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Changes are necessary

Protests that took place almost nationwide over the last days undoubtedly show that changes are necessary.

Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT

Protests, either in favor or against the president, mirror discomfort with the situation and with the tragedies that still plague Brazil and demand the powers - the executive, the legislative and the judicial branches - a serene reflection directed to embrace this clamor for change.



These are the yells of millions of Brazilians, which show to UGT that is time we changed policies and customs in Brazil.

União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT is a plural trade union central that represents more than 1,200 unions of all classes of workers, whose leaders follow the principle of an ethical, innovative and civic unionism..

The commitment of UGT is in defense of the working class and society and is based on the strengthening of democracy, freedom of expression and right to protest.

UGT believes that dialogue is the best tool to achieve this ideal of change. The recent change in the rules of the correction of income tax, scaling adjustments, even though being a shy change, represented a breakthrough because it involved dialogue between the executive and the legislative powers, and did not involve confrontation nor veto.

This is the same dialogue that we hope that will be applied to the modification of the Provisional Measures 664 and 665 which remove the rights and benefits of workers and their families. Not only UGT and other trade union centrals demand this change and this dialogue, but also business leaders and their trade unions. We want changes in the Provisional Measure 669 as well, which deals with the payroll tax relief and threatens us with more unemployment.

We invite all authorities in charge, not just the administration and the executive power, but also the legislative and judicial powers, to listen to the voices raised in recent days and promoting debate and dialogue aimed at achieving change, both in their own power as among powers.

UGT, the trade union central that has grown most in the country, will continue, the way it always did, to promote the best interests of Brazilian workers and the strengthening of dialogue. We believe that the changes we want must be achieved via strengthening the institutions, via compromise between the powers and through an increase of democracy.

But these changes must take place Now!



United against measures

Workers and businessmen united against provisional measures 664 and 665

On March 9, more than 200 businessmen and representatives of trade union centrals had a meeting at the head office of Fiesp, in Sao Paulo, and unanimously decided to join forces against the provisional measures 664 and 665, which were edited on the last days of December 2014 and remove the rights of workers as well as the provisional measure 669, which ends the payroll tax reduction.

This meeting gathered businessmen from several areas and representatives from UGT and other trade union centrals. They approved the creation of the Committee of Permanent Action against the increase of taxes.

Leaders were unanimous against the change in the project of payroll tax reduction, the provisional measure 669, returned by the Senate last week to the government which is now a law project urgently signed by president Dilma Rousseff.

"It is not a movement against the government nor a movement of formal or informal opposition. It is a proposal for Brazil to organize itself and, at the same time, to relaunch the Brazilian industry",
Carlos Pastoriza, president of Abimaq

In this meeting, it was also decided that this committee will develop a document that will be send to president Dilma Rousseff and will demand an action of the government concerning a reduction of the Selic interest rate, a decrease in the tax burden and a concrete proposal of the government with the goal of reducing expenses.

Canindé Pegado, secretary general of UGT, attended this meeting and guaranteed that there is a feeling within the population and workers that the economy is disorganized and urgent measures are necessary, such as cuts in the government expenses and a brake in the interest rates in order to change this situation.

The unionist warned that businessmen should also contribute, since 60% of dismissals that take place in Brazil occur to workers who are in the same company in up to 9 months, out of this amount, 48% are young workers who are just entering the job market. "This has to change and the initiative of changing this picture is up to businessmen", he ended.

Interview of Pegado to Sindeepres

Secretary general of UGT talks about provisional measure 665 in the Sindeepres Interview

The Sindeepres Interview of March 12 received Canindé Pegado, secretary general of UGT.

Born in the countryside of Rio Grande do Norte, Pegado began to participate in the trade union movements when he was very young, back in the 1970s. He was president of the trade union of telephonists of Rio Grande do Norte, he helped restructure the General Central of Workers (CGT) and was one of the creators of PGT (General Party of Workers).





In defense of the lives of women

Mulher ComVida gathers thousands of people at the Carmo Park in Sao Paulo

The **Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo**, via its Women Department, held, on March 8, in a celebration to the Women's Day, the event Mulher ComVida (Woman with Life). The goal of this action is paying tribute to the citizens of Sao Paulo and warn all society against all sorts of discrimination and violence against women.

This was the second year that this event was held in Carmo Park, east side of São Paulo, and it was attended by thousands of people who could use, for free, health, beauty, public defender and employability services, as well as having access to lectures and entertainment.



