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## Direct elections now!

### Official note from UGT: Brazil needs direct elections now!

Considering the seriousness of the accusations involving President Michel Temer (PMDB party), Senator Aécio Neves (PSDB party/ State of Minas Gerais), and other important public authorities (PMDB and PR parties), UGT considers, as the only way out of the serious political moment that our nation is living, the convocation of direct elections.

Only a new political order is capable of rescuing the confidence of the Brazilian people in the face of the sea of mud that has taken over the Brazilian political class. For this reason, UGT, which, since its foundation, carries the DNA of a reformist entity, argues that society, from now on, demands that the rulers perform a wide and unrestricted political reform

It is a fact that the current political model favors the accomplishment of illegal actions, diversion of public resources and favoring of a small political and business elite, which in recent years has been unveiled through the Car Wash Operation.

The ideal of a political reform at this moment is an aspiration of the whole society, because a State that centralizes resources and burdens manipulates parties and congressmen. UGT has long been denouncing it

Due to all the widely reported events, the only alternative to take the country out of the institutional political quagmire is for Congress to become aware of the real role of its functions in the democratic State of Law, urgently calling for direct elections.



### UGT condemns violence against workers in Brasilia

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)** condemns the violent repression against a historic march that brought together more than 150,000 workers in Brasilia, on May 24, in a protest against the Labor and Social Security Reforms.

This action revealed the government's lack of ability to maintain a dialogue with workers and society. A group of masked men served as an argument for the government to call on the National Force and the Armed Forces, turning a peaceful and legitimate protest into a true war-zone.

The march, which brought together workers from all over the country, left peacefully in the vicinity of the Mané Garrincha stadium, and when it arrived near the National Congress, the peaceful and democratic demonstration was received by an unprepared police force, which was provoked by infiltrated agents who were identified as strangers to the movement, and by a group of masked men, violently suppressed men and women who exercised their democratic right of protest.

The fact that the government called the Armed forces only made the situation worse and turned Brasilia into a true war zone. This violent action ended up with several wounded people. UGT does not accept violence as a form of intimidation and will continue to perform its right of demanding the end of corruption, in defense of the interests of the working class, and the opening of dialogue with the trade union movement and society in the discussion of reforms that do not remove worker's rights.

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores**

## Workers occupy Brasilia

Brasilia has the largest mobilization against the group of reforms of the federal government

May 24 is a historical date in which there was the largest march of the working class that Brasilia ever had. UGT organized this act combined with other trade union centers and it gathers, at the moment, nearly 50 thousand people



This march had the goal of showing congressmen that the reforms proposed by the federal government do not have popular support and are extremely harmful to society. The march had the support of workers from all over Brazil, who travelled hours or even days to fight against the attack to democracy in our country, since the proposals were built without the participation of society and solely and exclusively answer the business sector.

Besides demanding that such proposals are built through popular participation, this protest achieved an indignation tone especially because of the accusations that have arisen with the JBS whistle blowing.

"The government wants to approve, at any cost, these measures without consulting society, in an exacerbated and tyrannical way. This is an irresponsible and unprecedented act, since at this moment neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate has moral conditions of voting austerity measures with so many accusations against president Temer", said Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president.

## Brasilia turned into a battlefield

Under a true rain of tear gas bombs, Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, spoke at the Ministries Esplanade, in Brasilia, DF.

The leader of UGT stressed that this is the time to resist the attacks congressmen are making against the working class.

Mr. Patah criticized the police action, which used excessive force to try to end the demonstrations, which remained peaceful until the police began to attack the demonstrators.

The demonstration, aimed at combating labor and social security reforms, was composed of parents and mothers, students, teachers and retirees. "No one here is a tramp. They are good people who are struggling against austerity measures aimed at removing social and labor rights," Patah said.

The walk began around 11:00 A.M., from the Mané Garrincha stadium towards the Ministries Esplanade, with the estimate made by the Military Police of 150,000 people. But the allegation that about 50 protesters' buses were still standing at a blockade of the road showed that the afternoon would have bad surprises.

During the act, the actor Osmar Prado got into the sound truck and gave a speech in support of workers. "This congress does not have the moral to vote the reforms the way they presented. This is the time to fight and demand," said the actor.

Demonstrators continued to follow the sound truck until hundreds of morale bombs began to be thrown into the crowd.

Even though Ricardo Patah asked for protesters not to succumb to the affront of policemen, the suppression was very violent and, inevitably, many protesters were wounded during the act. "We are men and women, fathers and mothers. And, still, policemen do not stop throwing bombs at us. This is inhuman and immoral. Images are there for all the world to see how workers are being treated", the union leader concluded.



