



May Day:

## 1,5 million workers in Sao Paulo

The **unified May Day parade** gathered, for the first time, 5 trade union centrals, to celebrate the International Workers' Day, an event that gathered over 1,5 million workers in Sao Paulo. **UGT** went up to the stage to claim for a reduction in working hours for shift work, for the end of the social security factor, for professional qualification and decent work.



The government and the opposition debated inflation and tax cuts. The president Dilma Rousseff, that couldn't attend the party due to a pneumonia, was represented by the general secretary of the presidency, the minister Gilberto Carvalho, who read a letter written by her, emphasizing the valorization of the minimum wage, a higher employment and the commitment of the government in the fight against inflation.

"It's essential to organize an act like this one, with all trade union centrals of Brazil. There's not a single unit as important as this one in the entire world. I want to salute all Brazilian women, that account for over 4 million workers. Brazil belongs to women! I had the pleasure to watch our first female women on the television talking about the International Workers Day and talking about the commitment to take our people out of misery. And one of the topics that she mentioned was education, qualification, commitment to the Brazilian people. We are the seventh economy of the world, but our income distribution is one of the worse. We are only going to be able to change Brazil with education and qualification", defended the **president of UGT, Ricardo Patah**.

Patah reminded the commitment signed by the trade union centrals, by Geraldo Alkimin, governor of Sao Paulo, and by Davi Zaia, secretary of UGT's Department of Employment and Labor Relationships, regarding homeless people. "Surely more than 3 thousand workers in the State will have the opportunity to work. We cannot be content with unemployment."

Roberto Santiago (PV party), Federal Deputy and vice-president of UGT, after quoting ILO Convention 158, emphasized that the relationships with workers should be worthy. "It's not possible that the labor relationships in our country remain the way they are. It's not possible that a worker gets to their work and gets fired for no reason. We are using the International Workers Day ideals so that by the end of the year, we are able to achieve true changes in labor relationships. Long live to the workers, long live to the International Workers Day!", he celebrated.

### UGT delivers unified agenda to the Chamber of Deputies

The trade union centrals had a meeting with Marco Maia, president of the Chamber of Deputies, to deliver the unified agenda of unions, that deals with the adoption of 40 weekly hours and the end of the social security factor.



The meeting, that took place in Brasilia, on April 27, was attended by **Ricardo Patah**, national president of UGT, by **Roberto Santiago**, Federal Deputy and vice-president of UGT, **Magno Lavigne**, secretary of UGT's Department of Human Diversity Issues and by **Carlos Augusto**, advisor of the national UGT, besides representatives from the trade union centrals CUT, CTB, CGTB, NCST and Força Sindical.

"We must regulate the issue of the unjustified dismissal, since it's not possible that in a country in which we achieved a full employment level, we should spend more on unemployment checks than on education, there's an inversion of values since the labor turnover numbers are a lot higher than what could be considered reasonable, especially in the commerce and service sectors", said Ricardo Patah to the president of the Chamber. Such idea was also defended by the deputy Roberto Santiago.

### Trade union centrals organize national fight day

Through a meeting that took place on May 09, UGT and other trade union centrals (CTB, CGTB, CUT, Força Sindical and Nova Central) discussed the elaboration of a unified agenda that will be presented to the National Congress and also settled a date to become a national fight and mobilization day, which was established as August 03.

A manifestation in front of the Congress building was scheduled for May 24, to defend the ideal of a reduction in working hours for shift work down to 40 weekly hours, without a reduction in salaries.

During the meeting, the following six major ideals were defined:

- the end of the social security factor;
- the reduction of working hours for shift work down to 40 weekly hours, without a reduction in salaries;
- the end of anti-unionist practices;
  - the regularization of ILO Convention 151;
- speeding up the legal channels of ILO Convention 158.



Looking forward to the 2nd National Congress:

### Meeting in S. Paulo gathers bank workers

Representatives of unions, federations and confederations of bank and insurance companies workers had a meeting on May 05 at the national office of UGT. The meeting was a preparation for the **2nd National Congress** and raised possible topics that should be discussed in the most important event of the year to UGT.

The meeting, that was mediated by **Edson Roberto dos Santos**, secretary of UGT's Department of Finance, Credit and Insurance, who emphasized the importance of bank workers and insurance agents to aggregate strengths to the 2nd National Congress. "It's important that we are always ready to strengthen and increase our actions in UGT, besides actively participate in the second Congress", he said.

