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June of Struggles

## Against the reforms

On June 30, **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, in a joint action with other trade union centers, held a major act in downtown São Paulo, in repudiation of the proposals presented by the federal government that remove labor and social security rights.

This action, which began in Ramos Square, followed the streets of downtown São Paulo to the front of the Regional Superintendence of Labor and Employment of the State of São Paulo where union leaders and representatives of social movements took turns in political speeches that sought to alert the population about the loss of rights that the approval of the labor reform represents for the whole working class.



**Luiz Carlos Motta**, president of UGT's State branch of São Paulo, stressed that many people do not even know what is happening, but the moment is serious. In order to overcome these adversities, the working class must remain united.

"Now we need to keep an eye on those deputies who voted against the interests of the working class, because all of our three senators voted against Sao Paulo," said Motta, adding that the payback for these politicians must be given in 2018, when society will be able to choose better its representatives.

**Ricardo Patah**, national president of UGT emphasized the importance of the unity of the social and trade union movements in this very troubled moment of Brazilian politics. "It is unacceptable that a government mired in corruption scandals, with the first president of our history being denounced for corruption in the exercise of his term, wants to approve projects so damaging to the working class."

UGT's activists from several classes, such as Sindimotorlix, Sincab, Bakers, Commerce Workers, Siemaco, Fenascon, Sindiapi, Fecomercarios, Fethesp, Sintracob and Sintratel, as well as militants of Intersindical, CSP Conlutas, Força Sindical, CGTB and New Central attended these acts. (Fábio Ramalho – UGT's press / Picture: FH Mendes)

### Protests throughout Brazil against reforms of president Temer

On June 30, cities in 18 states and the Federal District had protests against labor and social security reforms proposed by the government of Michel Temer.

There were acts in the Federal District and in the following states: Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Roraima, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo (18 out of the 26 Brazilian States).



Read: Pension Reform: Our Rights No Less (pt)



# June of Struggles

Trade Union Centers have been monitoring the unfolding of the economic, political and social crises on a daily basis, as well as the broader and deeper attempt to remove workers' rights through the Labor and Social Security reforms in the National Congress.

The unitary action of the Trade Union Centers has resulted in a great mobilization in all corners of the country, as we saw on March 8, March 15, at the General Strike of April 28 and at Occupy Brasília on May 24.

As a result of the broad debate with society and the mobilizations, we managed to stop the process of the Social Security Reform and had a first victory in the Labor Reform, with the disapproval by the CAS (Senate Economic Affairs Committee).



Within this context, Trade Union Centers gathered here today call on all workers' organizations to get organized for June 30, 2017, and the following fight agenda:

- June 30: Let's stop Brazil against the labor reform: in defense of rights and retirement.
- When the Senate Labor Reform is put to a Vote: mobilization in Brasília

We are certain that unity of action is crucial in the union struggle, especially in troubled times like the one we are going through.

## President of UGT demands measure to avoid losses

On June 13, **Ricardo Patah**, president of **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, and other leaders from this institution had a meeting with President Michel Temer, in the Planalto Palace. After the meeting, Mr. Patah said: "We have come to search for alternatives to develop a Provisional Measure that corrects some of the effects that this project may bring," he said. In a press interview, Patah reiterated the discontent of UGT and workers concerning the proposal of labor reform under analysis in the National Congress.



To Mr. Patah, if approved, these changes will prevent, for example, workers from ratifying contract termination through unions. "It is the company that will solve, decide and settle the rescission funds with the employee," he said.

Patah was also against the choice of interlocutor of workers in collective bargaining. "Another issue is the election of workers in establishments with more than 200 employees".

"Currently, there is an obstruction to the participation of the trade union movement [in these elections]. If these measures are approved, the company will be able to appoint who will be the interlocutor in the collective negotiations," he said.

The unionist also criticized the part of the proposal that provides for intermittent work, because, in his understanding, it would be possible for a worker to stay for hours at the company, at its disposal, without being paid for it. "The thing is so flexible that it allows the worker to go to the company, stay in an antechamber for hours, and only when the worker is activated, five or six hours later, he/she will begin to be entitled to salary. This will also weaken the worker's relationship with capital."

## UGT's State branch of São Paulo organizes protest for June 30

On June 30, UGT's State branch of São Paulo, chaired by **Luiz Carlos Motta**, from Fecomercários, organized demonstrations of commerce workers and other categories throughout the State against the labor and social security reforms, as well as against unrestricted outsourcing.

