



Inside this number:

- May Day against removal of rights 01
- The April 28 strike continues 02
- Brazil stopped against reforms 02
- UGT's ten years of struggle 03
- International solidarity 03
- Exhibition on 10 years of UGT 04
- UGT attends seminar on trade in borders 04
- 17 reasons to change the world 04

May Day against removal of rights

Ricardo Patah, National President of União Geral dos Trabalhadores

We celebrate May Day in honor of the martyrs of Chicago (USA) who were violently reprimanded in 1886 for a major demonstration they did, which had the goal of demanding better working conditions and fair day's work.



In 2017, workers throughout Brazil have nothing to celebrate, because social and labor rights are threatened. Such rights were achieved with the blood and sweat of many Brazilians, who lost their lives to achieve the dream of living in a better country for all.

With the far right speech in which workers on strike are called vagabonds, congressmen are not respecting the history of the social and labor struggles that have made Brazil a less unequal country with less misery.

Now, more than ever, the Labor Day is a moment to reflect on what the workers have achieved, but above all to assess what is at stake, what they want to remove and to whom it will benefit.

Labor and social rights were achieved on the streets and with much struggle, but, as in the past, this will again be the tool of society to ensure the maintenance of their rights.

A warning to the government

União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT performed a unitary action with the trade union centers Força Sindical, CUT, CGTB, New Central, Intersindical, CSB, Conlutas and CTB. On April 28, they held the largest work stoppage since January 1986. The act focused on maintaining the labor and social security rights of the population.

"We do not like to call for stoppages like this one, we believe in a Brazil with full employment, with people working and producing the wealth of our country, having decent pay and adequate work environment. That is, we expect to have a fair and equal nation, but parliamentarians and the federal government insist on transferring to the population the blame for this crisis that the country is facing, causing the population to pay a very high price," said Ricardo Patah, UGT's National President.

In São Paulo alone, about 30 classes joined the general strike, among them: commerce workers, motorcycle couriers, bus drivers and collectors, subway, railway, bank, port workers, metallurgists, construction and road workers, as well as post office workers and teachers of municipal, State and private networks.

"Workers showed their strength and now we are going to demand the federal government to deepen debates with society about these reforms, because they directly affect the lives of people living on minimum wages and it is unacceptable and inadmissible to do it in a hurry," says Patah.



10 years of UGT

May Day 2017:

The April 28 strike continues

April 28, 2017 will go down in the history of the Brazilian people as the day when the overwhelming majority of workers said NO to Bill 287, which destroys the right to retirement, NO to Draft Bill 6787, which tears the Labor Laws and NO to the law 4302, which allows outsourcing in all the activities of a company.

Under the motto "On April 28 we are going to stop Brazil", all the trade union centers and their grassroots were mobilized, from north to south of the country, impelling a huge stoppage of activities and large demonstrations of protest. Workers from the areas of urban transport, factories, commerce, construction, schools, banks, ports and other sectors of the economy, as well as service providers and public servants crossed their arms.

And this act was supported by social movements, such as UNE (National Union of Students), by civil society institutions such as CNBB (National Conference of Bishops of Brazil), the OAB (Brazilian Bar Association), the Public Labor Ministry, associations of magistrates and labor lawyers, with the support of our colleagues from the international trade union movement, and also counted on a great popular sympathy.

With our ability to organize, we gave a strong message to the government of president Temer and the National Congress: we demand that the harmful proposals being processed in Brasilia are withdrawn. We do not accept losing our social security and labor rights.

In the acts of all the trade union centers in the country on May 1, 2017, Labor Day, we reaffirm our commitment to unity in order to defeat the proposals of social security and labor reforms and the law that allows unlimited outsourcing.

The next step is to occupy Brasilia to pressure the government and Congress to review their plans to attack the sacred rights of the working class. Regarding this matter, the trade union centers are open, as they have always been, to dialogue.

If this is not enough, we assume, on this Labor Day, the commitment to organize an even stronger reaction.

Long live the struggle of the working class! Long live May Day!

Check the proposals for Labor and Social Security Reforms!

No right less!

Ricardo Patah and other presidents of trade union centers signed the document.

Brazil stopped against reforms

UGT, an institution with representation in all the states of Brazil, mobilized all its affiliates on April 28, General Strike Day, in defense of labor, social and social security rights that are threatened due to all measures that were proposed by the federal government.

UGT had already announced these actions to the population for at least a month. The General Strike Day began at dawn and culminated in the shutdown of public transportation services in Brazil's main State capitals.

