Trade union centers gather workers to mobilize for the “We’ve Had Enough Day”

UGT participated in the unitary act of the trade union centers called “We’ve Had Enough: National Day of Mobilization in defense of employment, retirement and labor rights.” The act, which took place on Avenida Paulista, mobilized several trade unions affiliated with UGT and several entities affiliated with other sister trade union centers.

According to Canindé Pegado, UGT’s secretary general, the “We’ve Had Enough day” took place in 14 Brazilian State capitals. “Today is a day of mobilization in several cities, including a stoppage,” the officer said.

Ricardo Patah, UGT’s national president, stressed how harmful for workers the new Labor Law is since it entered into force, especially for women. “Female workers suffer discrimination, moral and sexual harassment, or they are brutally murdered and, to top it all, politicians pass a law allowing pregnant women to work in an unhealthy place and invent intermittent work, which is similar to slavery”, he questioned.

Exchange of UGT’s officers in Japan surpasses expectations in terms of knowledge exchange

In July, Thiago Garcia, from the National Union of Cable TV and Telecommunications Systems Workers (SIN-CAB), and Josimar Andrade, from the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, attended the training and qualification program for trade union leaders, promoted by the Japan International Labor Foundation (JILAF), the largest trade union center in the country, and they brought back much knowledge of all Japanese trade union organization and labor legislation.

According to the leaders, though Japan is a country without strikes or demonstrations, it has a significant number of more than 25,000 grassroots trade unions.

However, there is harmony between the negotiations and the SHUNTO (Spring Wages Offensive) practice, when all the wage campaigns between April and May is the time when the unions achieve a big mobilization of society through rounds of negotiations held between the working class and the bosses at the same time.

Unlike South American countries, the Japanese trade union law establishes that each company may have its union, instead of representing an economic and professional category as in Brazil.
Unity of trade union centers for the creation of the National Racial Forum of Workers

This week, the presidents of the six Brazilian trade union centers signed a unitary document for the creation of the National Racial Forum of Workers. UGT, together with CUT, CTB, CSB, Força Sindical NCST and the counseling of the Inter-American Trade Union Institute for Racial Equality (INSPIR) support this letter.

This Forum aims to strengthen the interaction among trade union entities in order to advance in democratic ideals and in the fight against discrimination and other forms of ethnic intolerance, in order to guarantee the execution of equality of opportunity in labor relations. In addition, this space has the goal of ensuring that the existing affirmative action policies are maintained and strengthened, as well as proposing and formulating new proposals so that there are no setbacks in the social accomplishments that were already achieved.

“This is a very important tool, especially in view of this political scenario that we are experiencing, since it aims, among so many deliberations, to keep and strengthen all that we have achieved until the current moment,” explains Ana Cristina dos Santos Duarte, UGT’s National Secretary for Human Diversity.

Labor minister receives the visit of trade union centers representatives and forwards claims

On August 7, Ricardo Patah, UGT’s national president, and representatives from the main Brazilian trade union centers attended the first meeting with the new Labor Minister, Caio Vieira de Mello, held in the Ministry’s office.

The minister summoned this meeting, which had the purpose of presenting the new portfolio and let him know the positions of the leaders, despite the fact that he will occupy the position for such short time. On July 10, Vieira de Mello was sworn in after dismissing Helton Yomura, due to a decision of the Federal Supreme Court (STF).

The agenda of the meeting included the consequences of the Labor Reform and the legal insecurity installed as a result of the deregulation of the labor legislation caused by the alteration of more than 100 articles of the Consolidation of Labor Laws (CLT).

Unionists addressed issues that resulted from the changes brought by the reform and denounced the consequent precarious employment, charging for emergency actions by the government to curb setbacks.

Regarding the Ordinance Published on that day by the Ministry, in which a Committee of Advanced Studies on the Future of Labor was created, the centers consensually claimed the inclusion of a member of the Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies (DIEESE) and the indication of a union representative, instead of the labor representative included in the ordinance, in the absence of the entities.
UGT’s State branch of Rio Grande do Sul attends graduation of Civil Construction Young Apprentices

The Vocational School of the Union of Civil Construction Workers of Porto Alegre (STICC) graduated another class of 13 new professionals in the course of Building Raising. The graduation program is part of the Young Apprentice Program, which is a partnership of STICC, the Union of Civil Construction Industries in the State of Rio Grande do Sul (SINDUSCON-RS) and the National Service of Industrial Training (SENAI).

Norton Jubelli, UGT-RS President-in-Office, was honored by the class and was proud with the invitation. “We have to highlight this partnership of these institutions to guarantee the insertion in the labor market of qualified young people. UGT, which preaches a civic, ethical and innovative unionism, supports initiatives like this. Particularly, I was very happy with the invitation and I could see the joy of having this opportunity in the eyes of the trainees and their relatives. In many cases, these young people are the first in their families to have some type of training.

It is a pleasure to be able to encourage and extend this type of initiative with other affiliated unions to ensure the training and qualification of our young people,” Norton said.

Jurists show the importance of union funding in discussion at UGT-SP Seminar

UGT-SP Seminar, which ended on August 1, took place at the Leisure Center of Fecomerciários, in Praia Grande, and its topic was “Costing of Trade Union Institutions”.

In this context, two jurists divided the pulpit to address the issue in a lecture entitled “How to Finance Trade Union Activities after the Extinction of Union Dues”:

- Mr. Raimundo Simão de Melo, lawyer, legal adviser, retired regional labor attorney, and Mr. João Batista Martins César, Judge of the Regional Labor Court of the 15th Region, both co-authors of the book “Trade Union Costing Approved in Assemblies of the Category”, by the RTM publishing company. Mr. Raimundo was the first to speak.

According to him, the Labor Reform is already in force and it has done a huge damage in the world of work, trade unions, workers’ rights, and “what is left now is for us to take care of basic issues, see what can be done in the matter of the union dues to keep the entities functioning, because without costing nobody will be able to survive.”

The full text can be reached on UGT’s website.