Read: Contec - March 8 International Women's Day



Geraldo Alckmin, governor of Sao Paulo, attended this action. "This event is very important because it strengthens the message of equality and respect for women. Conversely it provides a service to the population, aimed at tackling violence, promoting health, beauty, leisure and entertainment. It is a festival that honors women, but it is for the whole family," said the governor.

"In addition to tackling violence against women, we want to educate the population about the dangers of drugs - one of the greatest adversities of our society. Today is a day of celebration, but it is also a day of awareness of the value of women. We can not accept any form of discrimination. We want an inclusive society," said Ricardo Patah, president of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo and president of UGT.

The following people also attended this event: **Leonora Menicucci, Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women, representing President Dilma Rousseff;** Denise Motta Dau, secretary of the Sao Paulo municipal department on women; **Chiquinho Pereira, vice president of UGT; deputy David Zaia; Cassia Bufelli, Secretary of UGT's women department** and other political figures.

"I could not miss the chance of honoring this event. We know how the lives of women are and we support such action, which reinforces that life is not just made up of struggles and work, but it is also made of recognition and times of leisure," said minister Leonora.

Beijing, 20 years afterwards

Trade Union Confederation of the Americas

This year we highlight the Beijing Declaration, a historical platform signed 20 years ago by 189 governments to promote women's rights. Though many accomplishments were achieved since then, the gaps that remain are numerous and deep.

After 20 years of Beijing, TUCA considers extremely important to end the traditional view that divides the productive work of the reproductive work, and blames this last one in a natural way to women and their families. The aspects of production and reproduction and the care with life should be recognized as work and should be seriously considered in the process of overcoming gender inequalities - it is necessary to recognize the unpaid work and its contribution to the well being of families, communities and countries.

The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas - TUCA and the Working Women's Committee of the Americas (CMTA) urge States to get labors rights to be respected in order to eliminate the gaps in equality, in gender, racial, sexual orientation and ethnic discrimination and other discriminatory criteria to allow the access to decent work with equality of opportunities.



Count Us In! - ITUC Statement on International Women's Day 2015



Portrait of unionism in Brazil

Photo exhibition on the history of the Brazilian trade union movement



UGT's Department on Trade Union Education launches photo exhibition that tells the history of the trade union movement from the XIX to the XXI century. The exhibition, entitled 'Our history, our fight', shows the participation of women in the labour world and in the political history of Brazil and is composed of pictures that were provided by the Center of Trade Union Memory and developed in wood wrapped totems.

This exhibition can be visited at the Gender, Race and Youth Conference, which will take place in April, in Praia Grande, during the 3rd National Congress of UGT, which will be held in June at the Convention Palace of Anhembi, in Sao Paulo.

This exhibition was organized by members of the Program of Qualification of Educators and was created by UGT's department of Publicity and Institutional Marketing with the goal of rescuing the history of workers and female unionists and their contribution to the construction of democracy in Brazil, covering topics such as social, political, economic and cultural issues.

Strategic relation between UGT and ACV

Since its foundation, **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT** has been developing cooperation and exchange programs and projects with the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (ACV). This strategic alliance was only made possible because there is a deep and unequivocal coincidence between principles, values and goals that guide the actions of these two institutions: deep respect towards the dignity of the human being; absolute conviction that labour is more important than capital; obstinate search for the achievement of social justice.

Our programs and projects deal with the issues that most concern the working class worldwide. They are inspired and motivated by the achievement of decent work, the environment and the informal economy deserve our attention, as well as the necessary gender equality, overcoming the race inequalities, the necessary inclusion of youth, among other issues.



The words of Ricardo Patah - president of UGT, give importance of this joint work: "Our relationship with the Belgian ACV enhances UGT-Brazil. We learned about the European trade unionism and we improved with the expertise in training of our Belgian colleagues. I have visited the CSC-Belgium several times and I am always greeted with much distinction and affection. I hope that this partnership will continue for many years."

UN: recommendation on women's rights

Specialists from the United Nations evaluate that the Brazilian government did not take enough measures to improve the full support to the health of women, discussing the issue of abortion once again and preventing the trafficking of women and girls.

These evaluations are part of the document of conclusive observations to the follow up, in an unpublished version in Portuguese, which is available here for consultation and download thanks to the National consortium of networks and organizations of the civil society. These data are related to the evaluation of Brazil by the committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Read the UN observations to the follow up



Read the UN observations to the follow up
1 and 2

The UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores do Brasil.

The UGT union is an organization formed to defend the Brazilian workers across a broad trade union movement, national, ethical, supportive, independent, democratic and innovative.

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