



## President Dilma

Greetings from workers of UGT to the president Dilma

Dear President Dilma

You are the first women to be elected president of Brazil. Me and my fellow colleagues from UGT are very proud of that. We wish that your tenure is filled with success.



The president Lula worked hard towards all the Brazilians, but he dedicated a special attention to the minorities. We hope that you will keep up doing the same. We will be your partners in every project that is essential to Brazil and, especially, essential to the workers, eternal allies of the president Lula and, definitely, of you too, Ms President.

We must keep Brazil in the same development level observed in the eight years of the Lula government. In order to so, it is necessary to keep a strict control of inflation, create new job positions and increase investments in health, education and security. Harbors, airports and transportation also need to go through a modernization.

It is essential to increase the professional qualification so that young people and unemployed workers have access to the job market, that the retired people should be given more attention and alternatives to substitute the Social Security factor should be found, it should be traded for something more fair and that wouldn't cause a decrease in the retirements and that the minimum wage should not be just equal to the minimum, instead, it would represent a fair amount to the Brazilian worker.

Ms President, we must also turn our efforts into getting Brazil to be prepared for the World Cup 2014 and the Olympic Games 2016.

You can count on our support. You can count on the support of workers.

Greetings.

**Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president**

### Brazilian people elect Dilma Rousseff

Brazilians have elected its first female president. **Dilma Rousseff**, from PT party, has won in the second run-off, in which she was running for president against **José Serra**, from the PSDB party. The electoral battle ended with 55,7 million votes against 43,7 million votes that Serra got. In her first speech as the highest representative of Brazil, Dilma made a commitment to an important range of duties, among them, the eradication of misery.

Due to the fact that she's the first women to run the eighth economy of the world, considering that even the position of vice-president has never been assumed by a women before, Rousseff could not forget to emphasize that her first commitment after the elections will be "honoring the Brazilian women so that this fact, an unprecedented event, might turn into a natural circumstance and that it might happen again and increase" (...) "Equality of opportunity among men and women is an essential principle of democracy", she added.

Minimum wage - The elected president wants to approve a new rule regarding the readjustment of the minimum wage. Her transition staff will negotiate a new mechanism with trade union centrals, as well as with the Lula government, that will start being effective in 2011.

The idea is setting up a new pattern to avoid that, through the current rule, would start next year: the minimum would not have a real adjustment, being adjusted only due to inflation.

### UGT wants higher minimum wage in 2011

UGT and other trade union centrals want a higher minimum wage than the one proposed by the government.



In a meeting with the general writer of the 2011 proposal from the State Budget Department, senator Gim Argello (PTB-DF), on November 04, in Brasilia, UGT and other trade union centrals defended the establishment of a national wage floor in R\$ 580,00.

Gim considered pertinent the proposal of centrals to use the GDP of 2010 and not the one from 2009 as the basis of the adjustment of the minimum wage, which, due to the world financial crisis, was equal to zero.

The **federal deputy Roberto Santiago, vice-president of UGT** and writer of the project of the current minimum wage, is also engaged so that the real adjustments of the minimum wage are increased, fact that has already turned into quite an achievement to active workers, as well as for retired workers and pensioners. To Santiago, that participated in the meeting, "the economic moment is favorable to a minimum wage higher than the R\$ 538,15 proposed by the government".

Unionists observed that, due to an economic recover, several professional classes have been receiving increases that are higher than inflation and, therefore, adjusting the minimum based only in the variation of the National Consumer Price Index (INPC) would keep the amount displaced.

Senator **Paulo Paim (PT party-RS)**, was also present in the meeting, and said that the request from unionists is fair, and answering these demands wouldn't cause any threat to the stability of the public budget.

### Urgency to achieve security in mines

To ILO, the accident of miners in Chile demonstrates an "urgency" to achieve security.



**Juan Somavía, director general of ILO** (International Labor Organization), pointed out that the experience of the 33 men that were rescued from a mine in northern Chile "showed, to the world, the urgency to do a lot more for the workers security".

Somavía warned that, despite the fact that 32 Chilean and 1 Bolivian workers were able to get out alive, from the landslide that blocked the entrance of the deposits trapping them in that place, "there were 32 miners that were killed this year in Chile in similar accidents, the numbers in Latin America surpass 200 workers".

