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Dictatorship never again!

On March 31, UGT, a trade union central that represents 8 millions workers and more than 1,160 trade unions in Brazil, remembers the violence of the military coup that took place exactly 50 years ago, in 1964.

This was one of the most baneful periods of the Brazilian history and it cannot be forgotten, especially to avoid it from happening again.

The military dictatorship lasted long 21 years and, until now, unionists, workers and society still suffer from traces of brutality and disrespect to human rights that took place in that period. Children of missing parents still suffer from the sudden disappearance of their parents. Fathers and mothers still did not give up on trying to find the bodies of their children and getting to know what happened to them.

Brazil still suffers from damages left by dictatorship and, in order for that not to happen ever again, it is essential not to forget. That is why UGT and the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo are organizing a series of event that mark 50 years of the coup.

A huge banner was placed in front of the union's building with the goal of reminding the population the relevance of this date. It is not about a celebration, since there is nothing to celebrate from a time of violence, delays and censorship. What is being done today is awareness of what this period represented to the Brazilians.



Public act "Dictatorship never again"



On March 31, the yard of the 36th Sao Paulo Police Department, located on Tutoia street, in Paraiso neighborhood, was taken by nearly a thousand protestors, who participated in the public act "dictatorship never again", organized by the State True Commission Rubens Paiva.

This place was the stage of a protest that was chosen to recall 50 years of the coup that ousted president João Goulart in 1964.

[Read more>>>>](#)



Public act "Dictatorship never again"

This Police Department was the head office of DOI-Codi Sao Paulo, one of the main centers of political repression and of torture in Brazil. According to data of the commission, nearly 8 thousand people were tortured in that place from 1969-1978. Out of this amount, nearly 50 political prisoners were murdered, among them, journalist Vladimir Herzog.

Once this act started, organizers read a protest in which they ask for a review of the 1979 Amnesty Law. "This is the only way we will be able to break through the inheritance left by dictatorship and that still covers violators of human rights nowadays", said the text. This law discharged all of those who committed political crimes during the military regime.

Protestors also read a list of political disappearances. Each name that was read was followed by other people saying "here".

Participants also chanted the Socialist International hymn in a tribute to communist militants who were killed in that place. Singing this hymn, in the dictatorship era, was considered an insult to the military regime. According to Ivan Seixas, militant of the armed group Movimento Revolucionário Tiradentes (Revolutionary Movement Tiradentes), who was arrested at the age of 16, prisoners at DOI-Codi used to whistle the melody whenever an inmate was removed from their cells to be tortured.



Among the attendees, there were Alexandre Padilha (PT), Health minister and possible Sao Paulo State governor candidate, accompanied by his father, Anivaldo Padilha - illegally arrested and tortured in DOI-Codi, in 1970.



[More pictures](#)

Anivaldo Padilha said that this is the first time, since 1970, that he comes back to this place. "I'm extremely touched. The torture scenes are coming back to me, but at the same time I feel like this is a victory. It is a kind of retake of this place", he stated. The father of the ex-minister was a militant of Ação Popular, the same movement to which José Serra (PSDB party), ex-governor of Sao Paulo, used to be part of.

Memorial. Since last September, the City Truth Commission Vladimir Herzog requests the eviction of the Police Department to turn it into a memorial of missing people. In January, the Council of Defense of the Historical, Archeological, Artistic and Touristic Heritage of the State of Sao Paulo formalized the protection of this building.

With the act that took place this Monday, protestors tried to reinforce the request to advance in this project. In January, the State Culture Department informed that this case is under analysis.

Fernando Haddad (PT party), mayor of Sao Paulo, attended this event and was favorable to the creation of the memorial. "Everything that can be done to keep the memory of the dark times of dictatorship is useful to society and is educative. Memory should be preserved in order for mistakes not to be made again" affirmed Haddad. Pictures: [FH Mendes](#)





II UGT Gender and Race Conference

II UGT Gender and Race Conference

Conference ends with proposals for the creation of two new departments. Roots of the African culture end the II UGT Gender and Race Conference, showing that women are strong and have their value.

On March 27, the II National UGT Gender and Race Conference, which took place at the Terras Atlas Hotel, in Itapecerica da Serra, SP State, came to an end. A strategic planning for UGT's departments of Women and Human Diversity were drawn. Among the issues that were discussed, there were the proposal of creating the National Departments on LGBT issues and related to domestic workers.



In Yoruba (an African dialect), it was shown that women are the ones who give birth to human beings, emphasizing that she is the intelligence on Earth and that without women men are not complete. Therefore, women are able to achieve, once again, their leadership in all areas that they occupy and their presence, both at work and at home, is very important.

Two days of debate allied to what came from the last conference led participants to have a meeting and raise actions that would be adequate to implement the trade union grassroots of each one, in order to guarantee an economic, political and trade union autonomy; what to do in order to face different types of violence against women and discrimination against African American people and against the LGBT community. Out of these activities, general, regional and local proposals were consolidated.

The issue of violence against women and the need to warn to the black race issue advanced in the conference. Cássia Bufelli explains that this document with proposals raised in the Conference will be sent to presidents of UGT's State branches, so that they are able, through assemblies, to create a general proposal of UGT that should be put to vote in the 3rd congress of the central, to collaborate with public policies and private actions.

As an example, there is the pink wagon in trains and subways to end the embarrassment and violence against women that are harassed in the route home-work and companies putting in their programs the construction of daycares, as a way to fitting the schedule of working moms and enabling them to achieve positions of high representability and not just secondary professions.

A more active trade union movement - along with workers, in the job market and schools -, with supporting material, carefully aiming to informal work, a workgroup concerning domestic workers, wage equality and compensatory policies - trade union centrals stimulate public policies regarding the issue of overcoming race, sex and gender were highlights of the activities that will still be developed.

