

Victory of workers

Streets of Sao Paulo were taken by the colors of trade union centrals

On April 09, nearly 50 thousand people walked through the streets of the capital of Sao Paulo during the 8th march of trade union centrals. The path - that began at 10 A.M. at the Sé Square, went up the Brigadeiro Luís Antônio Avenue, ended at 1:30 P.M. at the MASP free span, in Paulista Avenue, and was organized by 6 trade union centrals UGT, CUT, CTB, CGTB, Nova Central and Força in pro of the unified agenda of workers.



Unity and organization marked the action of centrals in the fight of workers aiming towards an advance in the achievements of the working class in the House of Representatives. What is expected is dialogue and achievement of their fight ideals. Over the last years, no matter which governments were leading the country, there were many advances, but these advances still need repair.

To Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of UGT's department of Organization and Trade Union policies and president of the Bakers Union of Sao Paulo, this march was victorious and fulfilled its role of putting workers on the streets, but there is still a lot to achieve considering democratic advances and that the government is by the side of workers.

"I wanna make it clear to governments, bosses and the Brazilian society what Brazilian workers think. A march as this one has to have continuity! From the point of view of fight ideals, they are all recorded and listed. We are in the 8th march and I continue on insisting that when we propose to take it to the streets, we are with full will to defend at any cost the interests of workers, even if we have to use a strength measure, which are strikes.

The role of trade union centrals, when they are together, is not against the government, instead, it is favor of workers and of seeking the fight to achieve what is effectively ours. I know that one day this country will still belong to workers! Long live to Brazilian workers! ", celebrates Chiquinho.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, recalled the importance of the March to not only fight for the conquest of the end of the social security factor and to reduce the working hours for shift work down to 40 hours per week, but to fight, as well, for professional capacitation, education and social inclusion. "A salute to the women of Brazil, the color of Brazil, the color of trade union centrals and workers, who are here, claiming for civic rights in our country. Brazil is here, its voice is in the streets, showing that what we want is for the best. We want a Brazil with good jobs, inclusion, of all Brazilians! Long live to the unions! Long live to Brazil!"

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Time for reflection



Rousseff's candidacy: Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, says he can not "impose on grassroots unions" the candidate he defends. When it comes to Dilma, who regulated the commerce worker class, a class which he came from, he says "we recognize the importance of the work she has done. It has everything to do with the DNA of UGT, which is at the base of the pyramid". But he also believes that "there is still a lot of conversation to do", saying he was "very disappointed" with the keeping of the social security factor. The formula, which takes into account the time between the age at which the person retires and their life expectancy estimated by IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), was created in the late 1990s: the earlier a person retires, the lower is the value of the benefit. (in statement to the Brasil Atual Network)

About the 8th March

The foundation of these marches is the victorious engagement of the Brazilian unionism around its unity. But we aim at a unity based on a program built with time and supported by some pillars.

by João Franzin

The strongest mainstay is the recovery policy of the minimum wage. The other is the program approved at Conclat 2010 which defined the current Labour Agenda and pointed to a development model with growth, employment, income and social inclusion.

The Labour Agenda has a strong character of claims: 40 weekly hours, the end of the Social Security Factor, fighting against outsourcing, adoption of ILO Convention 158 etc. However, there is more. This Agenda means a unionism that adopts a position and shows, to the government, to the Congress and to society, its intention to play a decisive role in the life of the nation.

Nowadays, we are experiencing the passage of the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état of April 1, 1964. At that time, the coup justified the attack on the democratic order under the pretext that the president Jango heard other workers (the malicious thesis of a trade union republic was sold). Jango was ousted and, due to that, an advanced design for the Nation collapsed. His fall leveraged imperialism, whose expansion with the usual violence, delayed Brazil and aggravated all sorts of injustices.

It would never be wrong to listen to workers, even to listen too much, according to the thesis of scammers then. Past five decades, it is even more wrong not to hear unionism today. Even because this error comes to isolate the government and to erode even further the Congress. And that is all that the right wing asks God for (since it can not knock on the doors of the barracks) in a moment in which it heads for election. (Diap)

After the march

My suggestion is that we focus on the after-march in defense of the policy of valuation of the minimum wage, developing the broadest effort of publicizing, seeking support and strengthening of this policy that we must prioritize.

João Guilherme Vargas Netto

Unlike military or samba parades, which are disperse shortly after they occur, the labor movement must stay united, organized and mobilized after the 8th Workers March takes place. And this happens for three main reasons: the positive weight of unity of action, the fact that it has not yet achieved its agenda, not even partially, and the current needs of the industrial action such as wage campaigns.

