



## 6th Working Class March gathers more than 30 thousand people in Brasilia

The rain did not dissipate workers from all over Brazil that were gathering at the Esplanada dos Ministérios. Representatives from centrals delivered the march agenda to the presidents of the Chamber and the Senate. 40 hours is their main claim.



On November, 11, the 6th Working Class March was getting the attention of everyone that was passing by downtown Brasilia. The event, organized by **GUW (General Union of Workers)** and other union centrals - CUT, Union Force, NCTS, CTB and CGTB - gathered more than 30 thousand workers from all over Brazil.

Protesters walked from the parking lot of the Mané Garrincha Stadium and followed through the Eixo Monumental, walking over to the National Congress, where a political act took place.

Besides the presence of workers, the march counted on the participation of representatives from social movements, **UNE (National Student's Union)** and **MST (Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement)**, debuting at the mobilization promoted by trade union centrals.

On its sixth edition, the march has the following claims (other than the one related to the reduction of working hours for shift work): valorization of the minimum wage with the approval of the PL 1/07; legal ratification of the ILO Conventions 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service) and 158 - Termination of Employment; withdraw from outsourcing law projects - PL 4.302/98 and PL 4.330/04; PEC (Constitution amendment proposal) 438/01 approval, end of slave work; and, yet, regulatory framework for the pre-salt layer.

The **President of GUW, Ricardo Patah**, defended the end of the social security factor.

"Besides issues that concern us, such as the reduction of working hours for shift work down to 40 weekly hours, we will defend, with all of our strength, the extinguishment of the social security factor, because we consider it a knockout on the retired and pensioner people that contributed, while they were working, and they are damaged once they retire", the chairperson stated.

**Chamber meeting** - In a hearing with the president of the Chamber, the deputy Michel Temer, union chairpersons asked the parliamentarian to estimate a date for the PEC (Constitution Amendment Proposal) 231/95 plenary voting session, this proposal reduces from 44 down to 40 weekly working hours for shift work.

The president of the Chamber made compliments on the union chairpersons action. To Temer, the Legislative Power "works under pressure". He reminded that, in his tenure, he received more than five times the visit of workers representatives. "That is extremely positive". Despite the appeal of union centrals, Temer did not schedule the PEC voting session. "We cannot schedule a date".

### National Seminar on Economy is a huge success

The National Seminar on Economy that **GUW (General Union of Workers)** promoted on October, 29, at the Braston Hotel, downtown São Paulo, was filled with success. The main topic was "The international economic crisis and perspectives for Brazil".



One of the highlights of the Seminar on Economy was the participation of the president of the Central Bank, Henrique Meirelles, that, as reminded by the president of GUW, Ricardo Patah, talked, for the first time, to an audience exclusively composed of workers.

To Henrique Meirelles, though hit by the crisis, the Brazilian economy should keep on growing in 2010, showing quite some optimism regarding the growth indexes.

"The growth estimates are raising and it wouldn't surprise me if it reached 5%", the president of the Central Bank stated. Meirelles made an explanation of nearly 40 minutes on the economic situation of Brazil ahead of the world economic crisis.

Meirelles ended the seminar that had been opened by **Luiz Paulo Rosemberg**, from Rosemberg & Associates, who discoursed on "The World and Brazil in 2010: Clear sky or turbulence?". Rosemberg, using a simple language, made a quick description on the origins of the international financial crisis and its consequences to the rest of the world, emphasizing that the world will still feel those effects for at least 18 months. As for Brazil, he said that the crisis arrived at its best moment due to the economic politics implanted by the president Lula that managed to avoid larger overturns in the internal market.

The economist and secretary of the **GUW Economic Issues Department, John Fernandes**, talked about the elements of the world financial crisis. Using graphs, tried and showed the audience some of the points that culminated with the "outbreak" of the crisis and the main measures taken by the president of the United States, Barak Obama. The Economy consultant of GUW, Domério Nassar de Oliveira, talked about "Elements to a new economic policy".

Talking about economist improvisation, **Márcio Pochmann** covered the topic "The impacts of the World Crisis on the labour world in Brazil", he began criticizing the fact that "some 500 large corporations are saying what should be done in economic politics" and he stated that Brazil has come out of crisis pretty well, quoting episodes that happened in the Empire Era, in the transition to the Republic and making comments on the measures that were taken in the 30's to get over the great depression of 1929.

He warned about the changes are still to come in the employment area when the third sector will begin to be essential, this way, union chairpersons should be prepared. He also talked about changes in the family structure with couples having less children.

The success of the event was due to the quality of the special guests, covering a "complex issue which is the economy, however, just as important to union chairpersons as to the working class", according to the president of **GUW, Ricardo Patah**, while opening the event.

### Project to a new Brazil

Leading figures discuss project to a new Brazil at the National Meeting of Contractor Workers.

