



World Day for Decent Work

Protest from UGT and other trade union centrals defends decent work

The stairways from the Municipal Theater were stage to the protest of workers in defense of decent work. The act took place on October 07 and gathered union leaderships from UGT and other trade union centrals CUT, Força Sindical, CGTB and NCST, with the support of ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation).



The gathering took place around 10 A.M., in front of the Municipal Theater. From there, union leaders and nearly 200 workers marched through Barão de Itapetininga street, turning on Ipiranga Avenue and going all the way to São Luís Avenue until Martins Fontes street, where the Regional Labour Department is located.

Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT, defined decent work as "productive and adequately remunerated work", and that it should be performed under freedom, equity and security conditions, with any kind of discrimination and able to guarantee a respectable life to everyone that makes a living out of their work.

Directors from trade union centrals used their speeches defending decent work and in order to do so, they requested a reduction in working shifts and better working conditions. They denounced salary inequalities, once companies pay less to female workers that practically do the same work as men.

The high point of the protest was the moment in which a document was handed to the regional labour director, demanding policies to valorize the minimum wage and strengthen the role of the State to tackle inequalities.

World Fight for Decent Work

Union organizations from all over the world have made the World Day for Decent Work 2010 (WDDW). The [special webpage of the event](#) already accounts for 366 activities in 89 countries, out of which 50 actions took place in the American continent. Organized by the International Labour Confederation (ITUC) and by the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), the event, this year, focused on the global economic and labour crisis.



In its third edition, WDDW is a way to step up pressure over governments and make them develop effective solutions to the crisis and promote actions towards a sustainable growth. In order to do so, the activities this year were focused on demands for the economic recovery.

According to **Víctor Báez Mosqueira, General Secretary of TUCA**, the actions are guided by three points: "Growth with creation of decent job positions, instead of severity measures, is essential to overcome the crisis and put an end to poverty; high quality public services are necessary to live a decent life and should not be reduced due to "fiscal adjustments"; the financial sector should pay for the damage that it has caused and serve the real economy and answer real human needs".

"Deregulation, outsourcing and flexible processes, promoted over the last decades have enlarged precarious work and the labour rights and, consequently, social rights. We came to a point in which there is no guarantee of work in the future under minimum conditions of a respectable life to most workers", he points out.

Despite the fact that a world mobilization is taking place nowadays, several countries have already organized activities involving decent work since early October. Last week, for instances, Europe was home to several protests. On October 02, unions and human rights organizations supported a massive march in the United States. On October 05, unions of teachers from all over the world used the World Teacher's Day to make activities.

USA: Thousands of people make protest in Washington

Thousands of people gathered in Washington on October 02, through a march that was organized by over 400 civil groups, unions and non-governmental organizations to remind president Barack Obama that he reached the White House with promises of change that in many aspects did not come true yet.

"Now is the time to defend the change that we voted for!", one of the organizers soon declared, in the beginning of the protest that lasted another four hours.

The site used for the protest was the same one that was used a little over a month ago by several supporters of the ultra-conservative movement Tea Party: the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King once made his famous speech "I have a dream".



Thousands of people that got back together in this very place of the American capital under the motto "One nation working together" have a demand radically opposed to the Tea Party speech: they want that the government act more and interfere more in order to achieve work, justice and education to everyone.

Dilma and Serra will decide election in the 2nd run off

Despite the fact that the election exit poll of Ibope pointed out to the possibility of a tight presidential victory in the first run off, the counting process of votes confirms that the decision will be solved in the second run off, that will take place on October 31.



With 100% of the voting machines counted, the candidate **Dilma Rousseff (PT party)**, that got 46,91% of valid votes, is running for the second run off with **José Serra (PSDB party)**, that got 32,61%. **Marina Silva (PV party)** got 19,33% and **Plínio Sampaio (PSol party)** got 0,87%.

In order for the presidential elections to be decided in the first run off, the candidate that would get most of the votes would have to get 50% of the votes plus one.

