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Leia: Reforma da Previdência: Nenhum Direito a Menos

## UGT is mobilized on the National Strike Day

The National Strike Day against the labor and social security reforms had the adhesion and support of entities affiliated to **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)** throughout the country, in a demonstration of the dissatisfaction of society and workers towards the proposals of the Government.

**Canindé Pegado (in the picture), UGT's Secretary General**, emphasized that workers are alone in this fight, because the press is against them, bosses do not like workers, the judiciary follows the same trend and the parliamentarians insist on voting proposals that aim to harm not only the working class but all society.

"There must be a reform, but we cannot accept the way it was presented by the government, because before voting on these projects, it is necessary to open dialogue with society: this is democracy," said the leader.



**Drivers and Urban Transport Workers from São Paulo** mobilized 17 companies from the State capital and EMTU (regions of Guarulhos, Alto Tietê, ABCD and Baixada Santista) starting from midnight until around 8:00 A.M.. The strike of bus drivers in the capital of São Paulo was fundamental, as it led thousands of workers to reflect on the proposals of what is on the agenda in Congress.

**Siemaco**, the institution that represents workers in the cleaning and conservation areas, did not wait for the sunrise to mobilize urban cleaning workers from the accommodation São Miguel Paulista, Soma company, to the Barra Funda garage, belonging to the Inova company. Thus, thousands of street cleaners only started working after 8 am.

**The Union of the Motorcycle couriers** gathered hundreds of workers who, in a parade led by the North South lane of 23 Maio Avenue, managed to send their message to congressmen who insist on approving measures that are against the interests of the working class and society. "We will not accept these measures that the Federal Government wants to push down the throat of society," said Gilberto Almeida dos Santos, aka Gil, president of the Union of Motorcycle Couriers.

UGT was also mobilized in other states of Brazil. Unions affiliated to UGT held actions in Pernambuco, Bahia, Maranhão, Piauí, Maranhão, Amazonas, Minas Gerais, Goiás, Paraná, Pará and Rio de Janeiro. "This is an act that can be considered the beginning of popular actions against the measures presented by the Federal Government," emphasized **Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president**.

**Patah** highlighted that the central is an institution that does not accept that the rights of the population are removed or diminished, the proposal of the UGT is that these themes have a broad dialogue with society. "It is irresponsible to make such a proposal without dialogue, the way it is being done is not democratic, but an imposition," he concluded. UGT represents 10 million workers, 1,350 unions and is the second largest trade union center of Brazil.



## It's time we had an IRS adjustment

Taxpayers will pay at least 4.5% more of Income Tax in 2017 than what was paid in 2016, considering that their salaries have only been corrected by last year's cumulative inflation (6%) and that their taxes, such as education and health spending, have also risen in the same proportion. This is because the IRS did not update the possible discounts or correct the table of who should pay tax.



The Individual Income Tax table is lagged by 83.12% since 1996. If it were corrected by the inflation indexes, the exemption rate would be up to R\$ 3,460.50. Failure to correct the IR table by inflation index causes the taxpayer to pay more Income Tax than they paid in the previous year.

UGT demands an update on the IRS table in order to solve this lag, for it is damaging workers and causing them to have huge losses in their salaries.

## Prosecutor's Office shows impacts of the reform



On the streets against Social Security Reform

Federal Prosecutor's Office sends a technical note to Congress on the social impacts of the Social Security reform.

On March 15, the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Citizen's Rights (PFDC) of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office sent a technical note to the National Congress with a detailed analysis of the nine main changes suggested by the Social Security Bill. That includes increase in the minimum retirement age, equal treatment for men and women, reduction in the value of the benefit, treatment of rural workers, restriction on the granting of pensions, establishment of time for special retirement, ineligibility of benefits and changes in the benefits granted to the elderly and to the disabled.

The text highlights constitutional violations present in these measures and the possibility of legal challenges due to the clear legislative setback that Bill 287 represents.

According to the Federal Attorney for Citizens' Rights, the increase in the minimum age for retirement - 65 years of age and 25 years of contribution - violates the principle of protection for the elderly provided in the article 230 of the Constitution. This happens because this Bill uses as reference the age of countries whose life expectancy is much higher than the Brazilian one.

The technical note also points out that the age calculation presented by the Bill disregards the different regional and income realities in Brazil, making the minimum age of 65 years very severe in the poorest places and, thus, disrespecting the constitutional goal of eradicating poverty and reducing social and regional inequalities - as provided in the Federal Constitution in its article 3.

Regarding the equality between men and women being granted the benefit, the technical note emphasizes that this legal treatment ignores the different situation of women in the labor market and domestic activities: "women still work in less qualified positions and receive lower remuneration compared to men - if they are remunerated, because the economic dependence on the husband, the partner or the father is still common."

For the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, the reduction in the calculation of the value of pensions proposed by the Bill constitutes an exaggeratedly severe measure, since it even affects low-value pensions. Data shows that the pensions paid are low and do not support a percentage reduction in value as proposed by the Bill: "full retirement pensions would only occur with 49 years of contribution, that is, someone who had started contributions at the age of 16 and would retire at 65, for example."

Deborah Duprat Federal Attorney of Citizen Rights and Walter Claudius, Regional Attorney, who is PFDC's Rapporteur on the theme of Social Security and Welfare, signed the document.