This action was approved at the UGT/SP seminar held on June 22, in Tupã, with the aim of streamlining and strengthening the participation of people from the State of São Paulo in this historical moment for the Brazilian trade union movement of struggle. The demonstrations will be regionally concentrated, according to the location of the union units (headquarters and subsections) in each city of São Paulo.



## Commission rejects Labor Reform at the Senate

Report denouncing labor rights is rejected in CAS

On June 20, the Senate Committee on Social Affairs (CAS) rejected the opinion of the rapporteur Ricardo Ferraço (PSDB party – State of Espírito Santo), which is favorable to the labor reform. This is the 2nd senate committee that analyzed the bill and was favorable to the approval of the text as voted in the House.

"This proposal is extremely harmful to the whole working class and to the whole society, I would even include the government itself, which will lose millions in revenue," explains Ricardo Patah, national president of **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**.



Patah pointed out that the rejection of Ferraço's opinion is an important victory for the working class and shows that the Senate is willing to fulfill its role of legislating, and not only approving, in an agitated way, a project harmful to the working class and voted by congressmen.

Despite the rejection, the labor reform normally follows to the Constitution and Justice Commission (CCJ).

## Union centers gathered with Nogueira to guarantee rights

On June 21, representatives of the country's main trade union federations had a meeting with Ronaldo Nogueira, Labor Minister, to discuss the implementation of necessary measures to prevent damages to the worker that the Labor Reform project, following legal channels at the Congress, can cause to the working class.

The following people were at the meeting: Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, Chiquinho Pereira, UGT's secretary of organization, Ademir Camilo congressman and UGT's vice president of UGT, and representatives of CSB, NCST and Força Sindical.

During the debates, Mr. Patah reminded the minister that the government project is harmful, cruel and unfair to the workers. Points such as intermittent work, the presence of pregnant workers in unhealthy places, the election of workers without assistance from unions, individual agreement between employer and employee, approval in the company itself and the end of union funding will bring serious damage to workers. The position of the president of UGT received support from all the leaders of trade union centers at the meeting.

Minister Ronaldo Nogueira reaffirmed that it is not in the interest of the government to cause harm to the workers and signaled the possibility of the government, if the project that is in the Congress is already approved, presenting a provisional measure to revert the negative impacts of the project.

Unionists reaffirmed that the unity of the trade union movement does not accept the removal of workers' rights and that this is the main point of the discussion.

## Violence reported at ILO

**Wagner Souza (in the picture) denounces bullet attack against UGT's Officer**

Wagner Souza, **assistant secretary of União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT's** department of international affairs, is in Geneva, Switzerland, attending the 106th Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO). He, and other trade unionists from Brazil, attended a demonstration in front of the headquarters of the United Nations (UN).

Brazilian trade unionists denounced the violent aggression suffered by the retired worker Carlos Giovanni Cirilo, member of UGT, during a peaceful protest in Brasilia on May 24. Carlos was shot in the face when he participated in a workers' march denouncing the labor and social security reforms that the Brazilian government referred to the national congress. Both projects remove the rights of the workers achieved over the years with much struggle



## Highlights of UGT in the 106th ILO Conference

### Delegation of UGT has a distinguished role at the 106th ILO Conference

The UGT delegation actively participated in the 106th International Conference of the ILO, from June 5 to 16 in Geneva, Switzerland. During the conference, which brought together more than 7,000 people among delegates (660), government technicians (1,141), representatives of employers (550) and workers (781) and the bench of Brazilian unionists, which sent a document to the Standards Department of the ILO. This document was against the ongoing social security and labor reforms in the country, which are harmful to the working class.

In the document the labor bench pointed unconstitutional points in the reforms and also violations of conventions of the International Labor Organization ratified by Brazil. In this consultation document, issues such as the absence of debates in tripartite bodies, individual negotiation in disagreement with convention ratified by Brazil and also measures that prevent the financial viability of trade unions are raised.



To **Lourenço Ferreira Prado, UGT's Secretary of International Affairs**, the delivery of this document was the result of an important mobilization of the labor bench. However, he said "it caused embarrassment and disappointment to Brazilian unionists to exclude our country from the long list (40 countries, in which Brazil was registered for non-compliance with Convention 98) and also the Short List (24 countries)".

