



Global



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July 11: National Fight Day with Strikes and Mobilization

UGT, along with other trade union centrals (CGTB, CSB, CTB, CUT, CSP, FS and NCST) and social movements, is organizing the National Day of Fight with Strikes and Mobilization, which will mobilize the whole country on July 11.

Through a meeting that took place at UGT's head office, in Sao Paulo, the trade union centrals defined the agenda of the day in defense of Brazilian workers.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, recognized that the ideals that were defended by students in the last protests have been defended for a long time by UGT and other trade union centrals and social movements. Patah also stated that the spontaneous movement that was born in the grassroots and in the streets all over Brazil reflects the common feeling of the whole society. He recalls that the trade union centrals do not fight only for the guarantee of the rights of the current workers, they also act in defense of retirees who already contributed a lot to the construction of our country and our students, future managers of Brazil that all of us want.

Not to mention other fight ideals of the central, such as issues of outsourced workers, among others.

Over the following days, trade union centrals should have a meeting to define strategies and methodologies that will be adopted on the National Day of Fight with Strikes and Mobilization.

On June 26, president Dilma Rousseff received the visit of unionists that represented trade union centrals who, once more, presented an agenda of workers requests that, however, did not get negotiated, due to this fact, trade union centrals maintained their position to hold the National Fight Day with Strikes and Mobilization on July 11.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT and Canindé Pegado, UGT's general secretary, attended the event, on the occasion in which the president asked them to present suggestions for a referendum on political reform.

"The trade union movement has always protested over improvements in health, education, public transportation, against corruption or against high interest rates, among other items on the agenda that reached a national level thanks to protests that are currently taking place. These issues are against the interests of a minority, thus, whenever the working class goes to the streets to demand changes, big communication conglomerates were the first to criticize, but are now making compliments to the Brazilian democracy and to the right to protest", concluded Ricardo Patah

NOSSA PAUTA

- Fim do Fator Previdenciário;
- Jornada de 40 horas semanais, sem redução salarial;
- Reajuste digno para os aposentados;
- Mais investimentos em saúde, educação e segurança;
- Transporte público de qualidade;
- Fim do Projeto de Lei 4330 que amplia a terceirização;
- Reforma Agrária;
- Fim dos leilões do petróleo

Brazil and USA: protest against Nissan

On June 27, the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo held an act in front of a Nissan dealership in the East Side of the city.

UGT participated in the protest along with UAW (United Auto Workers - a trade union that represents American automobile industry workers) and the trade union centrals CUT and Força Sindical, affiliated trade unions as well as workers and directors of Nissan Mississippi (United States).



The goal of the protest was joining forces of Brazil and USA to step pressure on Nissan in order for it to accept the unionization of American workers, as well as improving the situation of employment in the factories in both countries and enabling better working conditions.

"We want to build an equalitarian nation. We are going to fight together so that workers of Nissan United States achieve their rights. Not only we are sympathetic to them, we will remain in the fight for the rights of Brazilian workers as well. This Nissan dealership here in the East Side, for example, opens every Sunday. This is wrong. According to a collective convention, this dealership can only open two Sundays per month", said Ricardo Patah, president of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo and president of UGT.

"In March, I attended a protest in Mississippi and listened to frightening statements. Over there, whoever joins a trade union is threatened to be fired", added Patah.

Bob King, president of UAW, also attended the protest: "To us, Brazil is a source of hope. I know that you are engaged in the fight for not working on Sundays. Count on our help, as well as we count on yours for the right to join unions. Thanks a lot for your support".

José Gonzaga da Cruz, vice-president of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, was also touched by the solidarity among workers. "This is an example to Brazil and to the world. We will always be together and engaged in all fights that search for improvements to workers."

Danny Glover: there is a resemblance between acts in Brazil and in the USA

During a trip throughout Brazil to advertise the world campaign defending the right of those who work at the Nissan Plant in Mississippi to join trade unions, the American actor Danny Glover said that there are similarities between the protests that are taking to the streets of Brazil and the movement Occupy Wall Street.

"I believe it is possible to make such analogy, it would not be unfair. The Brazilian government is led by workers, who have performed a strategic role over the last two national governments. In the United States, though president Obama is understanding towards workers, the type of relationship that we are building is not exactly what we expect it to be", said Glover after the meeting, at the Palacio do Planalto, with Gilberto Carvalho, head of the Presidency General Secretary.

To Glover, the "voice of the streets" is a sign of a higher and more solid Brazilian democracy. "Not only it is an opportunity to the governments, but also to the institutions listen to what is happening in the streets. Democracy does not work with no divergence, without free expression of opinions. This is an important moment in the history of Brazil, occasion in which all of us are able to listen to the voice of people expressed in protests", he affirmed.

June 25:

End of violence against women!

In June, the permanent campaign of the Women's Committee of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) highlights the situation of violence against women in Central America and Mexico.

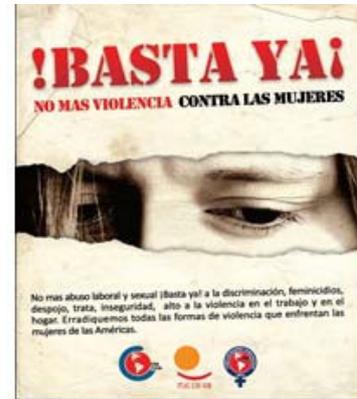
Within the scope of the continental campaign "Enough! End of violence against women", the committee expresses its deep preoccupation and appeals to action towards the denunciation and elimination of persistent displays of violence faced by women in the Americas. While analyzing different data on violence suffered by women in Central America and Mexico in 2012, numbers are terrifying: 1.600 women were murdered, out of which Guatemala and Honduras are the countries with the highest number of homicides: 560 and 520 respectively.

