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Decisions of the Supreme Court worry UGT

Last decisions of the Supreme Federal Court (STF) point out to a desire to make labor reform and concern UGT, which is now the second Brazilian trade union center with 1,4 million members.

In the legal environment, there is a catchphrase that goes "judicial decisions are not discussed if they are complied", but some of the recent decisions of the Supreme Court bring concern to our directors and lawyers because they suppress established rights of workers.

Last week, two decisions of the Federal Supreme Court reached the media and achieved a major repercussion. Last Wednesday, on October 26, STF considered it illegal to come out of retirement, which is the possibility of the retiree requesting a review of the benefit for contributing to the Pension Fund once again. And then, on the 27th, STF considered legitimate the possibility of not paying salary to servers on strike.



The denial of the review of pensions ignores the fact that the great majority of Brazilian retirees go back to work. In the words of minister Ricardo Lewandowski, who voted in favor of disapproval, "since the earnings of these workers are not enough, it is not uncommon for such beneficiaries of Welfare to be compelled to go back to the labor market."

According to economist Ana Amélia Camarano, organizer of the book "National Policy on the Elderly, Old and New Issues", released this month by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), among the elderly aged 60 or over, 51.6% of the retired men and 55.5% of the retired women continue to work, mainly to supplement their income. "On average, men work for four more years after retirement and women for another two years," according to Camarano.

The retirees and pensioners asked the STF to postpone the decision on coming out of retirement since the government intends to present a pension reform bill. The demand was not met, therefore, the only pending situation is the one of those who are already entitled to this benefit.

The decision on the possibility of salary discount of public servants in case of strike also ignored the situation in which these strikes occur in Brazil. While private workers are guaranteed to negotiate wages and working conditions on a periodic basis, public servants do not have this right guaranteed by law.

Due to that, the vast majority of strikes of public servants and employees has the simple goal of securing wage bargaining, since this minimum right is little respected in our country, with public managers slowing down, sometimes for many years, the salary review.

It should also be noted that, through a decision that took place on October 14 and had much less repercussion, Minister Gilmar Mendes, of the STF, granted a precautionary measure to suspend all the processes and effects of decisions in the scope of Labor Justice that discuss the application of ultra-activity of norms of collective agreements.

The end of the so-called "ultra-activity clause", which had been enshrined by the Superior Labor Court Summary 277 (TST) since 2012, can cause great harm to workers, especially at this time of alleged economic crisis, because the clauses that guarantee that "norms established in collective bargaining agreements that are incorporated into individual work contracts and projected in time" no longer exists, that is, even when the collective agreement came to an end it was effective.

These decisions and others bring great concern to UGT.



UGT É CONTRA REFORMAS QUE RETIREM DIREITOS DOS TRABALHADORES

REFORMA TRABALHISTA:
Sempre com o respeito, além o trabalho e defensoria do trabalhador, as decisões judiciais, sem retroceder direitos dos trabalhadores. Condições de trabalho de 40 horas semanais.
De mesma forma, sempre com respeito e reconhecimento ao trabalho, não permitir que sejam retirados os direitos de trabalho em condições de trabalho, como férias, 13º salário e estabilidade de emprego.

REFORMA DA PREVIDÊNCIA:
É necessário garantir um seguro para a velhice e a idade avançada, com o Conselho Nacional de Previdência Social, com a participação de governo, trabalhadores, empresários, aposentados e pensionistas, para garantir a sustentabilidade e a qualidade do sistema.
Sempre com uma reforma previdenciária que garanta o tempo de contribuição de aposentadoria para permitir ao trabalhador o seu crescimento profissional, e a sustentabilidade do sistema previdenciário brasileiro.

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UGT em defesa dos Trabalhadores

November 11: National Day of Fight

United trade union centers define National Day of Fight of the Working Class

On October 19, UGT participated in the unitary meeting of trade union centers, held at the head office of Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT) in São Paulo, which had the goal of defining a unified calendar of actions against the Constitutional Amendment Bill (PEC) 241, which freezes public spending in 20 years, in addition to emphasizing the fight against the removal of rights proposed by the government and named labor and social security reforms.



Unionists have defined the essential activities to express the indignation of the working class against what is going on in the country. Thus, there will be a national meeting at the head office of the Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies (DIEESE), on October 21, with representatives of public transport to organize the act of November 11, which will be a National Day of protests and demonstrations. During this meeting, it was also defined that November 25 was scheduled the National Day of Mobilization.

Another proposal that was presented during the meeting is that trade union centers should be permanently on duty in Brasília, as a way to expand the actions of these institutions against the bills that process in the House of Representatives or in the Senate that attack the rights achieved by the working class and by society.

Representatives of CGTB, CSP Conlutas, Força Sindical, CUT, Nova Central, CTB and Intersindical participated in the meeting. *(Fábio Ramalho - UGT Press)*

It will take 100 years for Brazil to equate the wage of men and women

The wage gap between women and men in Brazil is one of the largest in the world and equating the condition of the two gender in this country will take a century. These are some of the conclusions of the Global Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum 2016, published on October 26, in Geneva.

According to the survey, the most egalitarian countries are the Scandinavian ones. The first one is Iceland, followed by Finland, Norway and Sweden, when considering all economic, political, health and educational aspects.

Among the 144 countries that were evaluated, Brazil ranks only 129th in terms of gender pay. Countries that are criticized for violations of women's rights, such as Iran, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, are in a better position than Brazil.