The president of the **General Union of Workers (GUW)** participated on October, 28, in the opening of the National Meeting of Contractor Workers, in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina. The event was promoted by **Fenascom**, an institution presided by **Moacyr Pereira**, and **Contrapres**, which is presided by **Roberto Santiago**. Patah stated that **GUW** is a union central from the foundation of the social pyramid and that, unlike what has been recently stated by the secretary of Education of São Paulo, the unions are the ones that fight for an improvement in education, the same way they do it for improvements in wages, life quality and citizens health.



**Moacyr Pereira**, in his speech, stated that the meeting is a platform launch of the Brazilian working class mobilizations that wants 40 weekly hours, without reducing the wages still this year. And the search for short and medium term results in worthy work, with an honest pay and a social valorization of workers.

**Roberto Santiago**, vice-president of GUW and Federal Deputy (Green Party) made a retaliation speech to the Brazilian union movement and especially to the president of **GUW**, **Ricardo Patah**, regarding an article published last Sunday in the magazine *Veja*. "What started out in *Veja* is an orchestration of the elites against the large mobilization of the Brazilian working class through its union centrals, that have a viable agenda within the parliament and demand, with determination, the reduction of the working hours for shift work down to 40 weekly hours", he said. "What *Veja* magazine is trying to fight against is the Brazilian workers determination into the consolidation of the project to a new Brazil", Roberto Santiago stated.

### 1st ITUC World Women's Conference

"Decent Work, Decent Life for Women: Trade Unions Taking the Lead for Economic and Social Justice & Equality" was the heading of the 1st ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation) World Women's Conference, in Brussels, capital of Belgium, from October 19 to the 21, and counted on the presence of representatives from GUW (General Union of Workers).

The results of the Conference highlighted the importance of positive action measures and strict accompanying procedures to reach gender equality, as well as unionization campaigns for workers, as the **General Secretary of ITUC**, **Guy Ryder**, pointed out.

"The benefits of the unionization, for female workers as well as for male workers, are clear. The protection and support offered by unions are particularly important in the context of the current world economic crisis, when jobs and the life conditions of millions of workers are seriously endangered", Ryder said.

The participation of GUW - Brazil in this important World Women's Conference reinforces and reassures the centrals commitment in the fight for gender equality in the job market. GUW was represented by **Mônica Mata Roma**, **Adjunct-Secretary of the Integration for the Americas Department**, **Josineide de Camargo Souza**, **Secretary of the Social Policies Department** and **Rosane Sasse Gieburowski**, **Adjunct-Secretary of the Women Department**.

### Sintelpost affiliates with G UW

Sintelpost (Trade Union of Workers in Post Office Logistic in the State of São Paulo), presided by Claudionor Egídio Nascimento, is the most recent **G UW (General Union of Workers)** affiliated institution.

The solemnity of signing the affiliating document took place in the morning of October, 30, simultaneously with the receipt of its union letter.

The **president of G UW, Ricardo Patah**, highlighted the arduous work of the directorship under the leadership of the president **Claudionor Egídio Nascimento** to call everyone out for a combined work, "in order to change Brazil through education and capacitation of workers", he emphasized.

The National Secretary of the Employment Department, **Luíz Antonio de Medeiros**, while delivering the letter, said to the president Claudionor: "This document is a certificate of baptism of your union", wishing that the meaning of this document will be strong and representative "not sucking up to the government", he explained. The **National Secretary of G UW, Canindé Pegado**, while passing the affiliation document for the president Claudionor Egídio Nascimento to sign, reminded that "in G UW, there is no such thing as large union or small union, they're all treated the same", putting himself at the disposal of the Sintelpost board of directors.



### Meeting of the Technic Board of CCSCS



On October 22 and 23, in Uruguay, it took place a meeting with the Supranational Technic Board of the Southern Cone Coordinator of Central Trade Unions. The **General Union of Workers (G UW)** was represented in the meeting by the secretary of the Public Policies Department, Valdir Vicente, who represents the central at the coordinator plenary session.

Representatives from the following trade union centrals participated in the meeting: **G UW Brazil**, CUT and CUT-A from Paraguay, CUT Brazil, CGT from Argentina and PIT-CNT from Uruguay.

### G UW Book brings up topics from the seminar Brazil and Latin America

**G UW (General Union of Workers)** is releasing the book "**Brazil and Latin America: Collaboration and Conflict**". Its content, according to the organizer Danilo Nolasco Cortes Marinho is based on the topics discussed in the seminar Brazil and Latin America that G UW promoted on March, 17, this year, in Brasilia. "Based on its concept of democracy and unionism towards the citizens, G UW, through this publication is presenting to the workers and the general society, polemic issues for analysis and debates", Nolasco says



"The General Union of Workers (G UW) 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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