Support to oil workers, strengthening of democracy and of the trade union movement

The union centers CUT, Força Sindical, UGT, CTB, Nova Central and CSB are publicly expressing their full support and solidarity for the oil workers’ strike, scheduled to last 72 hours after tomorrow. We understand that their claims are fair and point to the need to protect Petrobras from financial speculation and sale to multinational companies.

Petrobras is one of the most important companies of Brazil, with an immeasurable role in the country’s economy, considering both investments and the value of fuels. It is important to protect and develop the strategic role of public companies (Petrobras, Eletrobras system, public banks, among others) to promote the social and economic development.

We emphasize that the federal government showed political inability, social insensitivity and failed to carry out an adequate negotiation during the strike of the truck drivers, as the moment demanded. The full text can be accessed on the UGT website.

Roberto Santiago criticizes Michel Temer in article of MetrôNews

Roberto Santiago, president of Femaco and Fenascon (State and National Federation of Workers in Companies of Environmental Conservation and Cleaning in Urban and Green Areas) and vice president of UGT, wrote an article for the newspaper MetrôNews, criticizing the government of President Michel Temer.

In his text, Santiago makes a reading about the president’s unpopular actions such as changes in labor legislation, which mutilated the CLT (Consolidation of Labor Laws) and abolished the rights achieved by the working class over the years and the announced Pension Reform. Issues such as slave labor and the abusive price increase of diesel were also addressed by Santiago.

“An X-ray of the Temer government: the president without the people and against the people”. Soon to complete two years of the impeachment that brought to power the illegitimate and unpopular Michel Temer, Brazilians watch a flood of setbacks. Without a doubt, his tenure will be marked as the government that led the country to a setback, mainly damaging the working class and the poorest. The full text is in the national UGT website.
On Tuesday, May 29, the ILO (International Labor Organization) decided to include Brazil in the list of 24 countries that violate its international labor conventions and standards. The inclusion of Brazil in the list resulted from the approval of the Labor Reform (Law 13,467/17), which removed dozens of Brazilian workers’ rights, violating ILO fundamental standards, especially Convention 98, ratified by Brazil, which deals with the Right of Unionization and Collective Bargaining. The ILO considers that the possibility of the negotiated prevail over the legislated removes or reduces the trade union center’s accusations of the anti-union practices of the government, which have become even more serious with the reform process in the National Congress, approved without dialogue with the representations of workers, in this case, also violating ILO Convention 144. The full text can be found on UGT’s website.

Mr. Patah attends the second edition of the Women’s Day

On May 27, Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT and of the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, attended the 2018 Women’s Day.

LIBRA (League of Female Voters of Brazil) idealized the event, which was held in the Legislative Assembly of São Paulo (ALESP), with the support of UGT, Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, Símaco and other partners.

With the motto “Coming out of the discussion and going into action”, the Women’s Day, which is in its second edition, lasted ten hours and promoted working groups to discuss issues such as political and citizen education; entrepreneurship, work and income generation; facing violence against women; gender and ethnicity; generations and culture; LGBT+; health, well-being and beauty; sustainability and development; and 50+. The Women’s Day is one of the tools that make it possible to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, especially the Gender Equality, established by the UN to be achieved until 2030.

“UGT is very sensitive to the demands of the Women’s Day. Even in this difficult time we are going through, we could not help supporting and embracing this cause. In Brazil, we still lack a lot of respect and solidarity, especially to women. But it is in the DNA of our institution to fight for citizenship and for equal rights and opportunities. This is a life goal! This year, the vote is a great opportunity to show our indignation with public policies and the current Brazilian situation. Let’s take the discussion of this event to the streets”, said Ricardo Patah. The intention is that the issues discussed leave the discussion of this day and become part of the debates in Brazil, are converted into public policies, empowerment and achievements, expanding the theme of the feminine universe and modernizing the perception of society on the role of women.
UGT raises awareness of trade unions of Roraima to take action for immigrants

UGT’s Department of Integration for the Americas and Decent Work and the state of Roraima, in partnership with the Solidarity Center-AFL-CIO, will hold, on June 11 and 12, the seminar “For a world without borders - Migrate, resist, build and transform” in the State capital Boa Vista.

The goal of the event is to discuss strategies of actions for civic rights of the Venezuelan immigrants and to raise awareness of the unions of the region affiliated to the Center in order to act for this population.

