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In defense of decent work

In a meeting with the government, UGT does not give in the 40 weekly hours issue

On May 14, UGT and other trade union centrals attended a meeting with Gilberto Carvalho, minister of the presidency and Manoel Dias, minister of Labour and Employment, to discuss the agenda of the trade union movement.



In this meeting, it was established that trade union centrals will have a Permanent Table of Negotiation with the government to present, discuss and define propositions to the workers agenda. The first meeting will take place on June 11 at the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, said that this was the first step taken to give room for debate between the government and the trade union movement. This happened because, since the protest that led 50 thousand workers to Brasilia on March 06, the government had not shown willingness to negotiate with workers.

In the meeting of June 11, at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, UGT and representatives of other trade union centrals will begin a negotiation on the regulation of the Constitutional Amendment Project of domestic workers, the strengthening of the national system of intermediation of labour and the regulation of outsourcing.

Patah attended this meeting along with Canindé Pegado, UGT's secretary general, Marcos Afonso, secretary of UGT's communication department, and Roberto Santiago, federal deputy and vice-president of UGT.

The president of UGT guaranteed that the trade union central does not give in the social security factor and the 40 weekly hours without a reduction in the wage. "These issues will not be discussed at the first moment but UGT will fight to achieve that", Patah ensured.

Topics that will be discussed between the government and workers - At a first moment, this is the agenda that trade union centrals and the government will discuss in the permanent table of negotiation:

- 1 - Outsourcing
- 2 - Job turnover
- 3 - Informal jobs
- 4 - Strengthening of the national system of labour intermediation
- 5 - Policies of support for retired people - benefits in the area of medicines, culture, leisure
- 6- Regulation of domestic work. The government guaranteed that trade union centrals will participate in the discussion of each item of the regulation.
- 7 - Participation of trade union centrals in Pronatec and Pronacampo councils. Unionists want to discuss the implementation of policies.
- 8 - Regulation of negotiation in the public service (ILO Convention 151). .

Campaign against informal jobs

UGT and Commerce Workers Union launch campaign against informal jobs



The president and vice-president of UGT, Ricardo Patah and deputy Ademir Camilo (PSD party-Minas Gerais State) had a meeting on May 14 with Garibaldi Alves, minister of Social Security, to announce the launching of a campaign against informal jobs.

Patah said that the war against informal jobs is declared. "Due to such bad employers, these workers will not be able to have a glimpse of 13th salary, unemployment checks, FGTS (Employee's Severance Guarantee Fund), vacations, maternity leave and retirement. We are tackling a real war against those that keep informal workers", he emphasized.

Patah, who is also president of the Commerce Workers of Sao Paulo, has been organizing protests and marches through streets with a high concentration of retailers to denounce informal jobs and to ask workers to denounce bad employers.

Deputy Ademir said that this campaign is a matter of respect towards workers. "It is a great step to give dignity to workers so that they are not deprived of their labour rights, with no aid of labour laws and collective agreements".

The national campaign of fight against informal jobs will take place on June 07, at 10:00 A.M., at UGT's head office, in Sao Paulo. On the same day, the minister will also attend the creation of the Trade Union of Retired Workers of Sao Paulo, besides that, a combined proposition (ministry and trade union centrals) to a complementary social security in the family farming sector will be presented.

Trade Union networks of International Banks

UGT reports action of International Banks in a meeting in Paraguay

On May 06-08, in Asuncion, Paraguay, the National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies - Contec, an institution that is affiliated with UGT, attended the 9th Combined Meeting of Trade Union networks of International Banks, organized by UNI Americas Finance and by the Committee of Finances of the Coordinator of Trade Union Centrals of the Southern Cone (CCSCS), supported by FETRABAN - Federation of Bank Workers of Paraguay.

Bank workers from Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Spain also attended this meeting. They are part of the networks and work in the following banks: Banco do Brasil S.A, Santander, Itaú- Unibanco, HSBC, BBVA and Scotia Bank. Rumiko Tanaka, Gilberto Antônio Vieira, Silvio de Sene, Jacira Carvalho da Silva and Sergio Luiz da Costa were representing Contec-UGT.

The 9th combined meeting had the goal of discussing the issue of communication of trade union institutions in Latin America, due to the control that companies have over the media in this region. The search of new strategies of communication was proposed, with new technologies to improve the communication among workers, spreading information that is relevant to this class faster.

On May 08, workers made a walk with flags and banners, through the main streets of Asuncion until the financial center of the Paraguayan capital, going through branches of International Banks in a protest against banks in Paraguay, against dismissals and lack of respect towards labour laws. They presented problems of each country, which contributed to create the Combined Action plan in defense of the rights of bank workers of the Americas.

Guatemala: end of impunity

The Action Day for Guatemala against the murder of unionists and against impunity was called by the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) and gathered, on May 17, dozens of militants in front of the consulate of this country in Sao Paulo to demand the end of this barbarism against workers.

Nearly 15 union officials are murdered each year in this country, which population is around 15 million people, establishing a culture of terror that led the rate of unionization drop down to 1,6%, in between persecutions and threats, particularly in coffee and banana plantations which reproduce a feudal system in pro of transnational companies.

On the opportunity, **Víctor Báez Mosqueira**, secretary general of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA); João Antonio Felício, secretary of CUT's International Affairs Department and **Josimar Andrade de Assis**, representative of UGT and director of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, handed in a manifest to Arthur Wolkovier, honorary consul of Guatemala, demanding immediate actions so that justice is made, putting an end to this wave of murders.