Cristina Rezende, representing Netinho De Paula, from the Department of Promotion of Racial Equality, attended the event. "We have many fights here, the fight of women, of black women and the fight of female workers, a power that stimulates the will to fight in pro of our race and of people who live in the outskirts. Considering our achievements, we cannot just rejoice ourselves, we have to continue on fighting.

We must restore the issues of family, in which we may start and end the situation that we run into. And on behalf of the Black Movement and of the Department of Promotion of Racial Equality, our fight is extremely important and we have a long way to go", she ended. *(Mariana Veltri –UGT Fotos: FH Mendes)*

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

On this date, it is celebrated the "fight against racial discrimination", UGT, through its National Department for Human Diversity Issues, recalls the importance of this day, instituted by the United Nations, and lists some of the main actions it has made to tackle discrimination.

[Click HERE and check some of the actions of the Diversity Department.](#)



All our support to the Paraguayan general strike

UGT and trade union centrals organize an act in support to the Paraguayan general strike

On March 26, UGT, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) and other trade union centrals, were in front of the Paraguayan embassy in support to the general strike that took place in the neighbor country as a protest to the model of economic policy adopted by president Horacio Cartes, one that the population qualifies as neoliberal and aiming towards the economic interests of multinational companies.

The Paraguayan population requests agrarian reform, a 25% wage increase, improvements in education and in public health, and the repeal of the Public-Private Alliance Law, which allows the government to deliver natural resource exploitation by multinational companies.

Considered the biggest strike in 20 years in the country, the demonstration, called by the Paraguayan central unions, mobilized about 80% of working people and had the support of student movements and other organized social movements.



According to Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, with globalization, there are many policies of development adopted in several countries, especially once a model works in certain regions, but neoliberalism was a model that Latin American was able to realize that did not work in Brazil. It only created islands of wealth surrounded by misery, it privatized and delivered profitable state companies to foreign capital, it removed the responsibility of the state to manage essential sectors to society, when it comes to the Brazilian health, in many places it lies in the hands of the social health organizations.

"No matter which economic measure of development is adopted, whether in Brazil or in Paraguay, a country can only be considered developed or "rich" if its population is benefited from these resources. This happens through an improvement in income distribution, with high quality health and education, urban mobility, quality of life, social inclusion, among other issues that are not part of the neoliberal politics," Patah concluded. (Fábio Ramalho – UGT newsroom)

We are faced with a crisis of social justice

Message from Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General, for the World day of Social Justice

Today, an entire generation of young people faces the prospect of a more uncertain, less prosperous future than did their parents. Many are already in desperate situations hardly able to fall any further.



This is a reality no policy maker can afford to ignore. Even before the global financial crisis erupted in 2008, half of the world was living below the US\$ 2 a day poverty line, millions went hungry and too many had no prospect of securing a decent job.

Six years of weak economic recovery and a faltering policy response have left millions more behind, without jobs and with less affordable food and services.

As a result, we are faced with a deep social crisis, a crisis too of social justice. Disturbing – and rising levels of inequality – in advanced and developing economies are widely acknowledged as cause for great concern. Today the wealth of the top one per cent of the global population equals that of the poorest 3.5 billion people.

Social protection measures are essential elements of the policy response. Countries with strong social security systems have reduced their poverty rates by more than half, through social transfers and have significantly reduced inequality.

It is timely to recall those countries that historically have built sound economies and decent societies with social protection. And more recently, countries in a range of circumstances - from Brazil to Thailand and China to Mozambique have been making considerable efforts to make social protection an integral part of their development strategies. They are showing that affordability cannot be the excuse for inaction.



8th March of the working class



American unionists from UFCW visit UGT

On March 25, a delegation of American unionists from UFCW United Food and Commercial Workers – visited the national head office of UGT in Sao Paulo.



Unionists were received by Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, and other officers of the central. The UFCW delegation is making a series of visits to Brazilian trade union institutions with the goal of promoting an exchange of informations. Unionists also visited the Commerce Workers Unions of Sao Paulo.

May Day: a new view for the trade union movement

In a celebration to May Day, UGT will hold an international seminar entitled "Contemporary unionism: May Day - a new view for the Brazilian Trade Union Movement" that will take place on April 28 and 29, in Sao Paulo.

This seminar, organized by UGT and CESIT/UNICAMP, has as its target audience: UGT officers (national board of executives); UGT's grassroots trade unions; guest students and researchers in the areas of political and trade union sociology, and other areas related to labour organization.

If you would like to get more information, please call: (11) 211-7355 / 2111-7356 / 2111-7357 / 2111-7302 – Talk to Carlão, Maurício, Daniela and Luciana

Labour, employment and income for the youth

On March 20 and 21, UGT, through its National Youth Department, attended the "I National Seminar on Public Policies on Labour, Employment and Income", in Brasilia, invited by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in its head office.

This seminar had the goal of showing the reality of the Brazilian youth, its peculiarities, its numerous challenges in the insertion in the job market and ongoing public policies aiming towards youth, such as "PROJOVEM" and "PRONATEC", programs developed to perform an initial capacitation and, later, the insertion of young people in the labour world.



Gustavo Walfrido, UGT's National Youth Secretary, defended that young people aged 15 to 17 should be in school, through a high quality education, without the need of entering the job market precociously, discontinuing their basic education. Walfrido also pointed out the need to capacitate young workers according to the work profile, considering their hopes and wishes. (*Marcellie Dessimoni - UGT's Sustainability Committee*).

"The União Geral dos Trabalhadores 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." Ricard Patah – UGT's President

Press secretary of UGT: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira – MTb 62.224/SP

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