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International Newsletter

General Workers Union UGT Brasil

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GUW in defense of the national sovereignty

The **General Union of Workers (GUW)**, participated this Friday, June, 19, in the Public Act in defense of the national sovereignty of the oil, this event was held in front of the Petrobras headquarter, at the Paulista Avenue, São Paulo.



Nearly three thousand people participated in the act, organized in conjunction by the union centrals, also counting on the effective participation of institutions and social movements, student organizations and other representatives of the civil society.

Workers made it quite clear that they don't want to give in to this strategic richness that the Brazilian oil consists of. Among the words of order of the act were: enough of compliantly auctions; a change in the law 9.478/97 is urgent, this law allows multinationals to keep on exploring oil out of the Brazilian sea, send it abroad and pay very little for that; and also fight for a new oil law that guarantees that all the oil profit gets invested in social programs.

The Pre-Salt Layer is ours

Last August, GUW released a campaign in defense of the oil. The campaign "The Pre-Salt Layer is ours" has as its objective to accompany up close the outcome that will come out of the exploration of these strategic oil mines. It concerns us, to preserve not only the profits that the pre-salt layer will provide to our country, above all to the national sovereignty. And with the pre-salt profits, try and search for an income distribution that the exploration of the oil and gas mine will generate.

GUW insists on creating, through the richness of the new oil mines, a vector of income distribution. Which will happen through the re-investment of profit in government stocks in favor of education, health and sanitation. By establishing laws or rules of fiscal responsibility to the management and application of profits that will come out of the pre-salt exploration.

It is only a matter of patriotism, that GUW has the conviction that it will be serenely evaluated by Brazilian citizens and workers.



President Lula takes speech of GUW to the UN

Canindé Pegado

On June 15, while making a speech at the UN (United Nations) Human Rights Council, the president Lula said, among other things, while evaluating the world crisis, that workers from all over the world cannot afford to be victims of this crisis and especially pay for the damages it has caused. He said with the utmost propriety that governors have the obligation to guarantee employment to people to ensure the economy growth.

Actually, the words of the Brazilian president are basically the ideas **that GUW (General Union of Workers)** has been spreading all over Brazil since the outbreak of this crisis that culminated with the unfair dismissal of thousands of workers. For months the union movement has been harping on the same subject everyday: the working class cannot be responsible for a serious and irresponsible problem provoked by those who command capitalism.

The **National Directorship of GUW** even delivered to the president Lula a document with several suggestions so that the government can face the crisis. One of them is to determine the release of financial resources - from public money or state banks- to companies, as long as they don't fire employees. This proposal was not only accepted as widely spread by the government authority itself. **GUW** doesn't think it is right that employers, pleading damages due to the crisis, provoke mass dismissal of workers and then come crawling and asking for money to the State.

In a general way, it is good for us that are unionized, to get the chance to experience our ideas being used by men that are in charge of a nation. Especially when a Chief-of-State speaks of these proposals at such an important organ as the UN. It's an evident proof that GUW was right while nurturing a seminar specifically to discuss the national problems in this period of crisis. By the way, not only discussing but putting forward proposals from the legitimate representatives of the working class and delivering them to the president Lula

But we are still not entirely satisfied. It is necessary that the president, as a legitimate representative of the workers, demand from the business class - that already feels more relieved, after the malefic effects of this crisis, that try and repair the mistake by re-hiring thousands of workers that unfairly lost their jobs (Canindé Pegado is the National Secretary of GUW).

Lupi talks about the Motorcycle Couriers Project of Brazil

The MTE (Labour and Employment Ministry) ordered a complete study of the situation that motorcycle couriers of Brazil have to go through to Fundacentro (Jorge Duprat Foundation of Health and Safety at Work). The information was brought by the minister Carlos Lupi himself, to the president of **GUW (General Union of Workers)**, **Ricardo Patah**, at the moment of his visit to **Sindimoto (Union of Motorcycle Couriers of São Paulo)** to announce a line of credit of R\$ 100 million to renew the motorcycle fleet.

The request, according to the minister, is part of the project "Motorcycle couriers of Brazil" and will collect information on the activities of motorcycle couriers and motorcycle taxi drivers, traffic accidents records with medical intervention in public hospitals of large urban centers. After getting this statistic research, the Labour Ministry will make a social survey of motorcycle driver involved in accidents.