There are not only cases of murder but also cases of domestic and sexual violence, and it might be emphasized that in Nicaragua the General Attorney received more than 32.000 complaints. Besides that, the Institute of Legal Medicine of El Salvador reported 3.436 cases of sexual violence.

When it comes to Mexico, the violence against women doubled over the last years, but in northeast Mexican States it grew 400% and in northwest States it grew 200%, according to a study presented by the Interior Ministry to the Senate. Impunity of female homicides is high. Considering cases that were recorded by the Observatorio Ciudadano Nacional del Femicidio (OCNF), out of 890 cases that were accounted for, only 40 of them had a sentence.

The trade union movement of the Americas considers that a global strategy to eliminate violence against women and girls should be strictly connected to an agenda against poverty, one that would include a better life for women, with decent work, a rewarding wage and access to a minimum level of social protection.

Due to that, TUCA and CMTA urge the international community and national authorities to recognize the particular vulnerability of women to eliminate violence with an adequate protection and to overcome the pattern of impunity.



UGT has a main role in the 102nd International Labour Conference



Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, defends a World Conference on Production and Employment at ILO.

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Exchange on environment at UGT's head office

In order to discuss issues related to the environment and exchange experiences on the world sustainability, global warming, climate changes and the importance of union practices in this context, UGT receives the visit of representatives of the Trade Union Central of Indonesia (KSBSI) and of the Confederation of Christian Unions of Belgium (CSC).



The exchange between these three countries began on July 1, at UGT's head office, in Sao Paulo, and it will last a week with an internal program, in which UGT will present the trade union, political, economic and social scenario and will visit other places in order for guests to get to know up close the Brazilian experiences, such as the first coop of recycled waste pickers.

In the opening, Ricardo Patah talked about the relevance of this exchange of experiences, that might sign important paths for these countries and contribute to the life improvement of the world population. "This space provides reflection and debate so that we might search together the path for saving not only the environment, but also the environment of the worker in this process".

Patah also talked about this special moment that Brazil is experiencing with protests that took place in the streets all over the country over the last weeks and said that the trade union centrals will make a huge mobilization on July 11. "Enjoy this moment and take the reflection of the Brazilian people, which is kind and hospitable, but at the same time aware that we might become a better country". After that, the president of UGT talked about the climate changes as a phenomenon that has affected the whole world, especially in the region of Indonesia.

Togar Marbun, general secretary of KSBSI, thanked the opportunity and the reception of UGT and said that he believes that this meeting will be much more enlightening and that he expects to bring the best Brazilian practices to face the effects of climate change to Indonesians.

Stijn Sintubin, representative of CSC, said that the Belgium confederation will also make an exchange with other countries to deal with relevant issues that are quite challenging such as the gender issue, domestic work, trade union organization in countries with high rates of violence and on informal economy.

Aiming to acquaint the guests, Luiz Gustavo Walfrido Filho, UGT's secretary of youth, presented a general overview on the Brazilian political, economic, social and trade union conjuncture.

In the afternoon, Domingos Fernandes, from UGT's sustainability committee, Iván Gonzales, political coordinator of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), Maria Emeninta, representative of KSBSI and Stijn Sintubin, representative of CSC presented an overview on the environment and on the climate changes in Brazil and Indonesia and the interference of these changes in the life of the population. (Giselle Corrêa, UGT's newsroom)

Commerce workers union of Sao Paulo: wage campaign



In the wage campaign of the Commerce Workers Union, members of the class were able to vote in several options of clause for the Collective Convention 2013-2014.

The clauses were voted in the commerce workers assembly on May 21, but the consultation continues, in real time, in the website of this institution.

On July 1, Ricardo Patah, president of the Commerce Workers Union, handed the agenda of requests of the wage campaign to Abram Szajman, president of the Federation of Commerce (Fecomercio).

Danny Glover with UGT, in Parana

The actor Danny Glover, who came in search of support of Brazilian unionists for the workers cause of Nissan assembly line in the United States, participated on June 28 in the assembly organized by the Union of Metallurgists of Curitiba, in front of the Nissan/Renault assembly line, in São José dos Pinhais.



The actor and activist of human rights was with Bob King, president of UAW - United Auto Workers (UAW), whose institution represents metallurgists and other classes; Sérgio Butka, president of the Union of Metallurgists of Curitiba; Paulo Rossi, president of UGT-Parana; Sidnei Curral, UGT's national secretary of International Affairs of the Americas; Solomar Rockembach, member of UGT's board of executives and Eduardo Pavão, advisor of UGT's national president.

UGT in the court to restore loses of FGTS correction

UGT went to court with collective lawsuits to redeem the monetary adjustment on deposits of the FGTS (employee's dismissal fund), which has not been invested since 1999. The losses reach billions of reais, since the adjustment did not get invested in the FGTS workers accounts, and it ranges from 48,3% to 88,3%.

Workers losses are huge and the lawyer's office hired by UGT pointed out that from 1999 to 2013, the sum of the FGTS adjustment were wrongly calculated. That caused the workers heritage to go down the drain, due to changes created by the government and by the central bank in the remuneration of FGTS accounts.

The collective lawsuit is sponsored by UGT, but once in court, every corresponding affiliated trade union will continue the process.



The UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores do Brasil.

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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