United States, his advisor explained the defeat of Bush by saying: "it's the economy, stupid!".

Newspapers reported last week that the government was surprised with the decrease of popularity of president Dilma, in the last survey of Datafolha, attributing to the news of corruption in Petrobras and the bad performance of economy. Since these news come a long way, we might say to the advisors of the presidency "It's about Rights, Stupid!".

The decrease in the popularity ranking of the president in a survey that was publicized last Sunday, which reached 19 points, has its roots in the attack against workers rights, which she promised not to do while she was a candidate.

Restrictions on the unemployment insurance, which primarily affects young workers, on the allowance of PIS (Contribution to the Social Integration Plan) / PASEP (Patrimony Formation Program for the Public Employee), on the death pension and sick pay, the reduction in funding for education and funding cuts, increases in the price of gas and electric energy are being seen as a betrayal of election promises and as an unnecessary attack against the poorest.

The Brazilian Congress, including members of the government basis, have started to react to a policy wear that they will suffer: 435 amendments have already been presented until the late afternoon of this day February 09 to the Provisional Measure that changes the rules of the pension and sick pay, and 66 are from the PT party. In the Provisional Measure related to the unemployment insurance, 201 amendments were presented, 36 from the PT party.



The Datafolha survey showed that Brazilians did not give up on their country: we are proud of it and the country is great/good to live. Click on the image to enlarge

Decent work for another possible world

The delegation of the trade union centrals UGT, Força Sindical and Nova Central and of the National Confederation of Regulated Liberal University Workers (CNTU) attended, along with social movements, the World Biodiversity Social Forum, held from January 26 to 30 in Manaus (Amazonas State).

The event began with the mobilization of movements for the March - Another World is Possible - which was attended by the social and trade union movements. Nindberg Barbosa dos Santos, president of UGT's State branch of Amazonas, emphasized the fact that the trade union central knows the importance of Amazonian biodiversity, and understands the need for this debate between people, so that the voice of the Amazon is heard worldwide.

The involvement of UGT-AM since the beginning of the process of organization, according to Nindberg dos Santos, was a natural way for this institution, due to common ideals.

"The firmness of our position regarding the workers rights and the need to find efficient outputs to issues such as just transition and decent and dignified work, leaves no doubt about our position, which is the same that is historically defended by the World Social Forum", affirmed the trade union leader.

Cicero Pereira, Assistant Secretary of UGT's Department of International Affairs for the Americas, represented UGT in the table at the plenary session on Decent Work and Just Transition: Environment under the Trade Union Perspective, and recalled that the unbridled exploitation of natural resources, without worrying about environmental impacts, is what created the brutal imbalance between developed nations and other nations who are now being forced to share an account on what they did not participate.

"Just transition means ensuring that undeveloped countries are able to produce and to develop themselves, with good environmental practices, of course, but without being penalized by the deleterious effects of development policy of countries like the United States, which attribute all its wealth to very high rates of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere," said Cicero.

"Decent work is an obsession for us, at UGT, throughout the country and particularly in the Amazon. We understand this as a fundamental right of citizens, which might take place in the formal employment, within a company, public service or a non-governmental institution, or might occur in the informal activity," said Pedrinha Lasmar, Assistant Secretary of Environment and manager Decent Work at UGT's State branch of Amazonas.

UGT's National Department of the Youth highlights that, since the Forum brings the theme Another World is Possible, it is necessary and essential that the youth is present in the debates and in the construction of this new world.

For the Youth at UGT, it is vital to encourage and increase the participation of young people with non-partisan political training in the context of a moral and civic education, since they will be the ones who will fight for our rights, for our Amazon and for our country.

Decent work at the Olympic Games

In order to guarantee labour rights at the Olympic Games, UGT attends meeting at the COB (Brazil Olympic Committee)

UGT attended a meeting at COB's head office, in Rio de Janeiro, in which the topic of hiring reputable companies to offer their services during the 2016 Olympic Games was discussed.

The following people attended the meeting: Nilson Duarte, president of UGT's State branch of Rio de Janeiro; Weber Matias, Trade Union of Physical Education Professionals of São Paulo; Benjamin Parton, Director of Uni Américas; Luiz Fernando Correa and Flavia Diniz, respectively Director of Security and Manager of Institutional Relations at COB.

Nilson Duarte recalled the experiences of negotiations and the facts that occurred during the pre 2014 World Cup period, making it clear how important the participation of workers in the RIO 2016 follow up committees really is, in this sense, he suggested that COB participates, along with workers representatives, in a permanent group of discussion, one that involves the Olympic Committee, the Federal Government, businessmen and workers.



[More>>>](#)



Officers from UGT's State branch of Parana at UN

The unionists Alexandre Donizete Martins, Paulo Rossi and Paulo Sérgio dos Santos attended an important meeting at the UN.



The trade union officers from UGT's State branch of Parana Paulo Rossi, Alexandre Donizete Martins and Paulo Sérgio dos Santos, are attending the 53rd Meeting of the Social Development Committee of the United Nations (UN) in New York, USA. This event aims at discussing social development policies and counts on the participation of civil society organizations from more than 180 countries.

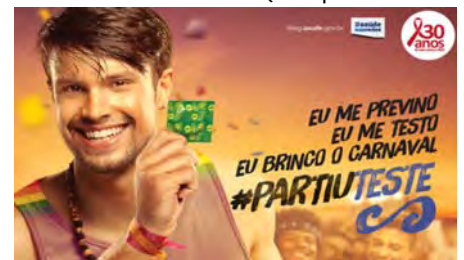
The unionists from Parana want to report, to UN members, the provisional measures 664 and 665, from President Dilma, which remove labor and social rights, such as unemployment insurance and access to social security. "We will ask support of the ILO member countries and the UN executive committee to interfere with the Brazilian government and that such provisional measures ought to be reviewed," said Paul Rossi. (UGT Paraná)

More prevention in Carnival

Oral test for AIDS with results in up to 30 minutes will be available at SUS (Unique Health System)

SUS users will start relying on a new type of diagnosis of AIDS. **It is about an oral test, which is being distributed to States by the Health Ministry.**

The Federal Government expects that, throughout 2015, the oral test should be available at the public health system. Information from the Health Ministry.



Security and health for bank workers

Bank workers organize bipartite committee on security and health at work

The first preparatory meeting among CONTEC (National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies), FEEBs and trade unions for the bipartite committee on security and health at work took place in the end of January. This meeting took place in the head office of the trade union of insurance workers of the State of Sao Paulo and began with a detailed presentation of the situation of theme commissions at FENABAN (National Federation of Banks).

Rumiko Tanaka, finance director at CONTEC, made a quick statement on the advances that were achieved, both in terms of workers health as in terms of bank security. On the occasion, part of the program on bank security from the bank Itau/Unibanco was presented and the calendar of activities was informed:

- February 24, from 10 AM to 5 PM: preparatory meeting on workers health, at the Trade Union of Insurance Workers of Sao Paulo, located at the Nove de Julho Avenue, nº40, Bela Vista - SP;
- February 25, meeting on workers health with FENABAN (time and place to be defined).

Numbers on labour turnover in Brazil

A look on data from RAIS (Annual Relation of Social Informations) 2002 -2013

This work is the result of another partnership of DIEESE (Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies) with the Labour and Employment Ministry aiming at analyzing the labour turnover issue. This study examines such problem per sector, according to attributes of worker and by type of institution, among other topics, from 2002 to 2013



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The UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores do Brasil.

The UGT union is an organization formed to defend the Brazilian workers across a broad trade union movement, national, ethical, supportive, independent, democratic and innovative.

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