During a conversation with the presidents **Ricardo Patah** and **Gilberto Almeida** (aka Gil), respectively presidents of GUW and Sindimoto, the **minister Lupi** said that "his intention is to use data from this study to develop public policies directed to professionals that use motorcycles as a work tool. It is necessary to aware the drivers of the importance of driving safe, because the highest value we have is our own lives, and that motorcycle courier laying down on the ground we see on the streets is not just a John Doe, he has a family, kids, and he has to drive his motorcycle to bring bread back home", said Lupi.

In favor of sexual diversity and against prejudice

GUW supports Gay Parade

The **General Union of Workers (GUW)** participated, this year, for the first time, in the Gay Parade of São Paulo, the largest event of the world concerning sexual diversity, with a large mobilization against prejudice and in favor of respect to sexual diversity.



The Gay Parade is organized by APO-GLBT (Association of the Pride Parade of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgenders) and counted on a sound truck of GUW.

Cleonice de Souza Caetano, Secretary of Health and Safety at Work of GUW, was responsible for the organization, mobilization and participation of the institution in the event. "Participating in the Gay Parade is the opportunity that we (commerce and service workers) learned, under practical terms, to deal with a group that is our customer and spends in services and products in the city of São Paulo, each Gay Parade, over R\$ 180 million in only one week", states Cleonice Caetano.

Ricardo Patah, president of GUW, affirms that participating in the Gay Parade is the continuity of policies adopted by the central to support the sexual diversity and enlarge its fight against prejudice and discrimination, whether it is sexual, racial or related to creed. "GUW is plural because it believes and practices the intransigent defense of equal opportunities to all of us Brazilians", said Ricardo Patah.

GUW also supported the **Good Citizenship and Respect to Sexual Diversity Award**, given to legal and physical persons that supported the fight against prejudice and homophobia. The award was given on June, 2, at an event at the Sesc Pompeia, in São Paulo.

GUW participates in National Conference of Communication

The **General Union of Workers (GUW)** got together with other union centrals (CUT, CGTB, CTB, Union Force) on June, 17, to discuss the participation in **the 1st National Conference of Communication (CONFECOM)**, that will be held this year, in Brasilia, on December 1 to 3.



The National Secretary of Publicizing and Communication, Marcos Afonso de Oliveira, represented GUW at the meeting that had as its objective to unite forces to elaborate public policies of communication and thus rupture the fences of the media estate.

To **Marcos Afonso**, "by acting collectively and fighting for regular standards, the centrals enlarge the conditions to become victorious on their claims, against powerful interests that are articulated so that nothing changes".

GUW and the centrals claim for a change in the regulatory mark, at first the effective regulation of concessions of radio and television, establishment of social control mechanisms, by instituting and effectively supervising the National, State and Municipal Councils of Communication with an institutional figure. The centrals also defend the act of making available the free access to broadband internet, popularization of Digital Television, and a free space on radios and television, to highly recognized union institutions.

The theme of the **1st CONFECOM** is "Communication: means to the construction of rights and good citizenship in the digital era".

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Congress ratifies the foundation of GUW- Goiás

On June, 18, it took place in Goiânia, the Foundation Congress of the **General Union of Workers (GUW)** of the **State of Goiás - GO**.



The Congress was held in the facilities of the ACIEG auditorium - Commerce, Industrial and Services Association of the State of Goiás and counted on the expressive presence of leaderships from the union environment.

The secretaries Chiquinho Pereira (Organization and Union Policies Department) and José Moacyr Malvino Pereira (Finances Department) were representing the national GUW and composing the table.

The president of the Union of Bank Employees of the State of Goiás, Manoel do Bomfim Dias Sales, was elected president of the Executive State Board of GUW - GO, which will also count on the participation of the following members: Luis Roberto Dias (General Secretary), Antonio Afonso (Finances Secretary), Sebastião Teo and José Nilton Carvalho (vice-presidents), Jacira Carvalho (Women secretary), among others.

GUW from Santa Catarina nurtures seminar

The GUW (General Union of Workers) from Santa Catarina nurtured the 3rd Seminar on Health and Safety of Workers "Rogério Ianzer Jardim" on June, 19.

The initiative counted on the participations of Sintesc (Union of Technicians of Safety at Work of Santa Catarina) and the National Department of Health and Safety at Work of GUW. The event was hosted at the auditorium of the Bertaso Hotel, in Chapecó.



The objective of the seminar was to make a wide debate on combined issues related to health and safety at work, clearing out and deepening along with the organizations involved in this issue, strengthening the compromise in the fights within the union movement. This seminar, in its third stage, proposes means that contribute with the appreciation of life and health of the worker, according to Cleonice Caetano Souza, National Secretary of the Health and Safety at Work Department of GUW.



"The General Union of Workers (GUW) reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " **Ricardo Patah** – UGT's President

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