He added that what happened in the San Jose mine, in Copiapó, also evidenced "that we cannot mention a modern economy or a specific development of the XXI century" under such events, "that fortunately had a happy ending, as this fact that hit their lives for over two months".

"There is a concept that we cannot escape from: the idea that the accidents and diseases are tricks of the trade is unacceptable," stated the employee. "Everyday, 6.300 people die in the world due to accidents at work or due to work related diseases", he emphasized.

A few weeks from the **American Regional Meeting that ILO** will make in December in its office in Santiago, Somavía reminded that the mining sector employes nearly 1% of the workforce in the world, and is responsible for 8% of the serious labor accidents.

"An increase in security is a necessary fact to workers. It contributes to the productivity of companies and reinforces the government politics", he added. (*Ansa, 30.10.2010*)

### Slave portratit

The lousy working conditions, which are analog to slavery, the solitude of families that are left with no parents or brothers and that must move to further places in order to search for jobs, and the moment that these workers are rescued. This cycle of contemporary slavery in Brazil is depicted in the book "Slave Portrait".

With pictures of **João Roberto Ripper** and **Sérgio Carvalho** and elaborated by the International Labor Organization (ILO) with the support of Fundação Vale, the book is being distributed to institutions that are related to this issue, such as authorities from the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches, as well as NGOs, students and journalists.

"Our goal, by promoting this work was creating another tool to mobilize the society. Nowadays, Brazil, compared to other countries, is quite advanced in mechanisms to fight against slave work, but we are still far from eradicating this problem", explains the coordinator of the ILO project against slave work, **Luiz Machado**.



The pictures were taken in Pará, in Campos (RJ), Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and Ceará. They are followed by texts written by people that are involved with the battle against slave work, such as Leonardo Sakamoto, from the NGO Repórter Brasil, and Laís Abramo, director of the ILO office in Brazil.

[Retrato escravo \(pdf\)](#)

### Message from UGT to trade union centrals in Argentina



UGT, through its president Ricardo Patah, sympathizes, with its co-partners, trade union centrals from Argentina, with the decease of the ex-president of Argentina, Néstor Kirchner, on October 27.

Undoubtedly, the partisan politics of Argentina is going through an enormous loss, given the importance that its ex-president represented, a person that brightly managed to lead his country on a path towards development under the aegis of democracy and respect to citizens, reasons which made UGT communicate to the Argentinean colleagues the sorrowful feelings of the Brazilian workers.

**Ricardo Patah, president**

### UN approves the end of the embargo against Cuba

The UN (United Nations) General Assembly approved under a majority of its members, a resolution asking, once again, for the end of the economic and commercial embargo that lasts almost half century imposed by the United States against Cuba.



The document was almost unanimously supported by the 192 members of UN. 187 members voted in favor, two against (USA and Israel) and there were three abstentions (Marshall Islands, Palau and Micronesia). The decision was taken in a meeting that took place on October 27, in New York, United States.

Since the beginning of November 1992, UN has been approving an annual resolution to condemn the American embargo. During the meeting, the Cuban chancellor, Bruno Rodriguez, reiterated his criticism against the "hostile act" of the United States and asked for the unilateral end of the embargo, imposed in 1960, that he considers a policy of genocide and economic war. (*Arlindo Ribeiro/Press UGT*)

### UGT makes protest against violence of the Police from Bahia

The board of directors of UGT, astonished with the violence and the acts of explicit barbarism made by agents of the State of Bahia against Bernardes Souza Ferreira, an African-American woman and religious leader, on October 23, in the D. Hélder Câmara settlement, Ilhéus, wants to express its indignation to the savage acts practiced by the police of Bahia, and calls out all the segments of the Brazilian society to not loose the capacity to feel outraged with injustice and violence, to demand an exemplary punishment of the ones that are responsible for such atrocities.

This case of extreme violence and disrespect to human rights and religious values, that are guaranteed by the Constitution of Brazil, took place on October 23, occasion in which policemen, with no warrants, invaded the settlement, an area administrated by the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (Incra), where acts of police violence and disrespect to constitutional and religious values took place.

"The General Union of Workers (UGT) 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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