



In defense of Brazil

UGT condemns exploitation of natural wealth in Renca

By Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president

União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) condemns the government's proposal to allow the exploitation of Brazilian natural resources in the National Reserve of Copper and Associates (Renca). This region, which is composed of 4 million hectares, is located between the States of Amapá and Pará, and was created in 1984, in the presidency of the military government of General João Batista Figueiredo.

The delivery of the mining area by the government of President Michel Temer can cause environmental impacts and can lead to devastation in the area, which is, in fact, a large natural reserve. In addition, the presence of indigenous tribes, with a properly demarcated protection area, can compromise this population. The first decree, published last week, allowed the indiscriminate exploitation in the region, which is larger than Denmark

Due to accusations that Canadian companies were aware, five months ago, of the release of the area and to criticism from environmentalists and the international community, the government decided to change the decree on August 28, with the publication of another decree, which still kept the extinction of the reserve. This change, however, is innocuous, since it maintains the mineral exploration and takes away the sovereignty of a country in the defense of its natural resources.



The large presence of natural reserves and indigenous tribes in the area is a major concern of environmentalists and of the international community.

This is also the concern of UGT. In addition to being in charge of the 2030 Day, which aims to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives proposed by the United Nations (UN), this trade union center develops and implements programs for indigenous tribes - starting with Tocantins, where the Sustainable Island Project trains the indigenous population of Bananal Island, so that they can manage their own process of sustainable development.

Brazil is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources and a large part of them is located in the Amazon, which has already been occupied indiscriminately by multinational companies that, among other aggressions, promote deforestation for grazing and cattle breeding. This region, considered the green lung of the world, has been slowly dying and is the victim of unscrupulous loggers and illegal miners who, in search of profit, daily bleed the Amazon rainforest.

It is up to the government to protect these attacks and not to perform a "general release", like what appears to be the extinction of Renca's. UGT, concerned about the preservation of national sovereignty in the face of attacks on its wealth, reaffirms its position against the extinction of Renca.

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UGT nos seus dez anos de luta

Seminar reinforces resistance against reform

On August 25, the board of management of UGT's State branch of São Paulo (UGT-SP) ended the II Seminar of the entity in the Leisure Center of Fecomerciarior, in Praia Grande. The event, held on August 24 to 25, defined the union action strategies of several affiliated institutions towards Law 13,467, which deals with the labor reform. At the meeting, the first issue of the newspaper of the state central was also distributed.

The seminar was also a moment to decide and promote demonstrations throughout the State of São Paulo to combat this law that removes fundamental rights of workers and suffocates trade unions, as well as to fight against the social security reform, which is being discussed in the Chamber of Deputies, and against President Temer's neoliberal policy, which privileges capital over labor.



Rogério Gomes, president of the Federation of Employees in Tourism and Hospitality of the State of São Paulo, FETHESP, and secretary of Finance of UGT-SP, who was one of the coordinators of the event, spoke at the opening. "The union movement needs to change. We must have the intelligence and wisdom to see that this reform has already been approved and is a reality. In November, we will all have to submit to what is in place," he said. "UGT-SP brings this event to discuss how we are going to act from now and what political strategies we can adopt together to continue our union fight," he added.

During the seminar, coordinated by Luiz Carlos Motta, president of UGT-SP, and attended by more than 300 trade unionists, discussions on the deliberations contained in the "Tupã Charter" were widened. This document is a result of the first seminar of this institution, which was held in June and discussed the direction of the trade union movement at this difficult time in Brazil.

To Motta, UGT-SP is ready to face the challenges. "UGT will not fade with the threats imposed by the labor reform. If the time calls for changes, we will reinvent ourselves, restructure our entities whenever necessary, in the certainty that Brazilian trade unionism will survive this wave of neoliberal attacks."

Union centers have a meeting at UGT's head office

On August 29, UGT held a meeting with representatives of three trade union centers at its national head office in São Paulo.

Força Sindical, Nova Central and CSB were gathered to strengthen the unity of these institutions to face the current political situation, which is clearly unfavorable for the working class. CTB and CUT did not attend because they were holding national congresses and plenary sessions.

The meeting reinforced the importance of trade union centers to remain united so that, even due to all that was approved by the labor reform, these entities can be strengthened to continue to defend the interests of workers.

As a continuation of this meeting, the presidents of the trade union centers will hold a new meeting on September 4, so that the workers' representatives can answer the last details of the demands that will be presented to President Michel Temer.

Janot questions Labor Reform

Attorney General wants to annul points of labor reform

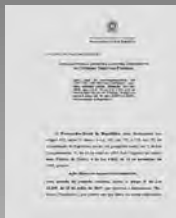
Even before it came into force, the labor reform faces the first lawsuit questioning the 117 amended Articles of the Consolidation of Labor Laws (CLT). Rodrigo Janot, Attorney General of Brazil, filed a Direct Unconstitutionality Action (ADIN) against points of the labor reform law in the Federal Supreme Court (STF).

In the action, filed on August 25, the attorney general questions articles 790-B, 791-A and 844 of the CLT, which regulate points in the labor process and provide for situations in which the unsuccessful party is obligated to bear the costs of the process and legal fees, even if the party proves to not be able to pay and/or a beneficiary of the free Justice.

