



## Reduction of Working Shifts Now!

**GUW Brasil defends in the Deputies Chamber a reduction of working shifts as a measure of social inclusion**



The president of the **General Union of Workers (GUW)**, **Ricardo Patah**, defended a reduction in working hours for shift work from 44 to 40 weekly hours as one of the main factors of social inclusion.

The unionist's speech was given on August, 25, in the Chamber of Deputies rostrum, in Brasilia, where a Constitution amendment proposal (PEC), number 231/95 (which reduces to 40 weekly working hours for shift work, without a salary reduction) is being discussed.

The project is being discussed by the Chamber General Committee, and the work is being conducted by its president, the deputy Michel Temer. GUW, as well as other centrals, participate in these discussions, and a great number of unionists went to the Congress, to defend the approval of the amendment.

In his speech, **Ricardo Patah** highlighted the need to fight for conquering "equality of opportunity to everyone in Brazil", reminding that as a "commerce worker, a class that works 54 weekly hours, I understand what it feels like to suffer the effects of this kind of work. That amount of working hours is unfair to mothers who need to arrange work with household tasks", he added.

**Patah** also reminded that excessive working hours contribute to cause accidents at work. "As it has been widely said here, in this rostrum and technically proved, the reduction in working hours will contribute to create thousands of new job positions, and such positions will give opportunities for those who find themselves totally excluded in the formal job market. And we, from GUW, are here to defend a country of social inclusion", Patah concluded.

The PEC that reduces working hours for shift work from 44 to 40 weekly hours has already been approved under the Special Committee and now it needs to be voted in two turns under the Chamber Plenary Session and afterwards under the Senate.

### G UW Executive Board has a meeting with State branches

G UW goals for the second semester of 2009 were some of the topics of the meeting



**G UW (General Union of Workers)** Executive Board had a meeting on August, 17, with the presidents of the state branches. One of the objectives of the meeting was to discuss the elaboration of strategies and issues of development and growth of **G UW**. On the occasion, Ricardo Patah announced some of the goals to be reached by the end of the year. The **General Secretary of G UW, Canindé Pegado**, showed the position of **G UW** as the third largest union central in terms of representativity.

Another topic that was discussed was related to the 1st National Plenary Session of institutions affiliated with G UW, which will take place on August 28 and 29, at the Commerce Workers Union Vacation Club, in Praia Grande. During these two days, the presence of chairmen from all unions that are affiliated with G UW is expected, as well as directors from federations and confederations. On the previous day, it will be held, in the same place, the 7th Plenary Session of the National Executive Board. The president Ricardo Patah announced that in the first two weeks of September there will be a seminar on communications.

### G UW Ceará marks anniversary and releases its informative

**G UW (General Union of Workers) Ceará**, that in July marked a year of unionism activities in the state of Ceará, just released its informative organ. It's called "G UW newsletter Ceará", that in its first edition brings a series of news on activities of the union central presided by the union chairman **Francisco Teônio da Silva** (on the right in the picture). Under the responsibility of the journalist Marina Valente, the newsletter has as its main objective up to date chairmen from its affiliated unions with the latest news of what G UW has been doing in Ceará.



### G UW Ceará hosts youth meeting

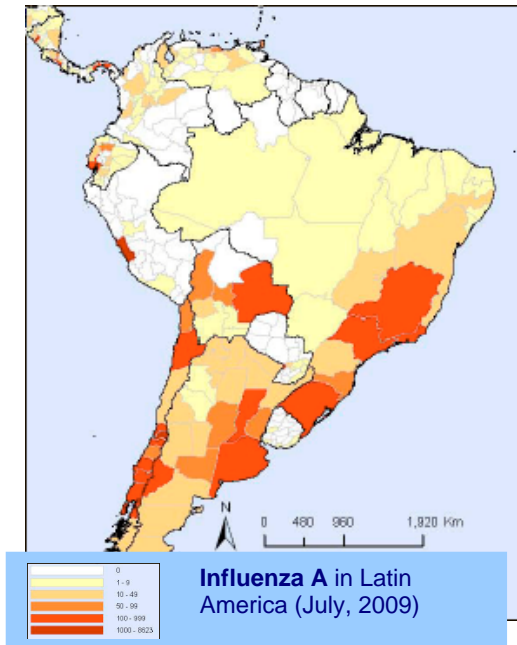
**G UW Ceará** hosted, on August, 14, the second edition of the project "Youth and Unionism". It's about an initiative of the **National G UW Youth Department** and from **I PROS (Institute of Social Nurturing)**, presided by the colleague **Arnaldo Benedetti**, who is also secretary of the National G UW International Relationships Department.

Under the general coordination of the secretary of the Youth Department, Elimar Cavaletto and the local coordination of the president of G UW Ceará, Teônio Silva, the second edition overcame in a large amount the expectations while dealing with the admission of young people that came from SINTEC (Union of Industrial Technicians from Rio Grande do Norte, Piauí, Pernambuco and Ceará), Union of Fishery Workers, Union of Agriculture Technicians of Ceará. And still, Union of Commerce Workers of Bahia, Union of Rural Workers of Quixadá (Ceará), Federation of Rural Landless Workers of Guaiuba (Ceará), Federation of Community Associations of Caucaia and the metro area of Fortaleza and Union of Commerce Workers of Parauapebas (Pará).