In São Paulo, the city dawned with no buses, subway and trains. In some regions, following the orientation of the trade union centers, workers did not even leave their homes. This fact makes this Friday look like Sunday



The silence of Brazil shakes Brasilia



UGT mobilizes workers of diverse categories



UGT's ten years struggle and the present challenges

The event took place in São Paulo and brought together about 900 people, including presidents of UGT's State branches, trade union leaders, civil society and political representatives.

Ricardo Patah opened the seminar with a warning: "We are experiencing a tragedy concerning workers rights. It is truly a moment of hopelessness. Even in dictatorships we do not experience something like this. The Labor Court, which, like the Ministry of Labor, came from trade unionism, is distancing itself more and more from the needs of workers."



According to the president, the intended labor reform, for example, would allow pregnant women to work in unhealthy places and determines that businessmen choose the person in charge of the negotiations, without requiring this person to be unionized. "It's unacceptable. Therefore, we must unite ourselves without fearing those who want to destroy us. We have to show our indignation and put a stop to these ideas of reforms that remove so many rights of citizens," said Patah.

International solidarity

The International Trade Union Confederation - ITUC expresses total solidarity with the workers of Brazil by the general strike that involves all the trade union confederations of the country. The strike is in protest of the government's plans to remove all restrictions on outsourcing, impose drastic cuts on pensions, wages and social security, and dismantle labor rights, including provisions on holidays, overtime, and hours of work.

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The **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)**, through its affiliated unions (CUT, UGT, NCST and CNPL), monitors the situation with great concern. "The setbacks in social and labor achievements are a tangible proof of the return of the neoliberal agenda in the region," said Víctor Báez, TUCA's secretary general.

"We fully support the general strike convened by trade unions in Brazil on April 28. It will be an important day of struggle and a historic act of resistance to government policies, which became effective after a coup against a legitimately elected president and now reach the working class in Brazil."

The **Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI)** has followed with big concern the legislative initiatives promoted by the Brazilian Government in labor relations and social security. This is the reason why, BWI calls on all its affiliates in Latin America and the Caribbean to issue solidarity actions with the **NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE** that the Brazilian unions plan to carry out on April 28th – International Workers' Memorial Day – in defense of their working and living conditions and against the outsourcing of unrestricted and precarious work.

On April 28th, BWI trade unions will be sending letters of protest to Brazilian Embassies in several countries, along with unions affiliated to the **Public Services International (PSI)** and **IndustriALL Global Union**, other Global Union Federations mobilized in support of Brazilian workers.

The Brazilian trade union movement is taking action and has the support of various social sectors in Brazil and also international support. At its Executive Committee meeting in Geneva on 26-28 April 2017, **IndustriALL Global Union**, which represents more than 50 million workers on five continents, offers its solidarity and support to Brazilian workers and reaffirms its intention to strengthen the struggle for.

NOT A SINGLE RIGHT LESS!



At the UGT, MayDay is a reason for reflection



Exhibition on 10 years of UGT

Opening of the exhibition "17 reasons to change the world" in Paulista Avenue

UGT, in a partnership with the United Nations (UN), through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Brazil, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the São Paulo city hall, promotes the exhibition "10 years of UGT: 17 reasons to change the world".



Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president, several congressmen, trade unionists and workers attended the exhibition, which officially opened on April 23, at Avenida Paulista.

"This is an important action in which UGT seeks, by celebrating Labor Day, to bring culture to the population through exhibitions that concern the working class," Mr. Patah explained.

This is already the third year in which this activity is held at Paulista Avenue. In 2015, the topic was "30 years of Redemocratization", in 2016 the theme was "Workers and 100 Years of Samba" and now, in 2017, in commemoration of UGT's 10 years, the trade union center exhibits 34 panels on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "This year's theme seeks to get passers-by to reflect on SDGs, which must be implemented by every country in the world by 2030," said Ricardo Patah.

UGT attends seminar on trade in borders

Avelino Garcia (from UGT's General Secretariat), Luiz Hamilton and Professor Moisés Balestro (UGT's Higher Studies Institute) represented UGT and attended a seminar promoted by Uni Americas.

On April 20 and 21, this event discussed the formalization of work in the commerce sector in border areas: public policies and the role of trade union organizations. The seminar was held in the city of Encarnación, Paraguay.



The Agenda 2030 and 17 reasons to change the world

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, for the planet and for prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace with more freedom. We recognize that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets that are an integral part of the Agenda show the scale and ambition of this new Universal Agenda. They are built on the legacy of the Millennium Development Goals and conclude what they have failed to achieve. They seek to implement human rights of all people and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible, and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental.

The goals and targets will stimulate action for the next 15 years in areas of crucial importance to human kind and to the planet.



Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible

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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