Currently, it is estimated that there are about 2,500 immigrants in Boa Vista and Pacaraima and there is an urgent need for more shelters, fields with the proper structure, hospitals, as well as employment and security for the local residents. UGT believes that unions can, for example, assist immigrants in regularizing documentation or even promote qualification workshops, facilitating their entrance into the labor market.

“We must prepare society for immigration. This includes ensuring and promoting human rights, respect, tolerance and the formulation of public policies towards this population.

Knowledge of other cultures has become the key to prevent prejudice and increase solidarity,” says Fabiano Antônio da Silva Xavier, president of UGT’s state branch of Roraima. On the occasion, members of UGT will also perform missions to visit the place and experience the situation of immigrants up-close.

SINTRAFCUARB is the newest UGT affiliated

SINTRAFCUARB – Trade Union of Workers in the Industries of Smoke of Paraná and in the Industries of Cocoa, Candies, Sweets, Powdered Drinks and Solid Preparations of Curitiba, is the newest institution affiliated to UGT.

The affiliation ceremony took place on October 18, in Curitiba, and was attended by José Agnaldo Pereira, president of the entity; by Ricardo Patah, UGT’s national president; by Paulo Rossi, president of UGT’s State branch of Paraná; by directors of UGT and members of the board of directors of Sintrafucarb.

José Agnaldo Pereira justified the board’s decision to join UGT. “After we left CTB, we made several internal discussions and came to the conclusion that UGT is the trade union center that represents the workers the most in the face of the reforms imposed by this illegitimate government and that has removed several labor rights. It is a center that searches for dialogue and respects the political and ideological thinking of each leader,” said Agnaldo.

Ricardo Patah, UGT’s national president, gave an explanation about the work developed by the center, and thanked the confidence of the board of Sintrafucarb to choose to affiliate with UGT. “The union, through its board, will help UGT to fight against this criminal (labor) reform and defend the rights of the working class, because it is a representative union, with an exemplary work in its union grassroots”, Mr. Patah emphasized.

Paulo Rossi, president of UGT’s State branch of Paraná and state Secretary of Labor, highlighted the importance of Sintrafucarb in the trade union scene in Paraná and the quality of its leaders.

“It is an honor for us, from UGT, to have an entity of this size affiliated with our trade union center. We won in quality and union experience,” recalled the trade unionist.
SindimotoSP wants hazard pay for all workers according to Federal Law

The goal of the meeting was to find ways to ensure that the new text of Regulatory Norm-16 that regulates the hazard pay through Federal Law 12,997 does not harm workers who use motorcycles in the exercise of their profession, since they are exposed to the risk of falls or accidents regardless of the route taken or the time they spend on public roads.

Now, a new general meeting with everyone involved may close the subject. The tripartite commission of motorcycle couriers that represents the unions together with the trade union centers will deliberate on a new dialogue with the federal government and with employers that contemplates the proposals of the workers so that the existing jobs are also maintained, as well as it continues to generate employment. The unions’ concern is that there will be no more unemployment, but effective solutions for the sector. It should be noted that the new text discusses receiving the benefit for the professionals who carry out activities using motorcycles. Regular motorcycle couriers will continue to receive the benefit.

The event was attended by Gilberto Almeida dos Santos, president of SindimotoSP/Febramoto (representing UGT), by Rodrigo Silva, Institutional Relations director of SindimotoSP, by Valdo Ferreira from Sindimoto Rio Grande do Sul/Fetramoto (representing Força Sindical), Sindimoto DF / Febramoto (Nova Central) Luis Galvão and Pedro Mourão - Fernordeste - (representing CSB).

President of the Labor Supreme Court receives the visit of UGT’s officers in Brasilia

On May 16, Ricardo Patah, UGT’s president, was in Brasília, in an audience with the minister João Batista Brito Pereira, president of the Superior Labor Court (TST). Patah was accompanied by Canindé Pegado, UGT’s Secretary-General, by Chacon, president of UGT-DF, and by Cortizo, national officer of the trade union center.

The unionist expressed his concern to the president of the TST regarding the insecurity of the new labor legislation for workers. Patah also spoke with Batista Brito about the analysis requested by Minister Luiz Edson Fachin of the Federal Supreme Court (STF), in relation to the Adin (Direct Action of Unconstitutionality), which is in the Supreme Court questioning the money transfer to trade union centers. For the president of the UGT, this question puts at stake the very survival of the centers and must be seen from the perspective of the need for a greater representation of workers. “In all countries there is a representation of superior degree that represents the workers and is supported by them. In Brazil, to question the legality or not of trade union centers and their maintenance by the workers is to preach the end of the trade union movement,” he said.