

Victory of the Brazilian people

Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores

After the first days of the inexplicable defeat of the Brazilian team - inexplicable for its humiliating trounce against Germany and Netherlands, we are now able to make an overview of the World Cup.

First, it is worth it to emphasize that the compliments were unanimous among the foreign participants: members of teams, international press and tourists, they all liked the organization of the Cup and the magnificent reception that the Brazilian people offered to the visitors.

Joseph Blatter, president of FIFA, graded the Brazil World Cup 9,25, out of 10: according to him "there is no such thing as perfection". But prior to the Cup, he showed skepticism towards our ability. As soon as the Cup was over, he made compliments to the Brazilian government, in the federal, State and municipal levels.

The exposure of Brazil in the press and in the television during the World Cup will still bring many dividends, and not only in terms of tourism, but to trade and all sorts of international affairs.

UGT achieved its role

UGT and its affiliated unions, since the beginning of the process of organizing the World Cup, has fulfilled its role of encouraging and supervising, both in terms of renovation and building work of stadiums as for in terms of proposals of organization of this show.

The actions of UGT contributed to achieve the commitment to decent work in the World Cup, released in May 15 by president Dilma and with the participation of Ricardo Patah



From the beginning, UGT faced measures of flexibilization of our labour legislation to answer the demands of FIFA. UGT reported deaths and bad working and living conditions in the work of soccer stadiums.

Our colleague Nilson Duarte, president of UGT's State branch of Rio de Janeiro, was tireless in the defense of construction workers. The result of this fight was the achievement of a better organization of workers in the workplace and the Tripartite Table of Civil Construction, which will achieve even more.

UGT reported the absurd of scheduling games at the peak of sun exposure, which will bring enormous exhaustion to players. Rinaldo Martorelli, president of the National Federation of Professional Soccer Athletes (Fenapaf) and vice-president of FIFPro (World Footballers Association), delivered a document to FIFA, developed by UGT, showing the threats to the health of players due to the schedule of the games of the Cup established by FIFA.

Those who watched the games realized the enormous wear out of athletes in the games of 1:00 and 3:00 P.M., especially in cities of the North and Northeast of Brazil. The Federation will continue this fight, even in the international field. >>>

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However, UGT did not stop there: it reported the removal of families to perform the renovation work - more than ten thousand families were displaced. It also reported waste and bad use of public money. These reports, which were not only made by UGT, but by all Brazilian trade union centrals, had an important role in the positive unfolding that the Cup brought and will bring to Brazilian workers.

National Commitment to Decent Work

First, it is worth it to highlight the National Commitment to Decent Work and Employment in the World Cup

It is related to a tool that will guide the government actions towards job creation and implementation of decent work, searching for the respect of labour rules and agreements, and the promotion of security, health, labour inclusion and qualification of workers. It is a tool that does not wear out at the end of the World Cup and it is our duty, of UGT and of affiliated trade unions, to watch out for its achievement.

This commitment was signed by UGT and was released on May 15, 2014, in a ceremony that was attended by president Dilma Rousseff, trade union centrals and employers federations.

It is also worth it to emphasize that this process of organizing the World Cup and its infrastructure brought a wide discussion on what we want for our country, as workers and citizens. The protests that took place last June are a result of the awareness and this new attitude of Brazilians will go beyond the World Cup and sports events.

As the national president of UGT I am proud of having participated in this process. This fight continues and we will take it to the next level, until the achievement of a "FIFA pattern" to the lives of all Brazilians.

Union BRICS wants to participate

Trade union officers from countries that are members of BRICS participated in a meeting parallel to the official meetings.

On July 15, Gilberto Carvalho, ministry of the General Secretariat of the Presidency, attended the opening of the III Trade Union BRICS Forum, in Fortaleza, Ceará, and listened to the request of trade union officers in order to get workers to have an active participation in BRICS -Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - decisions, so that this group of countries does not turn into a mercantilist action concerning interests of businessmen, as it happened in Mercosur, in which workers no longer participate in decisions and end up being the most damaged part.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, while speaking out, recalled that, when Mercosur was created, workers were the major defenders and now they do not participate in decisions any longer, many of these decisions are contrary to the interests of the working class.

To the president of UGT, countries that are members of BRICS have a lot in common, and for this reason it is extremely important that the Trade Union BRICS, with its civic view, has the ability to influence on decisions, preventing workers from being at the verge of citizenship and start demanding high quality jobs, the end of precarious work, child labour and demand that the economic growth contemplates workers as well.



"BRICS is an important group in the international politics and economy. Its economic leverage is undeniable, its participation in the GDP is equal to the European Union. For that reason, it is also important that workers are to have the same level of participation".

Patah praised the participation of minister Gilberto Carvalho as a sign that the Brazilian government is willing to call workers to take part in the decisions of the group and recalled that the meeting of presidents of BRICS countries, which also takes place in Fortaleza, should not only be focused on economic issues that involve this group of countries, but on the working class as well.



