



## UGT defending wages

UGT condemns orchestrated action against wage adjustment of workers

**UGT** condemns the action that has been orchestrated by sectors of the government and by part of the media and some financial consulting groups of Brazil, when it comes to linking the workers fights (a fight for a wage campaign defending a real raise this second semester) to a possible pressure on inflation.



Attitudes like this one are nothing but a disservice to the country and try to stop creating wealth and distributing income among the working class.

The salaries that are paid in Brazil are still the lowest ones in emerging countries, while companies still detain records in productivity and profitability every year.

**UGT**, that represents more than 1000 unions and institutions of the class, still hasn't detected the existence of a demand pull inflation in Brazil, besides, there is not a scientific or economic study that points out that high salaries in Brazil would create inflation.

Union institutions, represented by UGT, do not accept this kind of action, especially coming from government sectors, since this action, actually has the goal of hiding the real reasons of inflation pressure promoted by high interest rates, by exaggerated expenses of the government, by the increase of products that are traded worldwide and by the greed of sectors of economy that, eager to obtain more revenues, are increasing their profit margins.

On many opportunities, the Brazilian working class was used to pay the bills that would cover up for inconsequent acts of fragile governments. We paid and we overpaid it. And the facts speak for themselves: Brazilian wage earners, retired workers and pensioners still weren't able to restore their accumulated losses over the years.

All over the country, millions of workers are under a wage campaign this second semester, and the union institutions that are affiliated with UGT are guided not to feel intimidated and try and search for agreements that are compatible to productivity and profitability of companies. Besides, we are going to promote an enlightening campaign to the society, showing that there is no demand pull inflation, since the consume is stabilized and salaries do not create inflation.

### UGT makes protest for 40 weekly hours shifts

It was a combined action with other trade union centrals defending the working class

The trade union centrals promoted a combined protest at the National Congress in pro of a reduction in the working hours for shift work down to 40 weekly hours and of a common agenda of workers following legal channels under the Legislative branch.

Nearly 1000 protesters walked up the ramp of the National Congress asking the president of the Congress, Marco Maia, that the Constitution Amendment Project 231/05, that establishes a 40 weekly hours workload, should be voted. Since it was approved by the Chamber Special Committee on July 30, 2010, the Constitution Amendment Project (PEC) 231/95, that deals with this subject, awaits for a vote under a plenary session.

The deputies that participated in the protest emphasized that, for the first time, workers are getting a red carpet treatment. The deputy Roberto Santiago (PV party-SP), vice-president of UGT, emphasized that "this is dignity, respect and it means that the history of Brazil is changing."



Marco Maia, president of the chamber, announced the creation of a negotiation chamber to discuss the Constitution Amendment Proposal 231/05 that establishes a 40 weekly hour work shift. Maia also emphasized that he is going to create a special committee to deal with outsource work.

"We are committed to the workers agenda, but an articulation of the unions will be necessary to move this process forward." Maia emphasized that, by giving the workers a red carpet treatment, the chamber guarantees that this is the house of the people, one that receives the workers the same way it receives authorities.

### Trade union centrals defend stability of union directors

The president of the Superior Labor Court (TST), the minister João Oreste Dalazen, received the visit of UGT and representatives from four trade union centrals that delivered a document proposing the revocation of the 369 docket of the TST. This docket deals with union stability and limits to seven the number of directors of class institutions with the right to employment guarantees.

According to unionists, the number is extremely limited and "prevents the free union organization, stimulating the dismissal of directors and increasing the incidence of anti-unionist acts". They defend that the size of representation of each organ of the class should be observed in order to define the proportional quantity of directors that should be granted with stability.

The minister Dalazen listened to the considerations of class representatives and informed that he would take the document to other ministers in order to get it analyzed. This week, through a review work, the ministers guaranteed an employment stability for 14 union directors and seven substitute unionists.



### UGT defends TUCA Labor Platform

The platform, that was launched in 2005 in Argentina, deals with wide issues such as employment, union freedom, child labor, privatization, social and economic policies.

UGT participated in a seminar at the head office of TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas), on May 11, that discussed and proposed means of action to put into practice the "Labor Platform of the Americas".

The document is an unitarian union answer to the globalization process of free trade and the negative impact of the labor deregulation in Latin America.



