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Victory of motorcycle couriers

President Dilma sanctions law that establishes a 30% additional pay for motorcycle couriers

On June 18, president Dilma Rousseff sanctioned, in Brasilia, a law project that establishes a 30% additional pay for hazardous work for motorcycle couriers. This act was attended by the unionist Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, trade union central that represents the vast majority of unions of motorcycle couriers of Brazil, a class that gathers more than 2 million workers throughout Brazil.

This law project, written by senator Marcelo Crivela (Rio de Janeiro State) modifies the Consolidated Labour Laws and included activities of motorcycle couriers and mototaxi drivers among hazardous work entitled to additional pay.

While speaking out, Ricardo Patah recalled that president Dilma was keeping a promise she had made to motorcycle couriers when she visited the head office of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo.

"Motorcycle couriers, president Dilma, will be eternally thankful for your excellence. Their profession, in its own, is extremely dangerous. Dozens of motorcycle couriers and mototaxis die daily or end up with long-term sequelae, victims of accidents while performing their jobs. Recognizing their activity as dangerous is an important step for the recognition of the profession of motorcycle couriers that, I am sure, will take place under your government, president Dilma.



Patah also handed in a compensation letter to president Dilma, on behalf of UGT, for the acts that took place in the opening of the World Cup at the Arena Corinthians. The president of UGT assured that "UGT express a complete repudiation to the position of those that, during the opening, in a rude and impolite attitude, used bad language terms to offend you, Miss president and, consequently, the institution of the presidency of the Republic of Brazil. Not only the president was offended. All of us who cultivate love and respect to our homeland and republican institutions were offended", he affirmed.

President Dilma Rousseff, in her speech, said she wanted to "address a very special compliment to Ricardo Patah, president of UGT. "I had a hearing with Patah and he brought up the issue and the sensibility towards the problems of mototaxis and motorcycle couriers.

And this was a social, economic and human problem. Economic, since currently it is inconceivable to imagine a city with no motorcycle couriers. And social due to the large number of mothers who own you the fast deliver of the medicines for their children. In the moment their children are feeling sick and they do not have who to appeal, you are the ones who take medicines to them. It is you who, in moments of joy, bring pizzas to them as well, so that the Brazilian people and their families are even able to celebrate a goal of Brazil", the president added.

"So, you are part of the life of the Brazilian cities, you are an integral part. It is impossible that this country does not see you, it is impossible that we continue to let you not be seen, because we are only seen when our rights are recognized. Therefore, I want to say that Ricardo Patah gave an enormous contribution to make you seen", ended Dilma.

This ceremony was attended by more than 200 motorcycle couriers from Sao Paulo, led by Gil, president of the union of this class. He celebrated the sanction of this law and guaranteed that "from now on, our collective agreement will establish a 30% additional pay that must be paid immediately.

National Plan of Education is sanctioned

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT

Last week, president Dilma sanctioned, with no vetoes, the National Plan of Education. UGT celebrates the approval of this plan for it considers education essential for the development of Brazil and for the improvement of living and working conditions of our population.

This plan followed legal channels under the Brazilian Congress for four years and its approval is a result of the protests of last June.

This plan establishes 20 goals for the Brazilian education and answers a priority request of UGT: the use of 10% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to education. This share will be reached in the tenth year after this plan entered into force. By the fifth year, 7% of the GDP will be used in education - a modest goal, since currently 6,4% are already destined for that.



This plan has ambitious goals: increasing in more than 10 million the number of enrollments in Brazil, besides triplicating the openings in technical education; increasing the wages of teachers; eradicating illiteracy and increasing in 80% the number of entitled doctorates.

This plan intends to enable students from early years of grade school to reach, by 2021, a similar level of knowledge of developed countries.

UGT understands that it is essential, for the achievement of these goals, that the work of teachers is valued, with higher wages, career plan, more benefits and better education.

This plan wishes to guarantee a higher diploma to all teachers - currently, nearly a third of teachers does not have an undergraduate degree. All cities should organize career plan for their professionals of education.

This plan does not establish punishments for the non compliance of its goals and, therefore, the supervision of all that are involved is essential to get them fulfilled: parents and teachers, trade unions, civil organization, politicians, managers, all Brazilians should prevent this law from being innocuous.

UGT, an institution that always defended the ideal of education, is already committed to follow the full execution of the National Plan of Education until it is in force in 2024 and it is committed to fight for anticipating the achievement of its goals, even the goal that establishes the use of 10% of the GDP for education.

Trade Union BRICS

Trade union centrals expect to officialize Trade Union BRICS in July

On June 16, Rumiko Tanaka, representing UGT, attended a meeting at the head office of the National CTB, with representatives from other trade union centrals, to discuss the creation of a Trade Union BRICS.



BRICS is a cooperation group composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, which will also have a trade union branch aiming at strengthening the fight of the working class and the increase of labour rights in these

On July 06 and 07, occasion in which trade union centrals will be in Geneva, a meeting to conclude a basic proposal will take place and, during the next meeting of BRICS countries, which is scheduled to take place on July 15 and 16 in Fortaleza, Brazil, the Trade Union BRICS will be officialized and counts on the support of the Brazilian government.

The goal is strengthening a unitarian labour agenda and ways of facing the international economic crisis. Besides UGT and other Brazilian trade union centrals, four institutions from Africa, two from India, one from Russia and one from China will attend this event.