Monica Valente, who was representing the Public Services International (PSI), warned that this "climate of fear" that rules in this country, "where not only there is a large number of murders of union officials and workers who fight for their rights, we may find death threats and kidnap of relatives". With the goal of turning this table, Monica emphasized, the government of Guatemala will be denounced at the International Labour Organization (ILO), on June 05, in Geneva.

Víctor Báez Mosqueira, secretary general of TUCA, said that he is at the service of the movement "to make a hunger strike aiming to raise the awareness of the public international opinion and increase the complaint, so that those that are responsible for such crimes are punished". To Víctor, "the most absolute impunity" that reigns in Guatemala is a breeding ground for the multiplication of murders of directors of movement of workers, throwing away rates of unionization, "due to this climate of terror".

Standstill at Walmart Pacaembu in Sao Paulo

Nearly 500 workers and militants surrounded the Walmart store in Pacaembu, downtown São Paulo, at 6:00 A.M., shutting down the store.



Workers adopted this extreme measure after persistent problems with the time clock, change of function, delays in payment of vouchers, and excessive working hours. The Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo requires the company to comply with the labor rights of its employees.

The strike came after Walmart canceled a meeting to discuss several labor problems. In 2012, Walmart informed investors that the company had set aside \$ 60 million to pay labor fines in Brazil.

Preparation for the 102nd ILO Conference

On May 14, UGT's International Affairs Department organized a "Meeting to give continuity to UGT's seminar of preparation for the 102nd ILO Conference", which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 5 to 20, 2013.



This meeting had the goal of putting an end to the process of preparing proposals that UGT will bring to the Conference. Some of the points covered in that debate, out of which proposals will be formulated for the 102nd ILO Conference, were:

- UGT needs to develop which Labor Matrix Labor it will defend, taking into account the issues of the trend of population aging, the need to reshape the social security issue; youth unemployment; investment in capacity building and training for the labor market; women, youth and the elderly in the job market, social assistance, the funding of the pension system, among others.
- On the need of a higher coordination between UGT and the ILO; getting to know how to use better leverage that can be transferred and added from the International Labour Organization to our central.
- Strengthening social dialogue and the tripartism model itself; improving the expansion of the ILO control in order to strengthen labor courts in the countries;
- On the need to improve the trade union participation in the mechanism of complaints of violation of essential rules of labour, established by ILO and signatory countries; as well as, internally strengthening the work of the Human Rights Network in the structure of UGT (grassroots trade unions, state and national trade unions), creating a system of follow up and supervision of comments on negotiation with the government;
- Include the culture issue, beyond the social, economic and environmental dimensions in the sustainability tripod;
- Defending a Just Transition - between the current model and the sustainable model we seek (low carbon economy, decent work and green jobs);

In this conference, UGT will feature a delegation that is qualified to debate these issues, representing and defending the rights of workers of Brazil and the world.

This ILO conference will address the following topics:

- Social Dialogue;
 - Standards and Fundamental Rights and Control System of the ILO;
 - Employment and Social Protection in a new demographic context;
 - Sustainable Development, Decent Work and Green Jobs;
- Collective Bargaining and Public Services. *(Lyvia Rodrigues)*

UGT's vice-president defends valuation of workers

Roberto Santiago (PSD party-Sao Paulo State), UGT's vice-president, presided the session of public hearing, held by the Labour Commission (Ctasp) of the House of Representatives, on May 14, which debated the valuation of careers that are typical of the State, of workers that perform strategic activities (supervision, control, regulation, management, defense) independent of the government.



Santiago states that these servants need a higher qualification and recognition so that they are better prepared to serve society. "You cannot keep on pretending that you are serving society, and society cannot keep on complaining the whole time of services that are not done", he emphasized.

The deputy also repudiated the large quantity of public tenders that are done and the number of positions that are not fulfilled. "If the government has the possibility of hiring 50 servants, it should do a tender for 50 people and, at the end of the tender, it should hire them immediately", he punctuated.

Parana will host a meeting of UGT's Southern Branches

Curitiba, in Parana, will host the 1st Meeting of UGT's Southern State Branches. This event will take place on June 04 and is being organized by UGT's State branches of Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

Aside from the presidents of these branches, Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT and Zilmara Alencar, consultant and ex national secretary of labour relations of the Labour and Employment Ministry, will attend this meeting. She will lecture on the new decree nº 326/13, which deals with the trade union record.

Chiquinho Pereira, national secretary of UGT's Department of Organization and Trade Union Policies, will also attend this meeting. He will attend a debate on organization and on the growth of UGT.

UGT Parana participates in act in Cuba

UGT was represented in the traditional International Workers Day, held in Havana, Cuba, on May Day.

This event gathered more than 1 million workers who took to the streets asking the end of the economic embargo imposed by the USA that has hindered the social development of this Caribbean country.

UGT State Branch of Parana sent a delegation composed of 9 officials: Paulo Rossi - president of UGT Parana; Gladir Basso - UGT National Secretary of Southern Issues; Paulo Bastos and Alvacir Miguel Balthazar - members of UGT's National Board of Executives; Moacir Correia Barboza Filho - secretary of UGT's State Branch of Parana Department of Finance; Carlos Antônio Pimentel - member of the Fiscal Council of UGT's State Branch of Parana; Luiz Tomas Vieira - member of the UGT's State Board of Executives; Rogério Kormann Jr - assistant secretary of finance of UGT's State Branch of Parana and Márcio Costa - member of UGT's Coastal Board of Executives and city counsellor in Paranaquá-Parana.



"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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