[Click here to see more pictures of the March.](#)

## The future of unionism under discussion

Leaders from around the world gather in Brazil to discuss future of unionism

The meeting of service trade unions from different countries, organized by UNI Global Union, took place from May 3 to May 5 to discuss the current scenario and what can be done to strengthen union organizations. Leaders from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, among other countries participated. The opening of the event featured a welcome cocktail offered by UGT.

To Ricardo Patah, UGT national president, "it is important that a meeting like this happens in Brazil at the moment we are living. It brings more hope, because together we will look for alternatives of unionization in Brazil and in the world. After all, the message represents optimism."

Patah refers to the labor and social security reforms proposed by the current government, as well as to the outsourcing project that, if approved as such, will severely harm the workers. "Let's not let that happen. Trade union centers organized a general stoppage on April 28, which was a success, with a huge adhesion of workers. This week, trade union centers will jointly define the next actions," explained the leader.

"It was precisely because of the good work that has been developed by UGT and the other trade union centers that we have chosen Brazil to hold this meeting," said Tom Balanoff, president of SEIU (Service Employees International Union). "We have people here from various countries and I am confident that with this exchange we will move forward in the service sector of global unionism. We need unity, solidarity and collectivism", Balanoff emphasized.

Eddy Stam, UNI's Director of Property Services, also attended the event. UNI brings together the cleanup and security sectors, and he reaffirmed the importance of union: "We need to understand together why trade unions are under attack worldwide. Why are we weakened? It is crucial that we are united in order to strengthen ourselves. "

The goal of Moacyr Pereira, president of the Confederation of Cleaning Services (Conascon) and UGT's Secretary of Finance, is to get to know experiences of institutions from different parts of the world in order to promote a global union stronger and stronger in the struggle for workers rights. Moacyr is a full member of Uni Global Union World Committee of the Service Sector and president of Siemaco-SP (Union of Employees in Companies Serving Services of Care, Maintenance and Urban Cleaning of São Paulo).

## The Senate receives the president of UGT

On May 9, Senator Romero Jucá (PMDB party - State of Roraima), the leader of the government at the Senate, received Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, and other leaders of the trade union centrals to begin negotiations on the procedure of the labor reform in the Senate.

Mr. Patah reminded Senator Jucá that the original project established the valuation of collective agreements, but with the maintenance of points that strengthened trade unions. The text of the House of Representatives, he said, disfigured the reform at that point, which left the trading structure unbalanced.

"It is a serious restructuring that we are experiencing. The union movement has always worked to end a dictatorship figure, ending inflation, and our work is towards social inclusion and economic growth. Certainly not the way that is being structured, taking, in reality, one of the main elements of the Brazilian structure, which is the trade union movement," he said.

He quoted, as an example, the fact that layoffs no longer need to be ratified by trade union representatives, as well as negotiations in companies with more than 200 employees, in addition to the end of the mandatory union tax. Senator Juca carefully listened to Patah and assured that "depending on the merit and the type of proposal, it can be discussed in another wording, it can be discussed with an amendment of merit, a veto possibility or even with a complementation of Legislation in an interim measure, for example. "There are several paths that can make the text better," he stated.

The president of UGT was accompanied by Luiz Carlos Motta, president of the Federation of Commerce of São Paulo, Chiquinho Pereira, UGT's Secretary of Trade Union Organization and Politics, Isaú Chacon, president of UGT's State branch of DF and congressmen Roberto de Lucena and Ademir Camilo, UGT's vice president.



Meeting in Brasilia with Senator Paim



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Meeting in Brasilia with Senator Paim



## Reform intends to destroy the trade union movement

Written by Mr. Hudson Marcelo da Silva and by Mrs. Cláudia Campas Braga Patah

The justification of Congressman Rogério Marinho (PSDB party/ State of Rio Grande do Norte), writer of Bill 6,787/2016 (Labor Reform), does not correspond to what is effectively "drafted" in its replacement.

There is a clear dissonance between what was said and what was written. Both the government and the rapporteur affirm that the objective of the labor reform, among others, is to strengthen collective bargaining and the trade union structure as a whole. However, we do not see any possibility of the government achieving these goals with this replacement. On the contrary, its approval will be a serious attack on the Brazilian trade unionism. The real purpose of the text is to destroy the trade union movement, or at best make it prostrate entirely to capital.

The substitute, unlike what the rapporteur says, favors individual negotiation and not collective bargaining. The text, if approved as it is, will lead to a great dissolution of trade union representation. [To read this article in full with the explanatory tables, click here](#)

## ILO launches 50 For Freedom campaign

In an event that took place at the Senate on May 10, the ILO launched the 50 For Freedom campaign to ask Brazil to reinforce the fight against forced labor with the ratification of the protocol on the subject.

