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UGT defends workers rights

On September 12, UGT issued a statement in which it affirms to be "against reforms that removes workers rights." The document comes in a moment in which the government of president Michel Temer spreads rumors about profound changes in the labor and social security areas.

In the note, **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT** demands the State to achieve an "effective fight against waste and corruption, besides transparency in management, enabling the monitoring of public funds."

The document also addresses the position of UGT, which is contrary to the labor reform, citing the workforce casualization and the proposed creation of a "National Council of Social Security" with the effective participation of the government, workers, employers, retired workers and pensioners to manage the pension and social security.

UGT's note was published in 13 newspapers with the largest circulation in the country.



UGT against reforms that remove workers rights

We demand the State to effectively begin a fight against waste and corruption, in addition to transparency in management, enabling the monitoring of public funds.

More State for civic rights and development, health for all, high quality education, public safety and social welfare, and less State for oligarchies and speculators.

Labor reform

We are against the negotiated over the legislated and we defend the modernization of labor relations without removing workers rights. We defend a 40-hour work week.

Similarly, we are opposed to outsourcing the core business, since this brings casual working conditions, causes loss of income and increases informal and legal labor relationships.

Social security reform

It is essential to present a transparent budget for society and create a National Council of Social Security with the participation of the government, workers, employers, retired workers and pensioners to manage the pension and social security.

We are against a social security reform that increases the time to retire or the time of contribution because it penalizes the poorest - who start to work early - and women who have multiple work shifts.

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

Without income, who is going to consume?

Businessmen who want to perform precarious work are fools, says Patah to **Brasil**:

The President of **União Geral dos Trabalhadores**, , which is in solid growth and with strong presence in the services and trade sector, is a unionist whose routine includes non-stop traveling throughout Brazil. He runs his trade union grassroots, and he extracts information during these wanderings that allow him to have an accurate reading of the national reality.

"President Temer shall make no mistake," he warns in this interview.

"If he and his government insist on these threats of casualization of labor and workers, demonstrations, boogings and contempt of the population for its management will grow far beyond the major centers. Temer will face a real wall of discontent wherever he goes."



Patah is particularly attentive to the threats that, if triggered by the Palácio do Planalto, will extend working hours and reduce wages and income of workers. "Businessmen who support this kind of initiative are fools," Patah said. "If jobs become precarious and income becomes even lower, who will consume in Brazil?"

Patah says with conviction that "no form of employment precariousness is good for society. Reducing costs by removing rights and increasing the exploitation of workers may have some immediate effect increasing corporate profits, but in the medium and long term they have devastating effects for the whole economy, especially for trade, which directly depends on the purchasing power of families. Traders who supports precarious employment in their company are fools, because if the same happens in other companies, who will consume in their shops?"

The president of UGT does not believe that the proposed increase in working hours will not advance. "The minister himself has said otherwise. And the government felt the size of rejection that this type of proposal generates in the population."

Patah has a clear position towards the Temer government. "The trade union movement is responsible for representing and defending workers on behalf of any government. My position, as president of UGT, is to defend dialogue and negotiation, without giving up the organization and grassroots mobilization to adopt the most overwhelming actions, in case it is impossible to amicably reach acceptable agreements with the government and the business sector."

"When UGT was called, it attended the negotiating table. Then, it showed its proposals and positions. After that, the government has not called us over to continue the dialogue and now the same minister Padilha appears and launches a trial balloon everyday made by the press. The government has not presented any concrete proposal in writing so far."

To Patah, the "problem of the Brazilian economy is solved with political reform, fiscal reform, tax reform, bank reform, education reform, state reform and after these vital actions are in force, one can speak of other reforms, including labor and social reform. Putting the cart before the horse does not get anyone anywhere. "

To Patah, the unified struggle of trade unions is extremely important. "Uniting to fight. Unifying to win!"

Intransigence of bankers strengthens Strike

Strike of bank strengthens and reaches all the country.

During the round of negotiations held on September 13, bankers showed their intransigence once again. "There was no progress regarding the proposal submitted earlier, we have no alternative but to maintain the strike," Lourenço Prado, president of Contec, said.

During the meeting, Fenaban (National Federation of Banks) insisted on the counter proposal model that was previously presented and provides a 7% salary increase and a R\$ 3,300 bonus. "This does not replace inflation nor ensures a gain in real terms for the class," Lourenço said. Bankers claim a 15% adjustment, which means about 5% in real terms.

A new meeting was scheduled for September 15, at 4 P.M. (Contec)



COLONISTAS



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Read more about the Wage Campaign of Bank workers 2014



Child labor persists in Brazil

More than three million children are still submitted to child labor in Brazil. The issue was the focus of a debate sponsored by Programa Arise in a workshop held in Porto Alegre on August 18 and 19.

"Child labor is a violation of fundamental rights of children and adolescents established in the Constitution." This statement was made by Isa de Oliveira, Executive Secretary of the National Forum of Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (FNPETI).

According to statistics from the National Sample Survey (PNAD) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), in 2014, there were 41,1 million children in Brazil, out of which 3,3 million (8,1%) were working. However, from 1992 to 2015, there was a continuous and slow reduction in the number of child workers. The projection is that, by 2020, approximately 1,9 million of this public will still be in the productive practice.



