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Read: Pension
Reform: Our Rights
No Less (pt)

June 30: General strike

Unity and Struggle in defense of rights

Trade union centers (**UGT**, CUT, Força Sindical, CTB, New Central, CGTB, CSP-Conlutas, Intersindical, CSB and A Pública) call their grassroots for the fight agenda and indicate a new GENERAL STRIKE on June 30.



The union centers will put full force into the mobilization of the strike in defense of the social and labor rights, against the labor and social security reforms, against indiscriminate outsourcing and for the resignation of president Temer (#ForaTemer).

Within the fight agenda, the centers also call for the General Strike Warm Up, to be held on June 20 and consisting of a day of national mobilization for the convening of the general strike.

The elaboration of a unified newspaper was also defined for the wide mobilization of society. And a new meeting was scheduled for June 7, 2017, at 10:00 A.M., at the head office of DIEESE (Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies), to organize the general strike.

UGT and trade union centers CGTB, CSB, CSP Conlutas, CTB, CUT, Força Sindical, Intersindical and NCST.

Schedule

June 06-23: Convening of plenary sessions, assemblies and meetings throughout Brazil to build the general strike;

June 20: General strike warm up with acts and distribution of leaflets;

June 30: General strike.



UGT condemns intimidation to retired worker who was shot

Carlos Geovani Cirilo is a retired worker who was cowardly shot in the mouth during a peaceful protest of the workers in Brasilia, against the Labor and Social Security Reforms. He was hospitalized in the Base Hospital where he received the visit of two unidentified men who declared to work at the Comptroller of the Military Police.



Even though he was still recovering and with a medical recommendation that he could not speak, the two intruders insisted on hearing his statements. Later, as he had no conditions, they presented a document and asked him to sign it.

Sirlene Cyril, the retiree's daughter, refused to sign and demanded their removal from the hospital ward, threatening to call the direction of that institution.

União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) condemns this type of attitude and will demand an explanation for this incident from the authorities. Carlos Cirilo was the victim of a shooting attack during a peaceful demonstration of workers and was treated as delinquent and irresponsible by two strangers who claimed to be from the police, considering that the shot that struck him almost killed him. Such an attitude is incompatible with the democratic state of law and only observed during the Military Dictatorship, which caused so much damage to the Brazilian family and society.

After 16 days in the Base Hospital in Brasília, Carlos Geovani Cirilo finally returned to Belo Horizonte. Cirilo was taken to the Hospital João XXIII where he will be hospitalized. According to Carlos Martins, general coordinator of the Trade Union Association of Workers in Hospitals of Minas Gerais (ASTHEMG), he will be hospitalized until he is completely restored.

The importance of trade unions

The proposal of a labor reform that passed in the House of Representatives seeks to create institutional conditions for the structural reduction of labor costs. Thus, it breaks trade unions, an essential instrument to promote a rebalancing in the correlation of forces between capital and labor.

Clemente Ganz Lúcio, Technical Director of Dieese

This Labor Reform Bill promotes a devastation of labor rights, both individual and collective. In just two weeks, congressmen ripped the Bill sent by the Executive Power and made a radical change in the system of labor relations without any discussion with society.

The proposed changes affect the role of trade unions and their relationship with workers, the negotiation process, the limits of the negotiated one and the relation with the legislation, the content of the rights and the role of justice. The goal is to give wide protection to companies, eliminating obstacles, like rights defined by the Law, trade unions and the Labor Justice.

The proposal of a labor reform passed in the House of Representatives seeks to create institutional conditions for the reduction of labor costs. Thus, it breaks trade unions, an essential instrument for the construction of labor rights, for the protection of workers and for the promotion of a rebalancing in the correlation of forces between capital and labor.

Several studies show the essential role that trade unions played while building modern societies, collaborating immensely to make them less unequal, with more social and collective rights, and so on.

In Brazil, there are currently 11,700 workers' unions, out of which 8,800 represent urban workers and 2,900 represent rural workers. These organizations represent about 50 million workers. If they include the employer representation and the institutions from the vertical structure, there are about 17 thousand entities, which occupy approximately 120 thousand people.

These and other data are part of Technical Note 177, published by DIEESE, entitled "The Importance of Workers' Trade Union Organization" (available here). The study maps the content of more than 56,000 collective agreements and 308,000 collective bargaining agreements signed between 2007 and 2017.

History shows the role and importance of unions. The recognized relevance of these institutions has made the trade union a fundamental human right, which is regulated by several conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO). With this Bill being approved in the House of Representatives, Brazil disconnects and distances itself from the civilizing process and makes a regressive path towards times of slavery. (*Brasil Debate*, June 07, 2017)



Nota Técnica
177: A
importância da
organização
sindical dos
trabalhadores

Brazil is denounced in ILO

The following Brazilian trade union centers UGT, CGTB, CSB, CTB, CUT, Força Sindical, Intersindical and NCST attended the 106th International Labor Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and have made public the clarification on the inclusion of Brazil in the list of countries that violate international labor standards.



This year, Brazil is listed in the "long list" of 40 cases for violating ILO Convention 98, which deals with the right to organize and collective bargaining. However, the Brazilian case was not included in the so-called "short list" of the 24 cases to be analyzed in this conference.

