



## UGT fights for Decent Work

UGT and trade union centrals define agenda for the World Day for Decent Work



The trade union centrals **UGT**, CUT, Força Sindical, CTB, CGTB and NCST decided to schedule a unitarian protest on October 07, World Day for Decent Work, in Sao Paulo.

Workers will gather at the Municipal Theater of Sao Paulo, after that, they will march through Barão de Itapetininga street, continuing through the avenues Ipiranga and São Luís until Martins Fontes street, head office of the Regional Labour Department, where they will hand an unitarian document from the union centrals.

Read the document in full, below:

### World Day for Decent Work

#### Employment and salary to all of our people!

On October 07, millions of workers will march through the streets all over the world on the **World Day for Decent Work**, demanding employment and fair salaries to all of our people. In Brazil, union centrals are out in the streets to fight for better life and work conditions, enlarging the bonds of solidarity and integration among people.

Politics of valorization of the minimum wage and the strengthening of the role of the State have been essential for the country to be able to get over the crisis and fight inequalities, and need to be deepened to effective social justice.

Now it is time to expand rights, reduce working shift without a reduction in salaries, tackling precarious and child labour, guaranteeing freedom of opportunities and high quality public services. In order for that to happen, it is necessary to raise investments in public policies and step up pressure to synchronize the financial sector with a national project of inclusive development, reducing the interest rate and increasing the resources to the productive and social areas.

Fight with us!

Thursday, October 07

March at 10 A.M.

Meeting point: Municipal Theater of Sao Paulo

## UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals

### UGT fighting for a more just world

UGT, represented by its president Ricardo Patah and by Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti, secretary of the International Relationships Department, participates, in New York, in the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

#### Action plan to achieve the eight anti-poverty goals by 2015



**Chiefs of States and governments** from all over the world gathered at UN headquarters during three days to renew and accelerate the promise they made regarding the Millennium, occasion in which the MDGs were established, their main ideal is halving extreme poverty in the world by 2015.

"In such an unequal society as this one we are living in, it is urgent, to all of us at UGT, the construction of other conceptions on the meaning of the human experience considering the human being and the environment as a living, inter-dependent and solidary community", the **president of UGT** emphasized; he also highlighted the work UGT has been doing in defense of excluded people.

### Ending poverty is possible!

Halving the number of starving people in the world by 2015 is still possible. The statement is in the report produced and publicized by the British institution **Oxfam**, on September 14. If chiefs of state from all over the world are willing to, it is still possible to make the main **Millennium Development Goal (MDG)** come true.



According to data from the the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the number of people that are not able to eat adequately has decreased by 98 million people last year, despite this reduction, there are still 925 million of people all over the world that still starve.

The document "Halving hunger: still possible?", publicized by Oxfam, agrees with data from FAO. The reduction was celebrated, since 2009 was marked as the year of highest negative growth in history, with 1,020 million people devastated by hunger. Unfortunately, this decrease was not pushed by political decisions of world leaders. The report from Oxfam clears out that the good harvest from the last two years that was responsible for pushing this reduction.

"It is still possible to halve hunger, but only if developing countries take the lead with adequate policies and investments, if giving countries drastically step up their help to agriculture, food security and social protection through national and regional plans and if they go through global matters that affect food security under a collective way", the report of Oxfam says. *(Natasha Pitts) (ADITAL, 16.09.2010)*

### Union organization of Public Servants

**Ricardo Patah** said that the proposals that came out of **UGT's Seminar**, that discussed the union organization of public servants, will be sent to the Labour Ministry until the end of October and then approved under the Chief of Staff Department.



**UGT** organized on September 15 the National Seminar of Institutions of Public Servants affiliated with UGT, that presented proposals to regulate the International Labour Organization Convention 151, approved in March under the Congress and that deals with labour relationships in the public administration.

The seminar, held in Sao Paulo, was attended by **Carlos Lupi**, minister of Labour and Employment, **Zilmara David de Alencar**, secretary of UGT's National Department of Labour Relationships and the Chief Judge Dr. **Douglas Alencar**. Besides other leaders from the area, among them, **Lineu Mazano** and **Wagner de Souza**.

