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UGT's commitment to solve the crisis

Workers faced a moment of discouragement and without perspectives

Economy shrank more than 10% and unemployment is on the way to reach nearly 12 million workers by the end of the year.

There are many reasons for that:

1) Economy is not working anymore. Indexes are all negative. The GDP decreased 3.8% in 2015 and should decrease another 3.7% in 2016. Only in the State of São Paulo, more than 4,451 industries were closed and nearly 100 thousand stores closed in 2015.

2) The bankruptcy of public services is unquestionable, especially the ones of health, which is abandoned and suffers from diseases that should be eradicated (such as zika virus, chikungunya, microcephaly, dengue fever etc) and the ones related to education: its budget was drastically cut.

3) The national political system is broke. The physiology of give and take and the structure of public goods for private issues still rule; partisanship of the State involving a project that is merely related to power; clientelism that favors major groups and penalizes the population; corruption that destroys the State (check the broke Petrobras) and the nation and enriches those who rule and the major businessmen of the financial system.

4) There is no political party able to solve the crisis, but leaving the situation as it is means driving our country to depression and to unpredictable social and political consequences. Therefore, it is necessary to achieve new governance aimed at a political and economic project that unites the Brazilian nation to overcome this extremely serious crisis and restore growth, employment, income and development.

5) Without a political solution under the Constitution, Brazil is following a path towards a unprecedented social crisis, which could be transformed into a situation that will damage even more the Brazilian people.

6) Without political credibility, there is no political support from society or from the congress. Without political support, there is no governability. Without governability, there is no planning. Without planning, there is no investment. Without investment, there is no growth. Without growth, there is no employment. Without employment, there is no income. Without income, there is no consumption. Without consumption, there are no sales. Without sales, there are no factories, stores, malls, supermarkets, bars or restaurants. Without the organic combination of these factors, there is no development.

For these reasons, UGT understands that the near future demands:





UGT understands that the near future demands:

- I. Political and partisan reform, through an exclusive national constitutional assembly, widely negotiated with the organized civil society;
- II. Development of a new economic policy able to create an environment that provides credibility to restore investment with job generation.
- III. Immediate authorization of budget resources aimed to the execution of public policies on health, education, security, housing and transportation.
- IV. Immediate exclusion of more than fifty projects that extinguish or decrease workers rights.
- V. Support legislative measures to strengthen State organs in the fight against corruption.

Since UGT is the 2nd largest trade union of Brazil its ability is in its strong mobilization, it calls its grassroots workers and civil society in every location to step pressure on the political class to unlock the political environment and demand the implementation of these measures as a way of overcoming the crisis and also supporting the Prosecutor's Office in the Operation Car Wash so that our country's future is rewritten.

São Paulo (SP), April 06, 2016.

União Geral dos Trabalhadores – UGT

Under discussion: gender, race and youth

Belo Horizonte holds IV UGT's Conference on Gender, Race and Youth

On April 10, UGT's IV Conference on Gender, Race and Youth started, gathering unionists and militants from several Brazilian States to discuss what has been achieved over the last years, make an overview on the remaining problems and strengthen the issues related to gender, race and youth in departments of UGT.



Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, made a speech at the opening of the conference, emphasizing that this is a trade union center that has as its basic fight principle social inclusion and the irrefutable tackling of all sorts of prejudice and discrimination. He also emphasized the importance of young and black people, as well as women in the job market and that the conference is a time of discussion and reflection, development of proposals and strengthening of UGT in pro of demands of the sector.

Ana Cristina, UGT's secretary of human diversity issues, said: "the act of holding this conference is a breakthrough that defines proposals of UGT related to race, gender and youth. This is a special moment for the trade union center and all militants, since this space is dedicated to every discussion of issues as specific and important for our department."

To **Gustavo de Pádua Walfrido Filho, UGT's National Youth Secretary**, holding this conference means consolidating a movement that definitely began last year, just when the youth department first attended this event. (*Fábio Ramalho – UGT's press*)



Exportar para empregar: uma proposta da UGT para a crise



Nissan's practices are denounced at the Senate

In defense of trade union freedom

American and Brazilian workers accuse Nissan's assembly plant of barring trade unions

Metallurgists from Nissan's assembly plant located in Mississippi were supported by Brazilian colleagues in the fight for the right to organize their trade union. They had a legal hearing at the Human Rights Commission and described the arbitrary acts committed against workers in the plant, which is one of the sponsors of Rio 2016 Olympic Games.



Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, explained the situation: "if 50% + 1 workers want the trade union, it is mandatory to put it to a vote. And so, that's what they do, they achieve 50% + 1, but then Nissan dismiss some of these workers and when the official vote takes place they do not have the 50% + 1 required votes."

And he added: "I want to make clear that, wherever there are workers with their rights disrespected, the solidarity of workers throughout the world will be with them. In Brazil, the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo and UGT, institutions I preside, are in campaign against the anti-unionist practices of Nissan."

Nissan's anti-unionist practices are denounced at the Human Rights Commission

According to unionists, Nissan's assembly plant violates international rules on labor rights by preventing the unionization of workers in its automobile factories in the State of Mississippi, United States.

Nissan's anti-unionist practices in the United States are denounced at the Human Rights Commission
Watch the video >>>



Quem Senator Paulo Paim (PT party –State of Rio Grande do Sul), president of the Human Rights Commission, was the one who suggested the discussion as an answer to the request of Brazilian trade unions that are supportive with the United Auto Workers (UAW), an American trade union institution that represents workers of the automotive area, and IndustriALL Global Union (IGU), which congregates federations of industry workers from 140 countries.

Human rights are universal and we fight for workers rights achieve the same position. We are together in this campaign – Paim affirmed, regretting the position adopted in the American franchise of the Japanese multinational company, currently controlled by Renault. (Senate Press)



National Wage Floor of Commerce Workers

Patah launches campaign for national wage floor of commerce workers through a single reference date

The intense schedule of Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president, in the capital of Minas Gerais, on April 04, ended with a meeting with the grassroots board of directors of the Commerce Workers Union of Belo Horizonte and Metro Area (SECBHRM), held at the auditorium Carlos Alberto da Silva, ex-president and current heritage director of the institution who attended the event.



Patah announced UGT's decision of fighting to achieve a national wage floor, with a single reference date and equal results on the next collective bargaining. He defended the importance of developing a national negotiation with José Cloves Rodrigues, president of SECBHRM and UGT's national secretary of commerce workers. Both attended the meeting of the operational commission, which took place at the head office of the trade union center.

The unionist listed several reasons to demand the establishment of a single wage floor throughout Brazil. Starting with the long shifts, which reached, on average, 52 weekly hours, besides facing the burden of the informal market and an unprecedented turnover in the job market..

UGT against approval of Law Project 257/2016

UGT's State branch of Minas Gerais, through its department of the Public Servant, is mobilizing to prevent the approval of the Complementary Law Project 257/2016, for it considers this project another strike against the public servants..

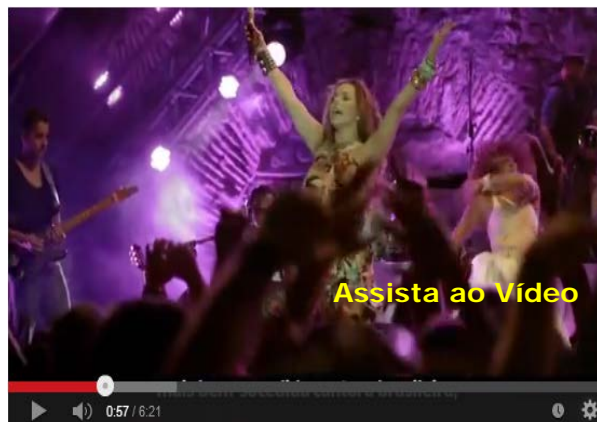
According to Eduardo Sérgio Coelho, secretary of the Public Servant, the Law Project 257/16, which was urgently submitted to the federal chamber, establishes the renegotiation of the State's debt, but in order for that to happen, several conditions that directly compromise public services and the lives of servants are imposed.



In the State of Rio Grande do Sul, UGT also made a campaign against the PLC 257>>

Daniela Mercury in a UN video

Check the UN campaign Free & Equal: getting to know the backstage of activism of the couple Daniela Mercury and Malu Verçosa Mercury..



In November 2015, the couple of Brazilian celebrities **Daniela Mercury** e **Malu Verçosa Mercury** went to the head office of the United Nations in New York City to launch their video for the Free & Equal Campaign: Celebrate Love. The International Labor Organization recorded the campaign's making of, which showed activism of the equality champions in favor of LGBTI rights, which you can check on the video directed by Ju Bacelar.



Check the UN campaign Free & Equal

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

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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