"The launch of 50 For Freedom in Brazil was carried out in the Senate because the parliamentarians themselves are the target audience of the campaign, since the ratification of the protocol must pass through Congress," said Fernanda Carvalho, ILO Project Officer.



The global campaign 50 for Freedom was launched by the ILO, in a partnership with the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Organization of Employers, to promote the protocol worldwide and request at least 50 countries to ratify it by 2018. The public can support the campaign and ask Brazil to ratify the protocol through social networks, posting messages with the hashtags #50FF, #50ForFreedom and #AssinaBrasil (signBrazil).

## Trade Union BRICS searches for official recognition

On May 10, representatives of the international area of trade union centers were gathered at the head offices of UGT, to discuss the deepening of Trade Union BRICS' actions, and its official recognition as a workers' representation body of BRICS, which comprises five emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).



Nowadays, the **BRICS Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** holds more than 21% of the world GDP. They represent 42% of the world's population, 45% of the world's workforce and the world's largest consumer power. They also stand out for the abundance of their national wealth and the favorable conditions that they currently present to explore.

In addition to official recognition, the centers that are part of the Trade Union BRICS must present a proposal to create a working group on Social Dialogue and, in September, when the BRICS presidents are scheduled to meet, the BRICS are able to be received for the delivery of the Workers' Declaration, thereby consolidating the Tripartite Social Dialogue advocated by the ILO.

The dates of this year's Trade Union BRICS meetings were presented. They consist of the Trade Union Forum (July 24-26), meeting of labor ministers (July 26 and 27) and the 9th BRICS Summit (September 3-5), all of them in China.



## UGT goes to Senate to discuss the Labor Reform

On May 16, **Ricardo Patah**, president of UGT, and **Chiquinho Pereira**, UGT's secretary of union organization, attended the Plenary session of the Senate, which was the second thematic session that discussed the proposal of Labor Reform. In the morning, Ronaldo Nogueira, Labor Minister, defended the proposal - which was approved in the Chamber. At the Senate table, the leaders of the Trade Union Confederation and the Association of Labor Prosecutors contest the Government's proposal.

Ricardo Patah reaffirmed that the Labor Reform "attacks the working class and cannot be approved the way it was proposed in the Senate. We believe in changes that can be promoted by senators, so we are here at the Senate," said Mr. Patah.

The leaders of UGT spent the day making articulations and visits to the senators, to try to present changes and suppressions in the project. "Let's look at all the parties, we have to show that the reform is harmful to workers," said Chiquinho Pereira

The UGT leadership has already spoken to more than 20 senators since the proposal reached the Senate. The attempt, according to Ricardo Patah, is to achieve changes in the commission of economic affairs (CAE). On May 17, the UGT president will attend a hearing at 2:30 P.M. of the Economic Affairs (CAE) and Social Affairs (CAS) Committees. Senator Ricardo Ferraço (PSDB party – State of Espírito Santo) is the president of the Committee on Economic Affairs, The bill will still be discussed in the Constitution and Justice Commission, but there is no rapporteur for this subject yet.



## UGT will be part of the National Commission of SDGs

UGT, through its 2030 Journey, along with its Sustainability Committee, was selected to form the National Commission on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as representative of civil society.

The 2030 Journey is an initiative of UGT that not only promotes the SDGs, but also mobilizes union institutions and leaderships to implement this important agenda in the country.

Created by the government from Decree No. 8,892, of October 31, 2016, the Commission's mission is to prepare a plan of action for the implementation of Agenda 2030; to propose strategies and programs for the implementation of SDGs; prepare periodic reports and support for discussions on sustainable development in national and international forums; to identify, systematize and disseminate good practices and initiatives that collaborate to reach the SDGs; and to promote articulation with public bodies and entities to disseminate and implement Agenda 2030 at the state and municipal levels.

## Human development beyond medias

Inequality declines, but the income of black people is still half of whites.

Ipea (Institute of Applied Economic Research), FJP (João Pinheiro Foundation) and UNPD (United Nations Development Programme) report analyzes the influence of ethnicity, gender and domicile situation in the country's Municipal Human Development Index. Even with more schooling, women have an income 28% lower than men.

In 10 years, social inequalities related to ethnicity, gender and domicile (urban or rural) have declined in the country. Despite this, Brazil still has many contrasts among its population - the example of blacks, whose average income is still half that of whites. This is what a study released on May 10, made by Ipea with FJP and UNDP shows.

This study analyzes the Municipal Human Development Index (HDI) and other 170 socioeconomic data by color, sex and domicile situation of the 2000 and 2010 census years to show how the life of Brazilians has changed over the decade



Desenvolvimento Humano para Além das Médias

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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