



Global



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Brazilian support to Nissan workers

On March 12, **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, and other trade union centrals, CUT and Força Sindical, held a press conference to express the solidarity of the Brazilian trade union movement to American workers that are suffering from anti-unionist practices and are deprived of labour rights by the assembler Nissan in Mississippi, southern USA.



The American trade union model, which favors employers instead of favoring the working class, allows the Japanese assembler to hurt and disrespect labour and human rights of its employees.

"This is a historic act for the Brazilian trade union movement. The situation lived by workers of the American assembler plant of Nissan is extremely serious. The Brazilian support shows the importance of a combined action of unions in defense of trade union rights in this globalized world", Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, explains.

During the meeting, it was announced that representatives of UGT and Força Sindical will make a visit to Mississippi in March. This factory already received the visit of the first Brazilian commission, represented by Vagner Freitas, president of CUT and João Cayres, Brazilian unionist and director of the International Trade Union Federation IndustriALL, who visited the facilities and observed the situation experienced by employees.

João Carlos (Juruna), director general of Força Sindical, recalled that the Brazilian trade union movement had a strong support of international institutions during the military regime, however, unionism in Brazil developed and constructed a series of labour rights, unlike what happened in the United States.

During this meeting, a document written by trade union centrals that supports Nissan workers was signed and will be delivered to the international president of this company, the Brazilian Carlos Ghosn.

United Auto Workers (UAW), a trade union institution that represents workers of the American automotive industry, is part of a large movement - the Mississippi Alliance for Fairness at Nissan, composed by community leaders, students and State representatives and is supported by the actor Danny Glover.

[Read in full the document delivered to Nissan \(portuguese\)](#)

Working class agenda was handed over in Brasilia

Working class agenda is handed over to the president of the Republic, to the president of the Supreme court, to the president of the House of Representatives and to the president of the Senate.

The unitarian action of the 7th March of Trade Union centrals and social movement ended, and it gathered more than 50 thousand workers at the Esplanada dos Ministérios, in Brasilia, presidents of trade union centrals handed over the agenda of requests of the working class to the president of the Republic, to the president of the Supreme court, to the president of the House of Representatives and to the president of the Senate.



Ricardo Patah (UGT) and representatives of Força Sindical, CUT, CTB, CGTB and Nova Central had a legal audience with Dilma Rousseff, Joaquim Barbosa, Henrique Alves and Renan Calheiros, who were sympathetic to the demands of the working class and promised to make an effort, especially concerning issues related to the social security factor.

Henrique Alves, president of the House of Representatives, affirmed that this week he is supposed to have a meeting with Guido Mantega, minister of finance, in which he will ask for a deadline to conclude discussions that involve the social security factor.

President Dilma Rousseff was also emphatic while recognizing the legitimacy of the labour fight and she is committed to increase discussion concerning these issues: social security factor and 40 weekly hour working shifts.

According to Ricardo Patah, the president stated that both the end of the social security factor and the fight for the reduction of working hours for shift work are viable agendas. She is willing to advance in debates, but she did not effectively promised an unfold for such issues.

"After two years with no dialogue with trade union centrals, the government seems to start opening up its doors so that we start an effective negotiation in pro of the working class. Enough of negotiating solely with the boss, exonerating pay rolls and not charging an increase in employment as a counterpart. Labour demands need to be solved and we are optimistic for that to happen as soon as possible", Patah explains. *(Fábio Ramalho – UGT)*

Labour ministry thanks the support of UGT

Manoel Dias received the compliments of federal deputy Roberto de Lucena and of Miguel Salaberry Filho, UGT's secretary of Institutional Relations

On March 16, President Dilma Rousseff attended, at the Presidential Palace, the inauguration of the new Minister of Labour and Employment, Manoel Dias. In her speech, she reminded that she has known him for over 30 years and, thus, she knows his ability to command the Department of Labor and Employment. The president also highlighted the commitment of the new minister with workers' rights and drew attention to the need to modernize the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

UGT was the only trade union central to attend the inauguration of minister Manoel Dias. Roberto de Lucena, Federal Deputy and vice-president of UGT and Miguel Salaberry Filho, secretary of UGT's Institutional Relations Department, represented UGT in the solemnity.

Manoel Dias thanked the presence of UGT and emphasized the support of UGT's president Ricardo Patah for his nomination, affirming that "the first trade union central that I am going to visit will be UGT, to personally thank president Ricardo".

Commerce worker is now a regulated profession

After a decade of intense fights, the profession of 12 million Brazilian commerce workers is regulated. From now on, we are more than just a class. Being a commerce worker is now being a professional. Therefore, the tag of commerce worker should be described on the job contract and on the professional card of each employee.

Essential rights achieve a new dimension, especially concerning the limits to the excessive working hours. At last, a blockade against the industry of creation of divided trade unions comes up, since now the law equalizes all commerce employees, no matter which position they perform or the branch of the company.



However, to the disgust and displeasure of all commerce unions and federations in Brazil, there was a presidential veto to Article 5 of the approved project in the House and Senate. The view of the forces that support the weakening of the Brazilian labor movement as a whole prevailed. Our fight now goes back to Congress for the overthrow of veto or for the final regulation of mandatory union dues.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT

The fight of public servants

UGT's public servants gather to plan actions and to guarantee their trade union representation

União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) promoted the "National Seminar of Trade Union Leaders of Public Servants". This event was organized by the National Department of the Public Servant.