[Read more >>>](#)



Labor Reform Harms Your Life!



Read the ADIN by Janot

August 28: Bank worker's day

August 28 is an important date for all bank workers in Brazil. This happens because this historic date marks the response of the category with a strong strike and cohesion against the intransigence of bankers, who are usually very tough in the negotiations and do not always meet the just demands of workers. Although bank workers are a class in one of the most prosperous and profitable areas in Brazil and worldwide, they are not always recognized for this.

Therefore, currently, in all the trade union institutions of the country, this date is remembered with parties and other relevant activities. But we are always aware that we must be permanently organized and mobilized for the defense of our rights and interests, especially now that the federal government sponsored and has approved one of the most unjust, unnecessary and untimely changes of the CLT, Consolidation of Labor Laws, in the National Congress, with the enactment of Law 13,467/2017. This Law will take effect on 11/11/2017 and encourages employers to give up, even more, in a situation in which precarious employment has become normal, although work, by Law, has to be decent and with quality.

That is the reason why we must be more and more attentive and vigilant in all institutions that represent bank and insurance workers for a very difficult fight, though we know it is necessary, and that makes us put all our efforts, commitment and engagement to perform it all the 365 days of each year.



CONTEC's Board of Executives

August 28 is a day of tributes

Davi Zaia, President of the Federation of Bank Workers of São Paulo & Mato Grosso do Sul

Bank workers are powerful professionals who fight for the guarantee of their rights. In order to make the exercise of their profession more and more dignified and valued, we need practices that privilege the respect to the physical and moral integrity of these workers through better working conditions and that value and respect the differences.



We know that there are many challenges faced by these dedicated and brave workers, such as uncertainty about the future of their profession, increasingly affected by technological advances, changes in labor laws and weary situations, such as moral harassment, abusive goals and overload caused by the massive closure of job positions and circumstances that, though strongly fought by workers' representatives through the trade union movement, unfortunately are still common to banking work..

Difficulties aside, our category stands out for its strength, which materializes from the combination of two main capacities: organization and mobilization. These capacities allied to the combativeness of bank workers, who do not accept setbacks in their rights, are the main factors that give the banking category bargaining power, which allowed us to celebrate several achievements over time. This makes us an example for other classes of workers in Brazil and also allows us to continue advancing in this constant struggle that is the negotiation for better working conditions.

Due to this union and organization, we have recently achieved a great success: the signature of a two-year agreement, which was signed last year. Successful strategy that assured us the replacement of salary losses and increase in real terms for 2017, an important guarantee amid a scenario of uncertainties brought by the country's political and economic situation, a pioneering one that also places us in a differentiated situation in relation to the other work categories.

The reflection that I seek for this bank worker's day, on the strength of the bank workers category, is precisely to say that each one of you workers, with your courage, enthusiasm, determination and spirit form the power that moves us towards the achievement of the goals of our category. You are our strength, our cause, our motivation and the action behind everything we do. That is why you are so important!

Patah attends event of FESISMERS in Porto Alegre

On August 31, Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, was in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul (RS), where he fulfilled a series of activities, alongside Norton Jubelli, president of UGT's State branch of RS.



Patah was interviewed by Guaíba FM Radio Station, spoke with local trade union leaders and held what was his most important commitment: a lecture on the new labor legislation in the Federation of Municipal Public Servants of Rio Grande do Sul (Fesismers), whose president is comrade Marino da Silva, who has fought hard for the category and given light to these issues that are so important for the labor movement, since we live in delicate moments and we need union and information to continue our fight for a civic, ethical and innovative unionism.

Unionists from the Americas visit Commerce Workers Union

On August 25, Ricardo Patah, president of the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo and of UGT, received a delegation of trade union leaders from Latin America and Central America.

The trade unionists represented the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, Honduras and Colombia. They visited the trade union head office and were able to get to know all the structure and range of services that this institution offers for its category.



"In addition to all the struggle that the union promotes in the interests of commerce workers in São Paulo, we have also developed a series of assistance services that often cover the gaps left by the poor service provided by the State, especially in the area of health. Here we have an ambulatory fully equipped and that attends several areas, even contributing to reduce the number of people in the SUS (Unified Health System) and this is paid with the trade union tax", Patah explained.

The group participated in the International Seminar "Trade Union Strategies in Multinational Enterprises" promoted by the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)**.

ILO launches Global Commission on the future of work

The international high-level body will address the challenges of the rapidly changing world of work.

The **International Labor Organization (ILO)** established a Global Commission on the Future of Work. This new global body should conduct in-depth research into this subject in order to provide an analytical basis for ensuring social justice in the 21st century. This Commission will particularly focus on the relationship between work and society, on the challenge of creating decent jobs for all, on organizing work and production and on governance of work.

During the event, Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General, recalled that these are the key issues of our times, increasingly occupying political life and defining hope and, at times, the fear of families around the world.

"It is fundamentally important that we face these challenges from the conviction that, to us, the future of work is not decided in advance. It is a future that we must build according to the values and preferences we choose and through the policies we have developed and implemented", Mr. Ryder said.



See the presentation of the Global Commission on the Future of Labor

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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