



## GWU participates in the 5th Working Class March

On December, 3, the **General Workers Union** and other union centrals are going to Brasilia to demand measures against the crisis

**GWU** and other union centrals are going to accomplish on December, 3, in Brasilia, the 5th Working Class March

The motto of this year will be: "For Development and Valuation of Work".

Workers will deliver to Lula a package of claims against crisis. The document was made public this week and includes 16 measures, and under the main ones are the reductions of work shifts to 40 weekly hours; the raise of unemployment checks quotas to a year; reduction of primary surplus; and social campaign of companies that received credit from the government, so that, even with reduction of expenses, employees remain in the companies they work for.

Unionists propose that public resources used to give net profits to banks or to finance the productive sector only get released to companies that guaranteed the maintenance of jobs - including the use of resources from the Employee's Dismissal Fund and the Aid Fund for the Worker. In the document, the centrals ask the government to reassure the maintenance of public investments, the policy of valuation of minimum wage, the policy of correction of table zones of the Income Tax and the Decent Work Agenda.



In the morning of November, 17, **GWU** received at its headquarter the visit of leaders of other union centrals (CTB, CGTB, New Central, Union Force and CUT) to settle operational matters of the **5th Working Class March**

During the meeting it was also discussed the definition of the document content that will be delivered to the president of the Republic, that among other matters brings up a position of the centrals regarding the current economic crisis and a set of proposals defending Brazilian workers, society and economy.

## GWU wants to put an end to violence against women



Main GWU leaderships have already adhered to the International Campaign for the end of violence against women

In Brazil there's the campaign "United Men for the End of Violence against Women", that collects male signatures at the webpage: [www.homenspelofimdaviolencia.com.br](http://www.homenspelofimdaviolencia.com.br)

By signing, men are compromising with the full application of the Law Maria da Penha (Law 11.340/06) and the effectivity of public policies that have as its goals the end of violence against women.

The male signature collecting ends on December, 5, a day before the National Day of Men Fight for the End of Violence against Women. The president of the Republic, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva; the president of the Supreme Federal Court, minister Gilmar Mendes; the president of the National Congress Nacional, Garibaldi Alves were the first Brazilian men that manifested adherence and commitment to the campaign "United Men for the End of Violence against Women".

"We are proposing a specific dialogue with men. It's a call so that men compromise themselves with facing the violence against women" said the minister Nilcéa Freire, from the Special Secretaryship of Women Politics, to the press during a presentation of the page of signature collecting on October, 31, in Brasilia. The signature collecting of men will end on December, 5, when the president Lula will send electronically the signature of Brazilian men to the general secretary of UN, Ban Ki-moon.

### World Phenomenon

The regional director of Unifem (United Nations Development Fund for Women) Brazil and Southern Cone, Ana Falú, highlighted the violence against women as a social problem that exists all over the world. "The entire world suffers the calamity of violence against women. Women suffer violence from their partners, people they are close to, in the most dangerous place in their lives", commented Ana Falú while mentioning that the violence against women is infiltrated under social and affective relationships. "Violence against women has been a public matter for three decades. We have to change people's minds" pointed out Ana Falú.

The female audience can also contribute with the campaign to end violence against women by signing the campaign at the UNIFEM webpage (United Nations Development Fund for Women) ([Say no to the violence against women](#)).

### 16 days of activism for the end of violence against women

November, 25, is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. December, 10, is Human Rights Day.

During these 16 days, unions along with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and other international union federations promote activities for the elimination of violence against women.



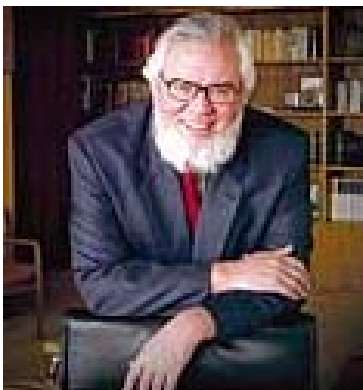
## ILO will examine the impact of the crisis on the labor world

**GWU participates in the group of representatives of workers at the ILO Administration Council. Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti is the International Relationships secretary of GWU and one of the workers representatives.**

The ILO Administration Council will examine the global impact that the current financial and economic crisis is having over the governments, workers and employers during its 303rd session that began on November, 6, in Geneva.