[Read also Priorizar avanços na educação – Article from Ricardo Patah, 2011. \(portuguese\)](#)



[Read the Proposal for the BRICS Trade Union \(portuguese\)](#)

ILO reinforces fight against slave work

As predicted by our colleague Wagner Souza (in the picture), ILO adopted a new protocol to tackle modern types of slave work.

The International Labour Organization adopted a new protocol, one that is legally binding, to reinforce the fight against forced labour worldwide.

The Protocol, supported by a Recommendation, was adopted by government, employer and worker delegates to the International Labour Conference (ILC) with 437 votes for 27 abstentions and 8 against.

The new Protocol brings the existing ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour, adopted in 1930, into the modern era to address practices such as human trafficking. The accompanying Recommendation provides technical guidance on its implementation.



“The Protocol and Recommendation mark a major step forward in the fight against forced labour and represent a firm commitment among governments, employer and worker organizations to eliminate contemporary forms of slavery,” Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General said.

“Forced labour violates the human rights and dignity of millions of women and men, girls and boys. It contributes to the perpetuation of poverty and stands in the way of the achievement of decent work for all,” he added.

There are currently an estimated 21 million forced labour victims worldwide. A recent ILO report estimates that US\$ 150 billion in illegal profits are made in the private economy each year through modern forms of slavery.

The Protocol strengthens the international legal framework by creating new obligations to prevent forced labour, to protect victims and to provide access to remedy, such as compensation for material and physical harm. (*ILO News*)

International Law supports the right to strike

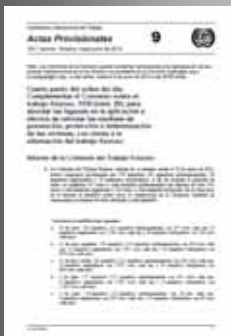
A new 122 page juridical report confirming that the right to strike is protected by international law was published by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), while employers try to bring down decades of ILO jurisprudence.

During the 103rd International Labour Conference, which took place this month in Geneva, representatives of employers in ILO persisted in their efforts to limit the ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association, which guarantees workers the right to take strikes and participate in them.

Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary, said from the ILO Conference, “employers have been holding the ILO system to ransom, trying to discard more than 50 years of international law by removing the guarantee of one of the most fundamental human rights. ILO standards are increasingly important as benchmarks in international trade and investment agreements as well as guidelines for responsible business, and ultra-conservative employer groups want to remove any real meaning from them. The ITUC and its member organisations are determined to see this challenge off and ensure that workers everywhere cannot simply be forced to keep working when their bosses refuse to ensure fair pay and dignity and safety at work.”

As the ITUC’S new Global Rights Index shows, the right to strike is frequently restricted in law and violated in practice around the world. In Cambodia, employers even recently called on the government to denounce ILO Convention 87, while bringing lawsuits against union that took to the streets to protest against poverty wages in the garment industry.

“The employers’ arguments at the ILO are legally unfounded. I am confident that the ITUC’s case, set out in our new report, would prevail before any international tribunal,” said Burrow.



[See the full protocol](#)



[Link to the ITUC General Council document](#)



More Black people in Public Service

UGT follows up sanction of law on racial quotas in the public service

On June 9, Ana Cristina dos Santos Duarte, national secretary for Human Diversity Issues of UGT, was at the Palácio do Planalto, where president Dilma Rousseff sanctioned the law that establishes that 20% of the vacancies in competitive tenderings are destined to African-Americans.

Ana Cristina not only is an officer from UGT, she is also a member of the National Council of Promotion of Racial Equality (CNPIR) of the Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality (Seppir).



This law was published in the Official Gazette of the Federal Government on June 10, with immediate effect and in force for 10 years. The reserve of jobs will be used in tenderings destined to the federal public administration, autarchies, public foundations, public companies and mixed economy societies controlled by the Federal Government, such as Petrobras, the Post Service, Caixa Econômica Federal and Banco do Brasil.

The text does not extend quotas to the legislative and juridical powers, neither to State or municipal public organs. The Senate, however, decided to institute a 20% quota for brown and black people in competitive tenderings and outsourcing contracts.

Pharmaceuticals of FEIFAR affiliate with UGT

The Interstate Federation of Pharmaceuticals (FEIFAR) signs its affiliation with UGT. This meeting took place during the operational meeting of the central, which took place on June 17, at UGT's head office.



The main officers from FEIFAR attended the affiliation ceremony: Danilo Gonçalves Moreira Caser, president of this institution; the vice-president Alexandre Correa dos Santos; and the assistant vice-president, Francisco Claudio Melo.

During the process of signing the affiliation, Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, emphasized the importance of this federation that represents more than 50 thousand workers in 10 Brazilian States.

ITUC's Global Rights Index

ITUC's Global Rights Index shows that workers rights are threatened, despite popular expressions in favor of a strong labour legislation.

According to a new analysis made by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), presented in the 103rd International Labour Conference, in Geneva, companies, exploring the power they exert over governments, are performing a coordinated global attack on the workers rights, including the right to strike.

In 2013, 1,951 trade unionists faced violence and 629 were unlawfully detained for collective action.

The ITUC Global Rights Index found that while the right to strike is recognised in most countries, laws and practices in at least 87 countries exclude certain types of workers from the right to strike.



ITUC's Global Rights Index

"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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