**Mônica da Costa Mata Roma**, adjunct secretary of UGT's Integration to the Americas department, pointed out as a priority the professional education and capacitation, that could guarantee a sustainable development to workers. According to her, the labor world is changing and it is necessary that society is adapted to these changes. "We have 2,5 million job positions but we do not have people that are qualified for these positions. My proposal is that we focus on this issue, on qualifying our workers, and adapting them to the new conditions", she said.

Therefore, it is necessary to turn this document into a tool that will act within many countries. That demands a regional integration, but participants of the group pointed out the lack of a propositional agenda as a burden. In order to solve that and put the platform into action as soon as possible, the union organizations involved in the project (UGT, TUCA, CUT and Força Sindical) will organize an international event, which doesn't have a defined date nor location, but that will try and integrate nations and use the document as a strategic tool of the union movement.

**Laerte Teixeira**, vice-president of UGT, **Eleuza de Cássia Buffeli**, adjunct-secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department, **Josineide de Camargo Souza**, secretary of UGT's Social Policies Department, **Cristina Palmieri**, adjunct-secretary of UGT's Department of Environment and Sustainable Development and **Gustavo Garcia**, advisor of public policies and integration to the Americas also participated in the seminar.



Although originally edited in 2005, the Platform was re-adopted in 2009 by TUCA during the Workers' Forum of the Americas, in Trinidad & Tobago. It has also received a new edition in Spanish with training material to work in conjunction with a series of workshops TUCA is carrying out with the Trade Union movement in Latin America.

[Access here the new Platform edition and reports on the workshops \(in Spanish only\)](#)

[Download the Labour's Platform for the Americas in English](#)

### Death in the Amazon

UGT denounces, with indignation, the murder of the couple **José Claudio Ribeiro da Silva** and **Maria do Espírito Santo da Silva**, environmental activists, on May 24, in Para. They were shot in the area of the Praia Alta-Piranheira Agro-Extractive Settlement, in the Maçaranduba 2 community, 45 kilometers of Nova Ipixuna, southeast Pará.

The preliminary information from the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) points out that the extractive workers left their home on a motorcycle and, after driving around 10 km, they slowed down to cross a bridge under a precarious situation. At this moment, according to CPT, they were attacked by two gunmen who were in an ambush by the bridge.

The pastoral informed that a detail matches typical gunmen figures to the crime: José Cláudio Ribeiro da Silva had his ear cut off by the murders. He was 52 years old and his wife 51.

Read the [Nota da UGT-Pará](#)

### UGT fights for the rights of Paraguayan workers

UGT, along with the trade union centrals CUT and Força Sindical with the support of TUCA and ITUC, is managing the project "Life and Decent Work for Paraguayan Workers in Brazil and Brazilian Workers in Paraguay".



The goal is stimulating the organizations of Paraguayan immigrants, making them feel closer to unions, besides stimulating actions towards equality of rights and opportunities. This project also has the collaboration of Japayke, an association of immigrants that fights for the rights of Paraguayan citizens that live in Brazil.

According to **Gustavo Garcia**, advisor of UGT's **Departments of Public Policies and Integration to the Americas**, the project is divided in two stages. The first one will fight for the regularization of Paraguayan workers and the second one is related to their unionization. "Our fight is to end the non formal jobs of immigrants, which damage the whole society. Migrant workers with no documents do not have legal rights and earn reduced salaries. This is unacceptable, since it even damages formal workers, who end up losing positions to immigrants, and watch their wage floor get reduced due to an unfair competition with irregular workers", he said.

### Sinafresp organizes seminar on Tax Reform

**Ivan Netto Moreno**, president of Sinafres and **Marcos Afonso de Oliveira**, secretary of UGT's Department of Communication.

The distortions of the current Brazilian Tax System, the fiscal war and the proposals of the government to the tax reform are issues that are being widely discussed under the Seminar on Tax Reform, organized by the **Union of IRS Agents of the State of Sao Paulo - Sinafresp**, affiliated with UGT.

**Marcos Afonso de Oliveira**, National Secretary of UGT's Communication and Publicizing Department, who participated in the seminar, emphasized the relevance of the issues, congratulating the initiative of Sinafresp to organize it.



"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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