Read the technical note

## Women from UGT say no to the proposed reforms

### Women from UGT are against the Social Security and labor reforms

Female trade union officers and social movement leaders of UGT, gathered in Foz do Iguaçu (PR) on March 5, 6 and 7, at the seminar Women Awareness Month, March 2017 - 10 years of UGT are against the Social Security and labor reforms proposed by the Temer government, and want the Brazilian Congress to ratify ILO (International Labor Organization) Convention 156.

During the three days of the seminar, topics pertinent to the feminine universe were discussed, such as violence against women, employability, female empowerment and the Brazilian political and economic situation.

The panel: Confronting all forms of gender violence in Brazil and the border opened the series of three modules of the seminar. Violence against women on the triple border, including children and adolescents, was the theme presented by Cláudia Patrícia de Luna, director of the NGO Elas por Elas.

Jana Silvermann, from the Solidarity Center and Isamar Escalona, director of TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas), spoke on the Gender Equality-Paths panel to move forward. "It is urgent for the Brazilian government to ratify ILO Convention 156 as a way of guaranteeing equal rights to women in the workplace, eliminating wage and treatment inequalities," Jana Silvermann said.

While discussing the theme of the social security reform, Helen Silvestre Fernandes, economist and adviser of the IAE (UGT's Institute of Higher Studies), was categorical: this propaganda that the government is doing about the emergency need for a social security reform is a farce. According to the economist, who was a member of a study group on the real budgetary situation of the Welfare system, "the government is once again pushing the burden of their incompetence on workers. The Social Security has a surplus, that is, it is a lie that there is a gap in the accounts and that the government pay more than it collects."

Santa Regina Pessoti Zagretti, Secretary of UGT's Department of Women, gave the last lecture of the seminar and presented the proposals and deliberations of the meeting. "We have clear and objective proposals regarding the feminine universe, many of these proposals depend on political and social engagement and others only on the political will of our rulers," Santa Regina emphasized.

## UGT joins the fight of UAW

UGT and UAW protest against persecution of Nissan workers from Mississippi

**"Freedom of Labor and Social Rights and Right to Trade Union Freedom". On March 4, this was the slogan that unionists of UGT and of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, in a joint action with the United Auto Workers - UAW (American Metallurgist Union) and other Brazilian trade union centers used in protest on the big march to the front door of the Nissan plant in Carton/Mississippi, in the United States.**



During the protest, nearly 3,000 people, including Nissan workers, students, lawmakers and militants, walked about five kilometers to demand respect from employees of the automaker who have been abused for years by the company that hunts unionists, does not recognize the demands of the workers and even compels their employees to wear a geriatric diaper to avoid going to the bathroom.

The event was also attended by the actor Denny Glover, the main activist in the cause, and by the Democrat Senator Bernie Sanders, as well as dozens of trade union and human rights leaders in the United States.

Due to the act, the assembler canceled the shift on Saturday. "The march was fantastic due to the large number of people, due to the repercussion in the local and national press. We stopped the highway where the factory is located and the governor of Mississippi was forced to make a statement," said Josimar Andrade de Assis, UGT representative and officer of the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo.





The unions and the fight against women violence

## Mulher ComVida gathers thousands of people

On March 12, the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo and UGT promoted the 9th edition of Women With Life in an atmosphere of celebration, joy and much reflection. This event, which was held in the Carmo Park, eastern part of the city of São Paulo, had as one of its main features actions towards citizens.

To **Chiquinho Pereira**, UGT's Secretary of Organization and Trade Union Policies, what drew attention is the issue of violence against women. "It is not possible that in the current stage of evolution of the human being we still have to live with violence against women, who are beaten and raped, most often in their own homes." It is necessary that the trade union movement and fundamentally the governments have the courage to institute public policies that can prevent this type of violence against women.



**Ricardo Patah**, UGT's national president recalled that even today women receive low wages, perform double or triple working hours, suffer sexual and moral harassment, domestic violence among other adversities that prove that to make changes the way they were presented, without a deep dialogue with society, is at least an irresponsibility, so let's fight to avoid setbacks. It is for all this that UGT is fighting against the Government's project.

## UGT promotes social dialogue in construction

On March 20 and 21, **União Geral dos Trabalhadores – UGT** promoted the 1st National Seminar on Valuation of Life, which took place in the city of São Paulo. With the theme "Social Dialogue in Civil Construction, Heavy Construction and Industrial Assembly", the seminar addressed several issues. Among them, precarious work, outsourcing and the connections between the Brazilian economic crisis and what are its international implications.

During the event, six speakers explained the Brazilian context. Among them, there were Marcelo Suano, renowned political scientist; representatives of the trade union area, as well as of the ICM (International of Construction and Wood Workers).

The event took place at the Hotel Leques Brasil, at Rua São Joaquim, 216, in the Liberdade neighborhood, in São Paulo. The seminar was aimed union representatives affiliated to UGT that are part of the civil construction, heavy and industrial assembly segment. [Check the schedule here.](#)

## The insertion of women in major cities

As a tribute to the International Women's Day, the Employment and Unemployment Research System publishes data on the insertion of women into the labor market in Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Salvador and São Paulo, in the ABC region and in the Federal District.

The female participation rate grew last year in Salvador and the Federal District. It declined in Porto Alegre and, to a lesser extent, in Fortaleza. In São Paulo it remained practically stable.

Unemployment rates for women are traditionally higher than for men. In recent years, there has been a slight approximation between the rates of the two segments. But in 2016 the difference has grown again. By 2016, the unemployment rate was higher among women in all regions.



The insertion of Women into the labor market in major cities

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

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