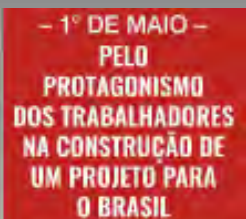




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UGT defends growth and workers' rights

## Social security under discussion

Temer has meeting with UGT and other trade union centers

On May 16, the acting president had a meeting at the Palácio do Planalto with representatives of trade union centers to discuss the social security reform. Unionists criticized the proposal of creating a minimum age for retirement and affirmed that workers cannot pay the price of the economic crisis.

As a result of the meeting, the creation of a workgroup was established. This group will be coordinated by Eliseu Padilha, minister of the Civil House, and has the goal of discussing the social security reform. It will have two members of each trade union center and the first meeting will take place on May 18, in Brasilia.



**Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores UGT**, attended the meeting and informed that the acting president expects the workgroup to present a proposal to solve the social security issue in 30 days, considering that one of the strongest topics is the adoption of a unified minimum age for retirement. All unionists that were at the meeting were willing to have a dialogue and evaluate that there is a series of measures that can be taken before they think of altering the rules of social security and repeated that workers cannot pay the price of this economic crisis.

Mr. Patah was emphatic while showing to disagree with the unification of ages of men and women. "Currently, if we analyze, women make a lot less money than men on average. They are harassed, raped, killed. How can we compare them to the same lives? I believe that there may be changes as long as there are policies of no discrimination, that there are equal salaries, because we are performing a terrible injustice", he affirmed before the meeting with Temer and the ministries.

Unionists said they were willing to have a dialogue and expressed their concern with a proposal defended by Henrique Meirelles, the new Finance Minister, to create a minimum age for retirement. They evaluate that there is a series of measures that can be taken before they think of changing the rules of social security and repeat that workers cannot pay the price of the economic crisis.

Unionists must suggest measures to balance the expenses of Social Security to the workgroup, ones that would not require adopting changes such as the obligation of minimum age for retirement.

Besides Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president, representatives of the trade union centers Força Sindical, NCST and CSB also attended the meeting. Henrique Meirelles (Finance Minister), Eliseu Padilha (Civil House Minister) and Ronaldo Nogueira (Labor Minister) also participated in the event..



## Sustainable City and Health

Fenascon holds International Seminar on Sustainable City and Health

On May 12, the National Federation of Service, Cleaning and Conservation, Urban, Environmental and Green Area Cleaning Workers (Fenascon), an institution affiliated with UGT, held the International Seminar Sustainable City and Health. This event, which took place at the head office of the Trade Union of Workers of Cleaning Service Companies of São Paulo (Siemaco), gathered delegations of institutions from all over Brazil, Chile and Argentina.

During the opening, **Moacyr Pereira, president of Fenascon and Siemaco**, emphasized the importance of this topic and highlighted that when this subject is discussed in a sustainable city, the whole future of a society is being thought, focusing on the view of change of interpretation and starting to consider solid residues produced in big cities not as something disposable and unused, but, yet, as a possibility of job and income creation for the population.



Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president, Ariovaldo Caodaglio, president of Selur (Trade Union of Urban Cleaning of the State of São Paulo, an employer's institution), Jaime Mauricio, president of Fenasinaj (Chilean National Federation of Trade Union of Workers and Companies of Cleaning, Conservation, Garden and Sanitary Services) and Diego Ariel, president of Trade Union of Builders of Argentina) attended the opening table of the seminar.

In his speech, Patah recalled that this seminar is essential since it fulfills its role of spreading info on what the exchange of this event provides.

The leader of UGT made an analysis among holding this seminar and the current Brazilian political situation. "Fenascon could not have made a better choice due to such coincidence, since despite the rupture of a government proposal, which is currently taking place, this act represents a state of change and of a new atmosphere", Patah said.

The event continued throughout the day with debates and discussions focusing on the environment, recycling of solid residues and the responsible use of resources of the nature. *(Fábio Ramalho - UGT's Press)*

## Samba at the Paulista Avenue

As part of the program of the photographic exhibition Workers and 100 years of Samba, organized by UGT, on Sundays, major names of samba are saluted at Paulista Avenue through concerts with artists that represent such a Brazilian rhythm. Concerts took place at the Paulista Avenue, in front of the Trianon park, next to the MASP museum.



UGT TV - One Hundred Years of Samba



**Those who walk on Paulista Avenue starting at Augusta Street until Pamplona Lane, where nearly 1.5 million people transit everyday, according to the Data Popluar Institute, will face the mega panels with major names of samba.**

Names as Adoniran Barbosa, Clara Nunes, Nelson Cavaquinho, Zé Keti, Pixinguinha, Dona Ivone Lara, Jorge Aragão, Chico Buarque, Donga, Noel Rosa, Tia Ciata, Jair Rodrigues, Clementina de Jesus, Martinho da Vila, Jackson do Pandeiro, Elza Soares, Aldir Blanc, Nara Leão, Paulo Vanzolini, Cartola, Wilson Batista, Eduardo Gudim, Nelson Sargento, Lupicínio Rodrigues, Ataulfo Alves, Renato Sorriso were included.