This seminar gathered representatives of public servants from several Brazilian States, with the goal of drawing actions, goals and internal agendas that will guide the activities that UGT will develop over this tenure.

Besides, those who attended the event discuss the regulation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 151, which deals with labour relationships in the public administration.



In the opening, **Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president**, said that holding this seminar is the result of the sum of work of UGT's department that, together, combine nearly 11 thousand public servants all over Brazil and collaborate to build a "huge action plans that will be followed by the trade union central in order to guarantee and assure the rights of public servants", he concluded.

Lineu Mazano, national secretary of the Public Servant, recognizes that this class already achieved many rights, such as the freedom of association, guaranteed under the 1988 Constitution. But there is still a lot of work to do, for example, the right to collective bargaining.

Dilma Rousseff, president of Brazil, abided the request of UGT, along with other trade union centrals, and, on March 06, 2013, issued the Decree number 7.944, on the need to regulate ILO Convention 151. This convention, among other guarantees, settles the collective bargaining of public servants in the three areas: federal, state and municipal. *(Giselle Corrêa, UGT)*

Agreement is reached, but trade unions remain on alert

The International Trade Union Confederation - ITUC - salutes the conclusions that were agreed under the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW), in New York, this week. However, trade unions and its allies in civil society remain on alert, since reaching such conclusion was a difficult task due to the fact that some conservative countries try to undermine essential rights of women.

According to the trade union confederation, the elimination and prevention of all sorts of violence against women and girls demand a strong and focused international answer.

"This year's meeting was in serious risk of not reaching an agreement", said Sharan Burrow, ITUC secretary general, "due to a position taken by countries such as the Vatican, Egypt, Iran and Russia, responsible for shameful interventions that had the intention of weakening the language used in the defense of women's rights enshrined in previous agreements, and that were opposed to dispositions that reinforced the group of measures that intended to end violence against women and girls".



Women's Day event on Rio de Janeiro celebrate the anniversary of the Maria da Penha Act

"This is unbearable, and this countries will be responsible for the negative impact that might occur due to their attitude on women's rights and on gender equality."

The international trade union movement salutes the determination of governments that made possible the adoption of the conclusions and the inclusion of proactive steps to end violence against women and girls, besides reaffirming international policies and guarantees previously adopted on reproductive, contraception and safe abortion rights. It also salutes the recognition of unions as stakeholders to combat violence against women and girls and the inclusion of provisions related to the workplace, such as collective bargaining and women's access to full employment and decent work.

ITUC represents 175 million workers of 156 countries and territories and has 315 national affiliates. Since its foundation, UGT is affiliated with ITUC.

Government launches Program Women, Living without Violence

On March 13, the government launched the Program Women: Living without Violence. This program establishes the construction of centers called 'House of the Brazilian Woman', which will integrate public services of security, justice, health, social assistance, hosting, sheltering and income in all 27 Brazilian State capitals.



"In fact, we want this country to have a tolerance below zero, because this crime shames all human kind", said the president recalling that, in her inauguration speech, she promised to honor women, defending equal opportunities and an anti-discrimination policy.

Joyce Ribeiro and Normélia, Woman secretary of UGT Federal District, delivered the document in the hands of President Dilma

According to the map of violence, published in 2012, by the Brazilian Center of Latin-American Studies (Cebela) and by the Latin-American College of Social Sciences (Flacso), more than 92 thousand women were murdered in Brazil from 1980 to 2010, almost half of these deaths took place in the last decade.

During this event, officials from UGT's Women Department and from the National Forum of Female Workers handed in a document to president Dilma Rousseff in which they requested a legal hearing to once again discuss the law projects on Equality of Opportunity in Labour Relations

SIEMACO holds protest in defense of cyclist workers

In the morning of March 17, SIEMACO/SP, an institution affiliated with UGT, held a protest asking for the creation of public policies of mobility that help the population but that also protect those that use bicycle as their mean of transportation.

Due to a big mobility problem that workers suffer while going from home to work, many use bicycles as their main mean of transportation. This is no different for workers in companies that provide services of urban cleaning and conservation of the city, once this practice not only is sustainable but guarantee a better health and decrease the expenses with public transportation.

SIEMACO is engaged in this cause since it understands that it is its role to act in defense of the interests of society



UGT's vice-president visit Training Center in Turin



Laerte Teixeira da Costa, UGT's national vice-president, accompanied by the journalist Regina Marilhano Costa (UGTPRESS), recently visited ILO's International Training Centre, located in the Italian city of Turin. On the occasion, they were received by Giacomo Barbieri, unity director.

Since 1964, when it was built, the ILO Centre in Turin became a reference institution when it comes to high level training.

Good practices in Social Security

The work that the Brazilian government has been developing, over the last years, has recorded important advances in the Social Security area, which were unfolded in parallel to the continuous drop of poverty and income concentration indexes in Brazil, since 1990.

This is one of the mains conclusions of the book "The Good practices in Social Security", released by the International Labour Organization (ILO) office in Brazil. This work is part of the activities of the Partnership Program Brazil/ILO for the promotion of the cooperation South/South in the area of social security, financed by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC). This book was released at the ILO office in an event that was attended by Garibaldi Alves, minister of Social Welfare.

"Most recent studies estimate that from 75 to 80 per cent of the world population do not have access to integral social security. Guaranteeing that the human right to social security converts itself into reality for all is a rather relevant challenge and a main aspect of the Decent Work Agenda", states Lais Abramo, director of ILO's office in Brazil, in the presentation of the book.



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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