Lourenço also emphasized, among the highlights of the performance of the delegation of UGT, "the speech of Antonio Cortizo at the Standards Committee, Gustavo Garcia and Rubens Fernandes on Labor Migration Committee, our work at the meeting of the BRICS, and also the action of Wagner Souza Nilson Duarte Costa (UGT's State branch of Rio de Janeiro) and Sergio Luiz da Costa (UGT's State branch of Goiás), all acting with diligence, commitment and dignity every day during the Conference."

In his report on the participation of UGT in the Conference, Lourenço Prado emphasized the importance of the Preparatory Seminar with this delegation held on April 11, in Brasilia. "Thanks to this seminar everyone went to Geneva with the same information as the delegates and technical advisors of our trade union center."

## International Solidarity

### UAW expresses its solidarity towards UGT in defense of labor rights

The **International Union, United Automotive, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America - UAW**, an international entity, through its chairman Dennis Williams and through **Gary Casteel**, Treasury Secretary, sent a letter expressing its solidarity and support to Brazilian unions and workers in their efforts to defend labor rights and to fight against right-wing politicians during the March of the Working Class, which took place in Brasilia, on May 24. Read excerpts from the letter below:



**"On behalf of more than one million active members and retirees that UAW represents, I write to express our solidarity and support to Brazilian unions and workers in their efforts to defend labor rights and right-wing politicians during the March of Working Class in Brasilia, on May 24".**

"We strongly condemn the acts of violence that took place at the end of the march against the unjust and unpopular proposals of the Temer government and its allies in the National Congress. We support your call for unity among all Trade Union Centers, Confederations, Federations and other Unions from all over Brazil, we stand with you in the struggle for measures of valorization of labor, industrial policies that create new jobs and guarantee labor rights and social justice."

"UAW is confident that we built a partnership that will be stronger and stronger. On behalf of our members, I would like to offer our solidarity in such troubled times that the Brazilian trade union movement is going through. We are anxious to work together in search of more and more equality and justice to all workers."



## Bank and insurance workers hold XIII National Congress

From June 29 to July 1, the city of São Paulo hosted the XIII National Congress of Bank and Insurance Workers. Two hundred and fifty delegates from trade unions, federations and confederations attended this event, which brought together trade union leaders from all the states of the federation and had the goal of broadening the debate on the main problems of these classes.

"This is a unique event for our class, because the moment is delicate for all the workers, but on this occasion we have the opportunity to discuss the issues that affect our sector," said **Laurenço Prado**, president of the **National Confederation of Credit Companies Workers (Contec)**.



"Bank and insurance workers always signaled important paths, thus, they are working classes that stand out all through the trade union movement for their history of struggles and permanent actions to defend workers," said Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president.

## Janot asks for the suspension of outsourcing law

Rodrigo Janot, Attorney General, filed Direct Action of Unconstitutionality against the law on unrestricted outsourcing, arguing that there is unconstitutionality in the recent change of labor market rules and calls for the suspension of the new rules. The Federal Supreme Court (STF) received this documentation and minister Gilmar Mendes will be the rapporteur of the case.



"Law 13,429, dated March 31, 2017, is formally unconstitutional, due to a defect in the process of Bill 4,302/1998, which gave rise to it. The Chamber of Deputies did not deliberate a request to withdrawal the legislative proposal formulated by its author, the President of the Republic, before the conclusive vote," according to documents delivered to the Supreme Court..

## Union Education discusses 4th Industrial Revolution

On June 26 and 27, UGT's National Department of Trade Union Education will hold a seminar in Porto Alegre, which will address, among other topics, the issue of the 4th Industrial Revolution and its impact on the world of work.

This seminar is focused on UGT's state branches of the South region (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina e Paraná) and has the goal of deepening the discussion about changes in the world of work, as well as to present UGT's national training policy.

According to Josineide de Camargo Souza, UGT's national secretary of trade union education, the question of training "is even more strategic for the consolidation of the struggle of the working class, whether due to the new spaces for the work of trade union leaders or to the need to collectively build knowledge from the reading of the world of workers".

## Contec launches new website and app

A new and more dynamic website with access to relevant information, document consultation and interactivity, is available to Brazilian bank and insurance workers. **Contec has launched its new website**, as well as a free app for mobile devices. Another innovation is CONTEC's WhatsApp, which will operate at (61) 98302.0012.

The mobile app is now integrated into the website. That is, you will have all the site content available on your phone or tablet, with the advantage of receiving alert messages when the subject matter is important. For example: the index offered by the bosses during salary campaign negotiations. Free app for mobile devices



The new technologies and the world of work (pt) by Ricardo Nolasco



Free app for mobile devices

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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