The surprise factor of these elections was due to **Marina Silva**, candidate of the Green Party, in the home stretch of the campaign. Her growth in the voting intention was pointed out by researches over the last weeks and might have been the main factor that made the presidential competition go to a second run off. Marina got 19,34% of valid votes.

However, analysts consider that the votes that Marina got from Dilma over the last days of campaign might go back to Dilma in the second run off, since they are votes that come from people that identify with the government Lula. Voting intention polls did not point out to such a representative percentage to the candidate Serra as well. His performance in voting machines was better than the one pointed out by polls. (*Agência Brasil*)

Workers enlarge their parliamentary bench

UGT increases its bench of chairpersons in state parliaments and keeps a representative in the National Congress

Since the Federal Deputy **Roberto Santiago (PV party)** and the State Deputy **Davi Zaia (PPS party-São Paulo)** were re-elected and **Severino Ramos de Santana (PMN party)** was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Pernambuco, UGT increased its bench of chairpersons in State parliaments and also in the National Congress.

The vice-president of National UGT, Federal Deputy **Roberto Santiago (PV party)**, that was twice in a row in a list of the top 100 thinking heads of the Congress, was reelected, getting 60.180 votes. The State Deputy **Davi Zaia (PPS party-São Paulo)**, who is also vice-president of National UGT, was reelected for another tenure with 68.658 votes.

Another union chairperson from UGT that was elected on October 03 was the adjunct secretary of the northeast region and president of the Commerce Workers Union of Recife, **Severino Ramos de Santana (PMN party)**, that was elected State Deputy of Pernambuco after getting 20.182 votes.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, congratulated the three elected politicians and also emphasized the importance of the participation of other chairpersons, that, although not elected, managed to get expressive votes, valorizing the participation of workers.

Bank workers on strike

Brazilian bank workers went on the largest strike of the last 20 years due to the intransigency of employers that only offered raises equal to inflation



Strike of bank workers shuts down 7.723 banks in Brazil. The strike is on for eight days, bank workers decided to continue the shut down, while bankers do not offer real raises.

An achievement of 12% of bank workers from Bank of Brasilia negotiated by the **National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies**, affiliated with **UGT**, is still a reference to the movement of bank workers all over Brazil.

Bank workers from BRB achieve 12% readjustment

Bank workers from Bank of Brasilia (BSB) achieved a 12% readjustment on wage floors and all the other benefits plus 7% in gratifications. The victory established a new parameter in negotiations of national strikes of the class of other public and private banks.

The **National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies**, an institution affiliated with **UGT**, that negotiated the 12% raise with BRB, said that there is a possibility that banks will accept or even get a higher salary raise than the one requested by bank workers, which is a 11% readjustment (inflation plus real gains).

"The strike of bank workers is justified due to a truly provocative act from employers to only offer a raise in salaries based on the 4,29% inflation rate, in one of the sectors of economy that obtained astronomical profits last year", the president of Contec, Lourenço Prado, emphasized.

The unionist notices that the negotiation with BRB proves that a reasonable agreement that will put an end to the strike is possible. (*Agência Sindical 04.10.2010*)

Luppi receives the visit of directors from Union Centrals

Unionists presented suggestions so that the administrative rule that regulates the use of electronic timecard system recognized collective negotiations.

Carlos Lupi, minister of labour and employment, received the visit of representatives from union centrals in Brasilia, on October 05. Favorable to the administrative rule number 1.510, that establishes the adequacy of the electronic timecard system, the directors handed a proposal to the minister in order for the rule to recognize collective agreements signed between unions and companies regarding working shifts.

"Union centrals have shown their support to the administrative rule and proposed standards that guarantee collective agreements. They want the advances that were acquired within companies that they negotiated with to be considered, for instances, tolerance regarding working hours", Lupi said.

"We are going to analyze, along with our juridical department, a new tool so we are able to come to a common sense, because it will depend on the sector and size of the company. I believe that by the end of the month we will have this survey done", Lupi said.



"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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