



Global



UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES

Sindicalismo Cidadão, Ético e Inovador

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The fight against ghost trade unions

União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) salutes and supports the first steps in the fight against ghost trade unions

During the first meeting with trade union leaderships after his inauguration, the Labour Minister Brizola Neto was asked, by trade union leaders, for solutions to this issue, they stated that there is a "trade union factory" in Brazil.



"We lack regulation and supervision that would prevent the action of the "trade union factory". Assemblies that never took place, attendance lists with five or six signatures founding institutions to represent dozens of thousand of people, founders that aren't members of the class...nothing of that is prevented by rules to create trade unions.

We cannot loose this battle to trade union producers. This should be an important debate involving trade union centrals, the government, the Labour Court, the Public Ministry and even the Federal Police."

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT.

During the first meeting with trade union leaderships after his inauguration, the **Labour Minister Brizola Neto** was asked, by trade union leaders, for solutions to this issue, they stated that there is a "trade union factory" in Brazil.

"We want to end this factory of ghost trade unions, that have no representability", said the minister on the occasion, emphasizing that the lack of clear rules on this issue weakens the legitimacy of trade unions, that have been engaged in "historical fights". The Labour and Employment Ministry received, in 2011, requests for the creation of 1,2 thousand trade unions. According to Brizola Neto, there are nearly 10 thousand trade unions all over Brazil.

On August 15, the **secretary of Labour Relationships, Messias Melo**, coordinated the first meetings of the Labour Groups that elaborated a ministerial order defining new rules to concede trade union permits. The secretary expects that, by the end of the year, the Ministry might establish transparent criteria and objectives to create new trade unions.

These were the first meetings of the groups that were created by the Committee of Labour Relationships to hear suggestions of workers and employers in the elaboration of new rules.

One of the groups works in the creation of a Class Chart, aiming to automatize and speed up the procedures, and also providing security to the ministry technicians once they verify the permit requests and the statute alteration of the National Record of Trade Union Institutions (CME). Another group that discusses the issue of the new ministry order will manage the trade union permits.

União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) believes and expects that it will be possible to establish clear rules to create and terminate trade unions, with no interference of the State on the trade union activity, as prohibited under our Constitution.

UGT continues and will still continue to fight recklessly for a civic, ethical and innovative unionism.

The importance of communication

The seminar "Social Networks and Cyber Activism" took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, on August 20 and 21.



Organized by FES Uruguay along with the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)**, trade union leaders from the communication area and journalists from the following countries participated in the activity: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

<< **Mauro Ramos, Press Coordinator of UGT** represented the trade union central in the seminar

The democratization of communication is essential to make the world society develop in democratic issues. New technologies and social networks are an important and vital reality for the decentralization of means of communication and political activism.

At the opening of the seminar, **Víctor Báez, Secretary General of TUCA**, emphasized the fight against the media hegemony and fight for an alternative model. The secretary warned the trade union movement: "The places where we most need communication are the places we most lack them. The places in which the trade union movement most lack communication are the same places that lack essential rights of workers". In the end of his speech, Báez emphasized: "The role of TUCA is giving space for trade union centrals to develop their own communication".

Democratization of Communication

After the break, the issue that was debated was how to break the informative siege and fight for a democratization of communication. Following this line, **Alejandro Linares, from the Informative Agency Pulsar** - agency of radio news that broadcasts content for community radios of Latin America and the Caribbean - talked about the opportunities that internet brings: a higher digital participation, emerging innovation and efficiency of a collaboration culture.

The vice-president of the **International Federation of Journalists, Gustavo Granero**, contributed to the debate and insisted on the need to fight against major means of communication that, according to him, are uniquely moved by commercial and economic interests.

Expressing freedom! A new law for a new time!

On August 27, the National Forum for the Democratization of Communication (FNDC), institution that counts on the participation of UGT, officialized in several Brazilian states the national campaign "**Para expressar a liberdade! Uma nova lei para um novo tempo**". (Expressing freedom! A new law for a new time)

The acts, that took place in Rio, Curitiba, Brasilia, Aracaju, Sao Paulo, Vitoria and Belem, gathered militants from social and trade union movements that lead the fight for the democratization of communication and took place on the day that the current legislation that regulates the operation of radios and televisions in Brazil celebrated 50 years.

In Sao Paulo, the launching of the campaign took place at the historical auditorium of the Trade Union of Journalists, that, completely crowded by militants, was attended by the professor Marilena Chauí. "It's an absurd the media talk about opinion leaders, since that take away from society the power to express and to have their own opinion on any subject", the professor explains.