To **Serafim Gianocar**, 1st adjunct secretary of UGT's Department of Finance, Credit and Insurance, the computerization is creating unemployment in the bank area and this should be debated in the National Congress.



**Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti**, secretary of UGT's International Relationships departments, emphasized that 17 countries have confirmed their attendance at the Congress and this is quite an advance for the "globalization" of the union movement. "Companies all over the world have already been through a globalization, but the union movement still hasn't. We must internationalize the union movement to achieve strength and demand that our leaders follow our fight ideals. That is why, due to 17 confirmed countries in the Congress, UGT must celebrate", he said.

**Lourenço Ferreira do Prado**, vice-president of UGT, especially emphasized the actions of UGT along with the National Congress. According to him, the trade union central is in the core of important negotiations, such as the regulation of outsourced professionals, the legal ratification of ILO (International Labor Organization) Convention 158, the end of the social security factor, the reduction of working hours for shift work down to 40 weekly hours and the stability of union directors.

The meeting was also enlightened by an explanation from Paulo Pirassol, who works at the General Secretary and showed an overview of UGT since it was founded, in 2007. The numbers show that the trade union central grew 200% in only 4 years, achieving 909 affiliated unions, 43 federations and 2 confederations.

### UGT: Pressure on the government for changes on the FGTS

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, has assumed, almost by himself, the idea of increasing the withdraw of the FGTS (Unemployment Guarantee Fund).

It's a civic shame to have the FGTS remuneration established in 3% per year plus the Referential Tax (which no one knows exactly how high is). With the result of creating a constant flatness of the values of the fund, in other words it might be considered an apartheid concerning the savings of the Brazilian workers. According to the government, the money that comes out of the FGTS to finance infra-structure and housing projects is treated as second class money when it comes to their remuneration.

Estimates from the FGTS Fácil Institute, a partner of UGT in the campaign to withdraw the remuneration of the fund, indicate that "the amount of R\$ 64 billion was not credited in the accounts of over 30 million workers in the period of December/2002 to May/2010, based on the difference of the TR rate to the IPCA".

### "Decisions for Life" Conference



Over 100 young women from 23 countries are gathering today in Amsterdam to plan the next stage of an international campaign aimed at reaching out to young women workers, and making sure international decision makers hear about the issues that affect young women at work.

Brought together by the international trade union movement, the young women are meeting in Amsterdam from 9 May to 11 May.

The "Decisions for Life campaign" has been run in 14 countries, and has reached out to hundreds of thousands of young women through unions across the world.

### UGT participated in the 9th Congress of CGT Colombia

**Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti, secretary of UGT'S International Relationships Department**, representing this institution, was at the 9th Congress of CGT Colombia, in Bogota.

"Every man has the right to organize unions and to join them to protect their interests." (Universal Declaration of Human Rights - 1948), quoted Benedetti in his speech on Union Freedom at the 9th Congress.

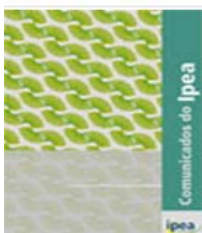


With the participation of nearly 2.000 Colombian delegates and almost 200 international delegates, the event took place from April 25-28. The president of Colombia, Dr. Juan Manuel Santos Calderón and the vice-president, Angelino Garzón, also attended the congress.

In this event, the Colombian and international union movement gathered to debate the following topics: unemployment, social security, human right, social dialogue among other issues. (<http://secinternacionalugt.blogspot.com>)

### April 27: National Day of Domestic Workers

**A study from IPEA shows an alarming situation of domestic workers.**



A **study**, published by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (Ipea), showed that, in 2009, domestic workers had an income R\$ 78,55 lower than the minimum wage at the time (which was R\$ 465).

These data are based on the National Research by Housing Sample (Pnad) of 2009, done by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

According to the study, domestic workers earned an average of R\$ 386,45 that year. Ipea also shows that there's a difference between the remuneration of white workers and African-American workers. While the white ones earned an average of R\$ 421,58 the African-Americans earned R\$ 364,84. Another relevant data is that women represent 93% of domestic workers while men are 7% out of them.

"The General Union of Workers (UGT) 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. "  
Ricardo Patah – UGT's President

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