The denunciation of the Brazilian trade union centers echoed in the ILO Commission for the Application of Norms, having wide support of organizations of workers from several countries.

Besides, the case will not be archived, as falsely published by the press. The case will be resumed in any of the ILO control bodies and if the labor reform Bill is approved, it will be consolidated as a new complaint at the next ILO Conference in 2018.

The ILO is a tripartite organization and the inclusion of a country in the list of cases to be analyzed is always done by consensus among representations around the world. The position advocated by the employers' sector and by the Brazilian government together with international capital so that Brazil did not enter the list of ILO cases this year proves the strategy of deregulation and precarious employment in Brazil and in the world, a strategy that has been constantly denounced by Brazilian trade union centers and by international trade union confederations.

Unlike what congressman Rogerio Marinho (PSDB party), rapporteur for the proposal of the labor reform, said in Geneva, Switzerland, and published by the Brazilian press, the ILO, through the Committee of Experts and its Standards Department, stated that the labor reform does violate Conventions 98, 151 and 154 by providing that negotiations between employers and employees overlap the law.

It is worth noting that in the face of the serious scenario of attacks on social, labor and union rights, the Brazilian trade union centers convened a public and unitary act for June 12 at 6 P.M., in front of the United Nations Organization - UN at Place des Nations Geneva, Switzerland in the framework of the International Labor Conference of the ILO. This act will denounce the attacks on the rights of the working class, on the trade union organization and the increasing violence promoted by the Brazilian State.

106th International Labor Conference

The 106th session of the International Labor Conference (ILC), which annually brings together more than 5,000 representatives of governments and organizations of employers and workers from the 187 member countries of the International Labor Organization (ILO), is taking place this week in Geneva.

Director of UGT made a speech

On June 09, at the 106th Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, **Antonio Maria Thaumaturgo Cortizo, representative of União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, spoke on slave labor and the inhumane conditions that, even today, are lived and ignored by governments from countries such as Paraguav and Brazil."



Violations of human rights by the Paraguayan government continue to be practiced as if workers were things and not people. Slaves of old times once received free food, without any charge by the boss. Today, what the worker eats becomes debt and, at the end of the month, there is not even a salary balance. What is the difference between the slave of yesterday and the one who has forced labor? None. In both cases, they do not receive salary," Cortizo condemned such acts in his speech..



UGT in defense of public enterprises

The Seminar "In Defense of Public Enterprises" was organized by the National Committee for the Defense of Public Enterprises and held in Brasília, on June 07, at the Hotel San Marco. UGT was represented by Willian Louzada, director of the Trade Union of Bank Workers of Goiás, through the Department of Finance and Credit Affairs, headed by Edson Roberto dos Santos.



During the day, specialists, technicians and representatives of associative and union movements from dozens of Brazilian institutions discussed the importance of these enterprises for their workers and the development of Brazilian society, the privatization projects that threaten them, and strategies for reaction and resistance. The need to expand the communication was emphasized in the debates and an open letter was elaborated at the end, which will be announced in the next few days..

At a table coordinated by **Willian Louzada, UGT's representative**, the seminar received the lawyer Luiz Alberto dos Santos, writer of the book *A Reforma da Previdência no governo Temer e o desmonte da Previdência Pública no Brasil* (The Social Security Reform during the Temer government and the dismantling of Public Pensions in Brazil), who is an advisor at Fenaes and at the Committee. Santos dealt with reform items that affect workers in general and those linked to public enterprises.

He also covered the topic on the fiscal adjustment, incentive dismissal plans, Public Enterprises' Statutes and outsourcing, which he considers to now "appear with its most perverse face and run over a whole debate that was already under way when trying to re-establish criteria."

Rogério Gomes is reelected for a new tenure at FETHESP

President and new Board of directors of the federation were elected in a meeting held on June 1.

Delegates representing trade unions affiliated with the Federation of Employees in Tourism and Hospitality of the State of São Paulo - FETHESP, a trade union affiliated with UGT, attended the Américo Gomes da Silva social head office in the city of São Paulo to elect the board that will command the federation in the next 5 years.



Rogério Gomes, who led plate 1, was reelected president of FETHESP, as determined by Luiz Gonzaga Silva Nascimento, president of Sintercoj Jundiaí, at the end of the election.

UGT attends seminar on Agenda 2030

On June 6 and 7, UGT, through its Committee on Sustainability and on Journey 2030, will attend the Seminar/Consultation with Civil Society: Advances and Prospects of the Agenda 2030 and the Future Priorities of the European Union in Brazil, held in Brasília.

The event was organized by the Delegation of the European Union in Brazil, by the NGO Gestos–Soropositividade, Comunicação e Gênero and by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Brazil. It has the goal of presenting the report prepared by the Civil Society Working Group for Agenda 2030 on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to promote a dialogue on potential areas of action of the European Union to contribute to the achievement of the Goals and Targets of the Agenda 2030 in Brazil.

Cristina Palmieri, member of the Sustainability Committee and of UGT's Journey 2030, represented UGT.

Currently, union action is struggling and tackling issues that go beyond the debate on wages and working conditions, such as health, education, safety, urban mobility and many other issues that impact workers' lives. The SDGs aim to answer these expectations. Trade union action and these goals are, therefore, absolutely integrated elements.