National Commitment to Decent Work



Watch the video on the release of the Commitment



Watch the video on Fortaleza Forum

No to the World Cup in Qatar

A report from the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) describes the fact that workers of the Soccer World Cup 2022 Qatar were found sleeping in precarious conditions.

Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary, said Qatar is a government which takes no responsibility for workers, and its response to criticism is focused on public relations.

During a site visit to Al Wakrah Stadium in Qatar, the ITUC General Secretary found 38 workers from India, Nepal and Thailand living in squalor with mattresses on the floor in makeshift rooms underneath the bleachers or stadium seats.

"There were more than 10 men per room; kitchen equipment were located next door, were dangerous and had no hygiene; there was no personal space".

"This is unacceptable. In the meantime, inspectors of the work of Al Wakrah informed the media that they had adopted a satisfying inspection" - a clear sign of disrespect to human beings", Sharan Burrow said.



FIFA responded to the ITUC photographic evidence of conditions at Al Wakrah Stadium by describing the situation in Qatar as "complex."

"Qatar must change. FIFA can make a difference by making the abolition of kafala and respect for international labour rights a condition of Qatar hosting the World Cup in 2022.

In defense of the right to strike

On July 01, Spanish trade union centrals made a protest in defense of the right to strike and of unionism. There are nearly 300 workers on strike that are threatened by juridical lawsuits and threatened of going to jail for their trade union activities.

To **Cándido Méndez, secretary general of UGT Spain**, it is not only about the 300 workers who were threatened, "it is about the entire working class of our country, which is being threatened", and he commented that the right to strike in Spain is an essential right recognized under the Constitution and trying to amputate the exercise of this right not only affects the freedom of association, but the real content of the Spanish Constitution. "A Constitution that the government is reforming, through accomplished facts, in extremely regressive terms, since they are disrespecting basic civil rights.

Mendez talked during the combined concentration, in which the following people participated: the president of the International Trade Union Confederation, the Brazilian unionist João Antonio Felício and Fernández Toxo, secretary general of CCOO

[Watch the video >>>](#)



The secretary general of UGT informed that a paragraph of the Penal Code is being placed above the Spanish Constitution and the own Constitutional Court understands that the strike is a conflict in which tensions may rise and this should be considered in order to preserve the right to strike.

Mendez said that what is urgent, at this moment, is avoiding arrests, "which are imminent" and, in this sense, he will have a meeting with the minister of Justice and with the respective administrative instances.

He ended his speech by warning that the crisis is being used to disrespect the rights of workers and that the "economic recovery is only taking place in headlines and macroeconomic figures, but it will not reach reality".

UGT is sympathetic to unionists that were threatened in Spain and repudiates any regress in the workers rights.



ITUC Special Report -
The case against
Qatar



UGT's state branch of Sao Paulo grows

UGT becomes the largest trade union central of Presidente Prudente and surrounding area in terms of affiliated trade unions, these unions already place the logo of UGT in its administrative head offices.

In the picture, Lucrécio de Alencar Castelo Branco, Regional coordinator of UGT's branch of Presidente Prudente, right next to Gilberto Lúcio Zangirolami, president of the union of workers in Construction and Furniture industry of Presidente Prudente and surrounding area, in front of the administrative head office of their union.



Walmart pays compensation for prohibiting date

Walmart, largest retail network of the world, was judged and is obliged to pay a R\$ 30 thousand compensation for moral damages to an employee who was fired for dating a coworker.



To José Roberto Freire Pimenta, from the second class of the Superior Labour Court, there was invasion of privacy and of the moral heritage.

"Though being an employee, they are still people and cannot be prohibited of having a relationship with coworkers", stated the minister, according to a note that was issued this Monday in the website of the Superior Labour Court.

The employee, who worked as an operator, started to date a coworker from the security area in March 2009 and, afterwards, their stable union began.

In August of the same year, after Walmart found out about their relationship, this company filed an administrative process based on the rule that prohibits employees from the security area from having a "relationship with any associate (employee) of the company". As a result, both of them were fired on the same day.

Brazil leads reduction of carbon emission

Brazil leads reduction of carbon emission worldwide, through a reduction of deforesting

A recent study showed that the efforts of Brazil to contain the destruction of the forest resulted in a major success in the reduction of carbon emission all over Brazil.

The reduction was equal to the removal of approximately all cars in the United States for three years.



This study, published in the Science magazine, showed that farmers and pastoralists from Brazil prevented the destruction of nearly 86.000 km² of tropical forest. In its turn, it avoided the emission of 3,200 millions of tons of CO₂, preserving key areas of the forest.

According to this study, the combination of public policies, an increase of the protected area and the rejection of the market of deforesting farmers caused a reduction in the emissions. Over the decade that is encompassed by this study, deforestation was reduced, even on the occasion that the production of soy and meat was profitable.

"The União Geral dos Trabalhadores 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. " Ricard Patah – UGT's President

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