The seminar counted on the special participation of the Director from the **Solidarity Center** in Brazil, organ of **AFL-CIO**, the american unionist **Brian Finnegan**.

### Swine Flu:

## G UW Santa Catarina acquires the right of removal from work to pregnant women



All pregnant women that are working should be removed from work, for an undetermined time, from their respective working environment, free of charge in their salaries. The initiative comes from G UW (General Union of Workers) - Santa Catarina and it was approved by MPT (Labour Public Ministry) from that state.

Just to give an idea, all the employers have already been notified to the fulfillment of this rule that comprehend all (pregnant) women that are in touch with people all those who need public transportation to go from home to work and vice-versa.

Pregnant women that request the fulfillment of the rule and their request is not responded should look for the union related to their class or the Public Ministry of Santa Catarina (MPT), or even refuse to work.

"Undoubtedly it is a great victory to us as a union central, keeping in mind that G UW has practiced an important role in this context", **Rosane Sasse** informs. According to MPT, the rules are determinations and not recommendations and should be fulfilled precisely. In case it isn't possible to move away pregnant women from having contact with the public, they should be removed from work, as well as the ones who need public transportation to go to work.

In Santa Catarina, according to the Health Department, there are currently 57 thousand pregnant women, out of which 33 thousand work. So far, from the 10 deaths related to the swine flu in the state, two of them were pregnant. Another 27 women are hospitalized suffering from suspicious of the disease and six deaths are under investigation.

Not fulfilling the rule might result in civil action lawsuit under penalty of charging a fine, said Acir Alfredo Hack, attorney from the Labour Public Ministry of Santa Catarina. The preventive measure will be due for an undetermined time, and the removal is applied whenever there is no possibility of temporary moving the pregnant women to departments without contact with the public or to pregnant women that depend on public transportation to go to work.

Unions from Santa Catarina intensify this week the supervision of fulfillment of the decision from the Labour Public Ministry (MPT). Unions should also be responsible in case they are omissive towards the pregnant women's rights, warns **Nicolau de Almeida Netto**, secretary from the **G UW (General Union of Workers) Mobilization department** in that state.

If situations in which the employer is supposedly stopping the pregnant women from being removed, unions were orientated to communicate the fact to the MPT and request to court, via civil action lawsuit, the fulfillment of the determination. According to Netto, quoted from the newspaper Floripa, the employer might get a fine in up to R\$ 1 million for not obeying the measure.

### G UW state branches: three days of activities in Paraíba



The secretary of the Organization and Union Policies Department, Chiquinho Pereira (in the picture with Dr. Edvan, mayor of Catingueiras), developed between August 20 and 22, an intense agenda of appointments divulging the central and getting in touch in order to create a G UW branch in the state of Paraíba.

On August, 20, there were meetings with the president of the Federation of Industry Workers, Mr. João Avelino; with unions and the Federation of Bank Workers; and with the president of FETAG, Mr. Liberalino. On August, 21, there were meetings with the president of Gas Station Workers Union of Campina Grande, Mr. Evanilton; and with Mr. Martins, president of the Union of Public Servants of Piancó; and with Mrs. Aparecida, who presides the Union of Public Servants of Coremas.

Besides that, Chiquinho Pereira gave a lecture on Public Policies, on August, 22, in the Municipal Chamber of the town Igaracy. The unionist Roga Matias; the journalist Eudo Nicolau; the mayor of Igaracy, Celino Farias; the mayor of Aguiar, Manoel Guedes; the mayor of Itaporanga, Djaci Brasileiro; the mayor of Catingueira, Edivan Felix; City Councilmen from Igaracy and other regional politicians also participated in the lecture.

### G UW Bahia participates in the Millennium Goals Award

The president of G UW Bahia, José Álvaro França Rios, participated in the 3rd edition of the Brazil's Millennium Development Goals Award, an initiative of the State Government. The meeting gathered political, business, union and community chairmen at the Casa do Comércio, in Salvador, on August, 12.

"Issues of major concern to the society were discussed, according to França Rios, such as "Putting an end to Famine"; "Quality Basic Education to all"; "Gender Equality and Women Valorization"; "Reducing Child Mortality" ; "Improve Pregnant Women's Health"; "Fighting AIDS, Malaria and other diseases"; "Life Quality and Respect Towards the Environment" and "Everyone Working for Achieving Development".

### Union Exchange Seminar Brazil - Japan

On August, 19, the Union Exchange Seminar Brazil - Japan "20 Years of the Jilaf Program, Exchange, Partnership and Solidarity" 1989/2009, which is being nurtured by Jilaf (Japan International Labour Foundation), in a partnership with the General Union of Workers (G UW) and other centrals.

In order to show this 20 years of exchange, Jilaf was represented by its Executive Director, Motoo Hayshi and by its Manager Programmer, Yuko Tsukamoto.

On August, 21, constituents of the JILAF delegation, accompanied by chairmen from G UW, gathered at the Regional Department of Labour and Employment of São Paulo.



"The General Union of Workers (G UW) reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " **Ricardo Patah – UGT's President**

**UGT World** – the International Newsletter of the UGT Brasil - General Workers Union

**Address** : Rua Formosa, 367 - 24º andar Centro  
Postal Code 01049-000 São Paulo SP Brasil