According to Marcos Afonso, director of UGT's Press Department, this campaign is an action that breaks the argument of the communication conglomerates in Brazil that, by not wanting the construction of a new mark, impose to society that this is a way to warn freedom of expression. (*Fábio Ramalho – UGT Newsroom*)

Wage cuts may hurt growth

The ILO has warned that slashing wages in a bid to boost competitiveness and cut unemployment may well have the opposite effect.



Cutting wages tends to increase competitiveness but can also hurt economic growth as it decreases domestic consumption, the International Labour Organization has warned.

The warning was issued after the European Central Bank (ECB) called in its monthly report for August, for more flexibility in the wage determination process - such as lowering minimum wages - coupled with measures to strengthen competitiveness.

A decrease in wages does tend to lead to an increase in exports, but it also depresses domestic consumption, which affects growth, ILO experts say. Given the level of economic uncertainty at the moment, it is also unclear whether wage cuts would generate enough incentives to raise investment.

"Whenever a fall in wages reduces domestic consumption more than it increases exports and investment, it has a negative effect on a country's economic growth," said Patrick Belser, a senior economist at the ILO's Conditions of Work and Employment Branch and main editor of the [ILO Global Wage Report](#).

"This explains why declining wages in periods of crisis may actually lead to a spiral of falling aggregate demand and price deflation, rather than to a quicker economic recovery," he added. The ILO also warned that seeking to regain competitiveness through lower unit labour costs – by slashing wages or letting productivity grow faster than wages – would be unsustainable globally.

Campaign on Decent Work

The office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Brazil is launching a campaign of promotional pieces based on the concept of decent work.

Created by the Boibumbá Design agency, the pieces were widely broadcasted during the 1 National Conference on Decent Work and Job (I CNETD), that took place from August 8 to 11, in Brasilia.

"It is the first campaign that tries to go through the concept of decent job in several points of view", said Andréa Bolzon, Project Manager of the ILO Office.



The elaboration of the pieces is based on the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, launched in 1988. This declaration is a universal reaffirmation of the commitment of member States of ILO and the international community, to respect, promote and apply a minimum level of principles and rights at work, recognized as fundamental for the sustainable development and an equitable globalization.

Decent Work

The concept of decent work, created in 1999 by the International Labour Organization (ILO), is defined by "a decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity". Decent work is a main element of a new world that we want and fight for: there is no sustainable company nor a sustainable global scenario with no decent work.

15th Meeting of the National Board of Executives of UGT

The affiliation of seven new trade union institutions marked the opening of the 15th Meeting of the National Board of Executives of UGT.



The trade union institutions were presented by the vice-president of UGT, the Federal Deputy **Ademir Camilo**, who is also in charge of UGT's State branch of Minas Gerais. Therefore, the following institutions are now affiliated with UGT: Trade Union of Car Transporters of Minas Gerais, Trade Union of Car Transporters of São Bernardo, Trade Union of Cargo of Guarulhos, Trade Union of Federal Police of Minas, Trade Union of Heavy Cargo of Sao Paulo, Trade Union of Federal Police of Brasilia and Trade Union of Federal Police of Sao Paulo.

With the affiliation of trade unions of the Federal Police, UGT, that already had in its statute the Department of Public Security, empowered these new affiliates and call out other trade unions that are related to this area, to elaborate an agenda of activities.

The president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, emphasized the importance of these new affiliations, that significantly contributes to the strengthening of UGT. Patah also emphasized actions of UGT in defense of the working class such as the national campaign for a reduction in the interest rates of credit cards, and the preoccupation of the trade union central to guarantee the achievements and increase the rights, despite the international financial crisis, out of which Brazil most certainly will not come out intact.

Campaign against child labour in Mercosur

The cities of Santana do Livramento and Uruguai, respectively in the border of Brazil and Uruguay, and Brazil and Argentina, will host the launching of the communication campaign "Mercosur united against child labour", on August 29 and 30.

There will be events in both cities. ILO will be represented by the National Coordinator of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, Renato Mendes.



This campaign is part of the preparation for **the III Global Conference on Child Labour**, that will take place in Brazil in 2013.

This campaign is focused on border cities, Paso de Los Libres (Argentina), Uruguai (Brazil), Posadas (Argentina), Encarnación (Paraguay), Rivera (Uruguay), Santana do Livramento (Brazil), Foz do Iguassu (Brazil) and Ciudad del Este (Paraguay).

The main goal of this campaign is raising awareness on society on the immediate need to prevent and eradicate child labour, specially focusing on the rural and domestic work, as well as on the sexual exploration. *(ILO news)*



"The União geral dos Trabalhadores 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. " Ricard Patah – UGT's President]

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