Proposals of regulations that were presented at the meeting were discussed and elaborated in early September by the following trade union centrals: **UGT**, **Força Sindical**, **NCST**, **CTB**, and **CGTB**. There are 27 guidelines altogether that aim to guarantee improvements in labour relationships of public servants, especially to what concerns the right to go on strike and guarantees of a union organization.

According to **Aldo Liberato**, secretary of **UGT's Department of Public Servants**, servants find it hard to organize themselves and the seminar opened a path to an organized union representation.

**Ricardo Patah**, president of **UGT**, said that the proposals will be sent to the Labour Ministry by the end of October. However, before it gets sent, there will be another five regional plenary sessions to improve the document.

### Meeting discusses immigrant slave work

**UGT** received, in its head office, in Sao Paulo, the visit of representatives from union centrals of Latin America to elaborate proposals on the future of immigrants that move to other countries within Mercosur to work and have a hard time to obtain documents.

On September 14 and 15, the "**International Seminar on Migrations and Free Movement: Union Strategies to assure rules of Mercosur**", promoted by the **International Institute of Studies and Social Training of the South (Incasur)** and by the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)**, exhibited the reality of immigrants that illegally arrive at a foreign land, with no rights and no access to decent work.



The meeting discussed goals to make the **Social Labour Declaration (DSL)**, that gathers labour rights of Mercosur citizens, effective and not just a document with principles and rules. To **Valdir Vicente de Barros**, representative of **UGT at the National Council of Immigration (CNIg)**, the declaration should be reviewed and achieve a juridical status, and not just a document filled with content. "With the legislation of free movement being stepped up with pressure by each government, companies will start being punished by abuse of workers", Valdir Vicente explains.

### The fight against child labour

Reflections over Child Labour were the main topic of the workshop held by **AFL-CIO** and coordinated by **UGT State Branch of Para**. **Orildes Maria Lottice**, secretary of **UGT's Department of Children and Teenager** Issues was one of the exhibitors.

**AFL-CIO**, along with Brazilian union centrals under the coordination of **UGT National and UGT State Branch of Para**, organized, on September 16 and 17, in Belem, a seminar on child labour.



According to the researcher Raimunda Rodrigues, that coordinates the projects of AFL-CIO in the State, these events have been done for two years, gathering leaders of workers to educate them and create a network.

The first lecture was given by Renato Mendes, coordinator of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, that talked about the topic "ILO and the child labour issue".

The technical coordinator of Dieese-Pará, the economist Roberto Sena, gave a speech on "The situation of child labour in the state of Para". The seminars are supported by **AFL-CIO**, **UGT State Branch of Para**, Central Única dos Trabalhadores, Força Sindical, OIT, Observatório Social and **Solidarity Center**.

### Global March requests end of child labour to UN

Data from **ILO (International Labour Organization)** show that nearly 215 million children and teenagers all over the world perform some kind of labour activity. To the Global March, international movement against child labour, the exploration of child and teenage labour represents an obstacle to the **MDGs (Millennium Development Goals)**. Due to this fact, the organization used the meeting of September 20 and 22 to send a document to UN (United Nations) and chiefs of States, in which it requests more attention to abolish child labour.

To UGT, according to **Mônica da Costa Mata Roma, adjunct secretary of the International Integration in the Americas Department**, this is an alarming fact. "It is an unequivocal demonstration that this criminal procedure is still being used in the XXI Century", she says, emphasizing that "UGT is ruthless in the fight for the eradication of the exploration of labour involving children and teenagers, since it is inhuman and operated illegally and marked by its authoritarian figure, corruption, social segregation, clientelism and total disrespect towards human rights".

The director from UGT reminds that the **Declaration of Principles of UGT** defends that, in Brazil, such practices, considered non-bailable crimes, and, whenever taking place in the rural environment, the properties should be divided through an agrarian reform. "It is deeply shocking to see that such cases of exploration continue to grow in the world. It is necessary to say it is enough, no matter how much it costs," Monica states. (*Arlindo Ribeiro/ Imprensa UGT*)



"The General Union of Workers (UGT) 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

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