The data presented by Isa show that the Southern Region ranks first in number of working children, 10,2% higher than the national average rate. The State of Rio Grande do Sul is the fourth in number of cases of child labor (10,7%). "Children and adolescents are not studying in order to work," he says.

In its turn, Andrea Sain Pastous Nocchi, Judge of the Labour Regional Labor Court of the 4th Region (RS), points out the great difficulty in collecting data on the problem, as well as she relates this to slave labor, lack of public policies, violence and poor education. According to her, learning is an important factor for the reduction of child labor, but not the only one. It must come together with public policies and the involvement of the family. Andrea emphasizes the fact that Brazil has failed to achieve the goal of eradicating the worst forms of child labor and adolescents in productive activities by 2015, as it had been committed. She also argues that the goal will only be achieved with investments in education.

Lelio Bentes Correa, Minister of the Superior Labor Court, defends the quality of education and respect for human rights as fundamental tools to combat child labor in Brazil. "One does not fight child labor only with immediate action. It is essential to invest in high quality education, to ensure the permanence of these children and adolescents in school and that they have the right to their professional training, which is provided in the Brazilian Constitution". (*Matheus Pinho*) (*ILO News*)

Trade unions demand G20 to act

The 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit comes at a time of a persistent social crisis of growth. G20 leaders must act to ensure employment growth through expansionary policies of demand. They need to commit to a structural policy agenda refocused on the reconstruction of strong institutions of the labor market to create quality jobs and to reduce income inequality.

The G20 pledge to ensure inclusive growth requires firm commitments to tackle youth unemployment, gender inequality, integration of refugees and migrants, while it takes steps to the next digital transformation and the need for a just transition to a low carbon economy. It requires a trade and investment system that works for everyone, not just for foreign investors, one that would ensure that the standards of sustainability and decent work are met in global supply chains.

The Labour 20 - L20 declaration appeals world leaders for effective action:

An action for growth through salary increase and public investment

A new structural policy agenda to combat growing inequalities

Action on youth employment, integration of migrants and gender disparities

Decisive action to meet the climate ambition and achieve a socially acceptable technological change

Building a responsible international trading system

Ensure policy coherence and social dialogue through the work of G20.



The Labour 20 - L20 declaration



Supreme Federal Court innovates and puts rights at risk

On September 13, while deciding on the prevalence of the negotiated over the legislated, the Supreme Federal Court (STF) jeopardizes the rights of thousands of workers. That is, the notorious labor reform starts to be established.

As stated in news of DIAP (Inter-union Department of Parliamentarian Advising), in this new decision minister Teori Zavascki makes a reference to the BESC case and emphasizes that "the collective agreement at issue does not mention that it has extrapolated the limits of reasonableness. Although it legally limited a prescribed right it granted other advantages, through valid consent from the trade unions. "In other and direct words, it established that the negotiated should be respected, even if the right legally provided is limited.

To FST, the monocratic decision uttered through the Extraordinary Appeal number 895,759, though providing "inter partes" effects, that is, for those parties involved in the dispute, unequivocally brings extreme insecurity for workers, which is the main figure achieved with the prevalence of the negotiated over the legislated. Moreover, we cannot close our eyes to the decision of the Supreme Court, the guardian of the Constitution, which generates strong precedent for other courts in the application of the jurisdictional provision that certainly should follow the understanding of the Supreme Court.

This constitutes an unprecedented threat to labor rights. This action is inadmissible since the CLT (Consolidation of Labor Laws) already establishes negotiations, which end up composing the Collective Bargaining Convention. Therefore, the proposal of the negotiated over the legislated is meaningless. (Trade Union Forum of Workers - FST)

UGT's Women department in TUCA meeting in Guatemala

Regina Pessoti Zagretti, secretary of UGT's Women's department, attended the international meeting held in Antigua, Guatemala, between 1 and 4 September.

The meeting, a joint action of the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)** and the **Continental Committee of Working Women (CMTA)**, discussed the participation of women in political and trade union life, covering all workers of the Americas, as well as it discussed the obstacles that are still faced, future challenges and the actions to be taken to advance in this area.



The meeting will also deepen and establish strategic actions for the development of the "Count us in", ITUC global campaign with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). During the meeting a new work plan for the CMTA was also prepared, for the period 2016-2020.

DIIESE: Situation Newsletter

Risk and uncertainty: background of the Brazilian situation

High unemployment rate and economic recession increased risk of regression in labor regulation and deepening of foreign dependence

The deep economic, political and social crisis in which Brazil continues to be immersed promotes growth of an offensive of employers and of the government to bring casual rights and extends the challenge posed to the trade union movement: to formulate, in the context of full democracy, a way out of the situation.

The trajectory of the economic growth over the last 20 years - though irregular - was behind and, in 2014, the Brazilian economy stagnated, since then it follows a path of an economic recession as never seen before, with the reversal and deterioration of social advances achieved in the last decade.



Risco e insegurança: pano de fundo da paisagem brasileira

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.

Communications Director: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira

Publishers: Mauro Ramos