The exhibition is supported by São Paulo's City Hall and sponsored by the Feeding Workers Program – 40 years and by the Caixa Econômica Federal. The population can be part of the exhibition by posting pictures on social networks with the hashtag: **#UGT100anosdosamba**.



## Anti-unionist attack in Peru

UGT participates in act to repudiate the anti-unionist practice executed by the Peruvian government

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, UNI Global and delegations of Argentina and Chile, held a major act on May 12, in front of the Peruvian consulate, in São Paulo, protesting against the resolution of the Peruvian Interior Ministry that cancelled the return to the country of the German unionist Orhan Akman



The institutions that participated in the act delivered a document to the consul that should be sent to Ollanta Humala, president of Peru.

Marinaldo Antonio de Medeiros, director of the Commerce Workers Trade Union of São Paulo and representing the national UGT, delivered the document that was signed by Ricardo Patah, president of UGT.

The act provided by the Peruvian government incited protests in several countries, since this action is seen as an anti-unionist practice of persecution.

## 105th ILO conference under discussion

Tripartite bench discusses its participation in the 105TH Conference

Workers, businessmen and the government had a meeting on May 10, at UGT's national head office. This meeting, promoted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTPS), marked the second meeting of the tripartite bench, which will represent Brazil at the 105TH ILO (International Labor Conference) International Conference, which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 30 to June 10.

With the goal of preparing the Brazilian delegation concerning the topics that will be considered in the ILO Conference, technicians from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security covered two reports that will be presented: Decent Work for Peace, Security and Review of ILO Recommendation number 71 (1944) and Decent Work in World Chains of Production.

In the first one, Mariana Almeida, analyst of social policies of MPTS, presented the main topics inserted in the document, which suggests the "adoption of a recommendation on employment and decent work for peace and resilience, which reviews and replaces the recommendation on employment organization (transition from war to peace), 1944 (number 71)".

Luiz Henrique Ramos Lopes and Fernando Antonio A. Lima Jr presented the other document, which deals with decent work in global chains. "According to the document, it is necessary to achieve an economic and social improvement. And if labor relationships are respected these are points that will improve both sides. It is ideal that we go to this conference with an idea of a consensus", Luiz Henrique explained.

Wagner José de Souza, UGT's assistant secretary of international affairs, emphasized that Brazil is advancing in several issues related to the ratification of ILO conventions, recalling that here labor laws are not flexible. "The USA, for example, has not ratified any ILO convention so far," he said.

On June 19, another meeting of this tripartite group ought to take place, which should be the last one preceding its participation in the Conference.



ILO programme implementation 2014-15 □□



Decent work in global supply chains □



## Seminar on sustainability and the future of work

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT and of the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, attended, as the sole Brazilian unionist, the World Seminar on Sustainability, Development and the Future of Work, which took place on May 03, at the Notre Dame University, in Rome, Italy.

In the event, which was attended by representatives of 12 countries and by the high summit of the Catholic Church, the leader of UGT talked about actions developed by the Brazilian trade union center



Patah defended the fact that fighting for an increase of labor rights means raising the flag of human rights for education, health and high quality housing, which directly contributes for a better income distribution, increase of the purchasing power and, consequently, strengthening of the economy of countries.

“We have to defend the interests of workers through the concept of decent work and through the improvement of the minimum wage, which only in Brazil, for example, is paid to more than 35% of workers and that, over the last years, was adjusted in over 200%,” he cleared.

Mr. Patah concluded by saying that being in an event as important as this one and representing Brazil allows him to exchange experiences with people from all over the world and, this way, he shows them some of the actions that were performed by a civic, ethical and innovative unionism.

### Labor judges condemn setbacks

Brazilian labor judges signed a protest in which they warn about the risk that the current political situation offers to the Labor Court and showed they were committed to continue to advance in defense of labor rights

To the judges, the logic of searching for balance in situations of political crisis by suppressing rights and detaining the workers freedom of association took place in many moments of the Brazilian history. They said they are worried about the use of a reconciled solution for the political crisis that imposes a sacrifice to labor rights by not compromising partisan interests that are at stake”.

“Political stability, thus, might be reached at the cost of shrinking labor rights. Immediate setbacks would occur in issues related to collective dismissals, concerning the right to strike and outsourcing, even running the risk of reaching the stability premise of public servants,” the judges explained.

[Read the protest in full](#)

### Unemployment increases in Latin America

Urban unemployment increases in Latin America and the Caribbean and will grow over 7% in 2016 compared to last year’s rate, due to the economic deterioration of the region, according to estimates of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and of the International Labor Organization (ILO), published on May 11.

ECLAC and ILO said, in a memo, that the urban inactivity will grow more than 0.5 per cent compared to 2015.

“The evolution of job markets in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016 will be mostly negative due to the forecast of a macroeconomic situation and a more deteriorated growth than last year, and to the weakening of some employment indexes,” the organizations stated.

In 2015, the average unemployment rate reached 6.5% in the region due to a slight regional GDP (Gross Domestic Product) contraction.



Coyuntura Laboral en América Latina y el Caribe

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

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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