At the meeting the situation of basic labor rights in Burma was also analyzed as well as the impact of weather changes over jobs.

Having the global crisis as background, the Labor Group on Social Dimension of Globalization will discuss the potential impact that the current crisis will have on the objectives of the ILO Decent Work Agenda.



On November, 18, the Administration Council will examine the nomination of the ILO General-Director. The current General-Director, Juan Somavia is the only candidate.

Mr. Somavia, born in Chile, was nominated General-Director of ILO in March, 1999. Mr. Somavia conducted the organization to a new path, by promoting the Decent Work Agenda, that received an important support from the highest political level in all world regions and under the multilateral system. During his mandate, ILO also adopted the historical Declaration on Social Justice for an Equitable Globalization.

The Administration Council will also analyze the preliminary plan of implantation of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for an Equitable Globalization. The Declaration appeals to the creation of a new strategy to support economies and open societies based on social justice.

The Declaration repairs the concept of decent work, as well as the Decent Work Agenda and its four objectives (creation of jobs and sustainable companies, social protection, labor rights and social dialogue) that are inseparable, are integrated and support each other mutually, besides the fact of representing an efficient answer to face the challenges of globalization.

The Administration Council will also make the first round of discussions over the he Guide of Policies and Strategies that will guide the Organization from 2010 to 2015.

### GWU at the ILO Administration Council

Since June, 2008, **GWU** occupies one of the positions in the group of representatives of workers at the ILO Administration Council. Our mate Arnaldo Benedetti represents workers since his election at the 97th International Labor Conference. He's one of the Latin America representatives and his mandate expires in 2008.

The Administration Council gets together three times a year, in March, June and November. This institution makes decisions over ILO policies, establishes the order of the day at the International Labor Conference, adopts the project of the Program of Budget of the Organization that is presented during the conference.

**Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti** is secretary of International Relationships at **GWU** and vice-president of the **Federation of Bank Employees of the states of São Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul.**

## Social Security and Health facing the Economic Crisis

The **Coordinator of Union Centrals of the Southern Cone (CCSCS)** promoted from November 11 to the 13th in Montevideo, Uruguay, a seminar which main theme was "Perspectives in the Area of Social Security and Labor Health facing the Economic Crisis". Since it's a matter of high importance, the General Workers Union was represented by the leader **Avelino Garcia Filho**.

During three days the following themes were discussed: matters related to the planning of the agenda of the Coordination of Social Protection of CCSCS and its insertion in the continental strategy of the rest of the regional group of members; impulse to union strategies aiming to promote a decent work with total social protection and still, visualization of the international crisis under the social protection and the possibility of actions

The GWU representative informed that the seminar had quantity and quality and, within its objectives there's the accomplishment of a forum to debate regional and international politics when they come to social protection facing a world economic crisis; fight for inclusion of themes such as social security, labor health and prevention of alcohol and drugs use at work, in the collective conventions. The seminar decided yet to deepen studies concerning decent work in union areas in national and regional levels.

## Unions present plan of recuperation and reform of G20

Union leaders from G20 countries presented a complete plan to change international economy at a meeting with world leaders in Washington DC a few days before the summit on the financial crisis that was held on November, 15.

Unions ask for a series of urgent actions to avoid the perspective of a long-term deep global recession , adding up to important changes in the management of global economy to get over decades of unregulated politics that occasioned the current crisis. If it's required a new stimulus to development and decent work, as well as a "New green treaty" to cover in an effective way the weather changes. The union proposes were synthesized in a recovery and reform program entitled "[Washington Declaration](#)".

"The result of the elections in the USA is a loyal reflex of a repulsion in world scale of the fundamentalist righteous ideology that made a bunch of people get incredibly wealthy, while inequalities and economic insecurity grow, development paralyzes and the world is about to collapse into an economic calamity. Dozens of millions of workers might loose their jobs and more and more people find themselves submersed into poorness, women are generally more affected", stated the general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Guy Ryder. "It's about time we made a radical change of direction, and we presented this proposal of change to governments, including the future Obama Administration, in the USA", he added.

The **General Workers Union** is an **ITUC** affiliated that organized the trip of a group of union leaders to Washington D.C.



"The General Workers Union 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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