It will take 95 years to equate the economic conditions of men and women, if the current pace of progress is maintained. In general terms, including politics, education and other social aspects, equating conditions between genders in the country will take 104 years.

According to the World Economic Forum, the Brazilian rate is better than the world average, which is around 170 years. But still, the pace of advancement is considered to be "too slow."

The economic disparity between men and women in Brazil is one of the factors that most halt progress in the ranking. In this regard, the country occupies the modest 91st position among 144 countries and is surpassed by Paraguay, China, Cambodia and Chad. *(Estado de São Paulo newspaper, October 26, 2016)*





Foreign capital in Brazilian health

Foreign capital inflow into health is a topic of debate at the 18th State Health Meeting promoted by the Federation of Health Workers of the State of São Paulo.

During this meeting, about 200 people among trade union leaders from the health area interacted with specialists, members of the Brazilian judicial branch, including international representation, to discuss the inflow of international capital into health and the dismantling of labor rights.



The event took place at the Firmo de Souza Godinho Summer Camp, in Praia Grande, from October 17 to 20, and had several specialists from the most diverse subjects related to unionism, economics and law.

To Edison Laércio de Oliveira, president of the Federation of Health Workers of the State of São Paulo, this meeting is the opportunity for trade union leaders to deepen a matter of interest to the category and provides contribution in the search of solutions to save health. "Without a proper health policy and adequate investments, we will not have high quality health. This is a time to come together to find this path," he said.

"We cannot open our doors to the inflow of foreign capital into health. The effort to save health is a constant struggle of the Brazilian people and the trade union centers. We need to discuss methods to improve the lives of workers, especially health workers, who face great resistance from bosses and from international capital," Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, said.

Canindé Pegado, secretary general of UGT, in turn, pointed out that the trade union movement is at a disadvantage in order to defend labor rights and calls for more mobilization in this period of dismantling of labor laws. "It is always important to emphasize that bosses, bankers, major newspapers, the government, the National Congress are against us and this causes the workers themselves to turn against the union movement. This cannot continue because trade unions are the only weapons of the worker against abuse, against unemployment and against this wave of outsourcing that is ruining the life of the employee," the unionist warned.

UGT attends 8th BRICS Summit

Nilton Rocha, secretary of Institutional and Political Affairs of UGT's State branch of Rio (UGT-RJ) and assistant secretary of the International Secretariat of the national UGT, attended the 8th BRICS Summit in the Indian city of Goa, on October 15 and 16. BRICS is a group of countries that brings together Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The meeting was an opportunity to reach closer ties between the powers that make up the bloc of emerging countries and discussed, among many issues, the economic situation of the group.



The member of UGT was scheduled to attend the following events in India: tribute to the ILO secretariat, meeting with the BRIC trade unionists and participation in the working table with representatives of governments, businessmen and employees. The Brazilian delegation was made up of unionists from UGT, CUT and CSB.

BRICS, now under the chairmanship of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was formed in 2011 to impose its political and economic influence on the management of world affairs by Western powers



Letter from São Paulo
18th Meeting of Union Leaders and Health Workers of the State of São Paul

Pink October Walk

Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo organized walk with two thousand people

The Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, an institution affiliated to UGT, through its Women's Secretariat, held the Pink October Walk. This time, the event, which has become a tradition to take place on the last weekend of the month, occurred on the commerce workers day.



"This walk was only made possible because people like you believe in the importance of this act. Today we have women here who are starting the treatment, others who are in the middle of it and some who are about to receive the great news that they have managed to overcome this challenge, which is cancer, so this event is to show these women that they are not alone," Isabel Kausz, director and head of the Union's Department of Women, explained.

UGT attends Regional ILO Workshop

UGT, through Idjwala Karajá, its Secretary for Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, attended the Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, an event held by the ILO in Guatemala. During this event, several themes were discussed, one of them was the indigenous cause.

On the opportunity, **Karajá** highlighted UGT's concern towards the indigenous peoples in our country. "UGT is Brazil's second largest trade union center and the only one that has constituted a department to deal with matters related to my people." The secretary also pointed out that UGT is developing, with partners, a pioneering project aimed at the natives of Bananal Island.



Another problem reported is the the Constitutional Amendment Bill (PEC) 215, which deals with the power of homologation of indigenous lands by the president of the Republic and by the National Congress. This Bill also has the goal of reviewing lands that are already demarcated and homologated. This meeting resulted in a letter of repudiation against this PEC, which was signed by all the participants of the event. Bananal Island is the largest fluvial island in the world and, according to data from the Association of the Indigenous Community of Aldeia Canoanã (ACIAC), there are currently nearly five thousand indigenous living in it.

Trade union centers and the social security reform

On June 6, 2016, the trade union centers CSB, FS, NCST and UGT presented to Eliseu Padilha, Presidential Chief of Staff, a document with nine measures to improve the collection and management of the Brazilian social security system.

This document is a response made by the trade union movement to the new government, which has sought to collect, together with various social representation institutions, suggestions on what they consider to be the main problems of Social Security.

The objective of this Technical Note is to present the background, basic principles, content, technical justification and counter-arguments of the government to this union proposal, in order to share with workers and society in general what has been suggested, until now, by the centers regarding this theme.



Proposta das Centrais
Sindicais para a
reforma da Previdência
Social

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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Publisher: Mauro Ramos