Considering the adopted union strategy, the 8th March was successful, it achieved an expected success.

In a mood of democracy, unity among the central materialized in the colors of shirts, flags and balloons; we expressed our claims from the unitarian agenda and we marched from the Se Square to Paulista Avenue in an orderly manner, with no incident.

I may suggest meetings with city councils, party caucuses, bloggers, MPs and allied senators, candidates, regional and local press, OAB (Brazilian Bar Association), CNBB (National Conference of Bishops of Brazil), NGOs and all natural network of alliances. (Diap)



[Click here to read the texts of John Franzin and John William Vargas in the DIAP page](#)

Wage increases above inflation

In 2013, 87 % of the categories had an increase above the National Consumer Price Index

The vast majority of workers got a pay increase above inflation in 2013. That is what a survey by Dieese (Inter Union Department of Statistics and Social-Economic Studies) points out.

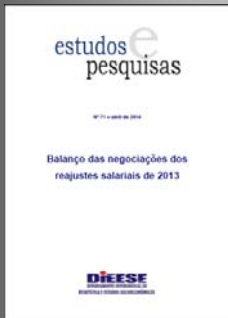
According to the organization, the average real increase reached was 1.25 %. The study also shows that 87 % of the increases were above the INPC (National Consumer Price Index), 671 negotiations were evaluated. Nevertheless, the result measured in the past year is about 8 % lower than the one in 2012.

The Dieese survey of 2013 also shows that, out of the total collective agreements analyzed, 7% resulted in increases equivalent to inflation and 6 % were below the index.

"The trade union movement is growing too. I recently arrived from Belgium and, for the first time, a Brazilian was elected for ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation). In recent years we are achieving a good recovery in all classes," said Ricardo Patah, president of UGT. The union believes that a greater participation of classes has provided positive results.

"The regulation of the six union confederations under the Lula government made a difference. Today, most unions are affiliated with trade union centrals. There is also more mobilization and, therefore, we are showing a greater ability to step pressure. Businessmen only give salary rises when workers step pressure."

The director also explains that unions, in general, are more organized and structured in the legal and economic areas, in addition to being using well new techniques of communication such as social networks, to get close to the population. (*Diário de São Paulo, 07.04.2010*)



Overview on negotiations of salary adjustments of 2013 (portuguese)

Commerce

Commerce was the sector with higher incidence of wage increases in real terms in 2013, reaching 98% of the total of negotiations analyzed. The average value of real increases in trade in 2013 (1.42%) is lower than in 2012 and, though slightly, lower than in 2010 and 2011.

Adjusting the Minimum Wage

Deputy Roberto Santiago talks about the new guidelines for the minimum wage adjustment

Through an interview in the "Palavra Aberta" TV show, broadcasted by the Câmara TV station, Roberto Santiago, vice president of UGT, talks about his project to establish new guidelines for the valuation policy of the minimum wage, to be applied in 2015.

One of the main points of the project, which follows the principle of equity, is that it extends the calculus on the adjustment of the minimum wage to retirement and pension checks.



Click here to read the full interview

Evolution of the minimum wage

2003-2004	Values	Current Rule	Range
The minimum wage had a 262% increase in a 110.05% inflation (INPC) period, that is, a 72.31% real increase	Average value in 1995 R\$ 318.26 Average increase in 2013 R\$ 690.34 Current value \$ 724.00	Change of Inflation in the previous year plus the percentage GDP growth of two years before	Population served by the minimum wage, according to DIEESE: 84 million people



Santiago articulates Workers Week

Deputy Roberto Santiago articulates Annual Week Workers in the CCJ (Commission on Constitution and Justice) of the House of Representatives

With the aim of promoting the agenda of the worker in Congress and of ensuring important votes annually, which would accelerate debates and votes on the union agenda process, Roberto Santiago, vice president of UGT and former president of the Labour Commission, articulated the Workers Week at the CCJ, which will precede the May Day, every year, after 2014.



On April 10, Santiago had a meeting with Deputy Vicente Candido (PT party -Sao Paulo State), president of the Commission of Constitution and Justice (CCJ), and with Henrique Eduardo Alves, president of the chamber, who will convene a General Committee for May 6, 3:00 P.M., to discuss the agenda of priorities. Participants will include ministers of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and other authorities, not to mention representatives of trade union centrals.

Fecomerciários reappoints Motta

A party night marked the beginning of celebrations of 75 years of foundation of Fecomerciários (Federation of Commerce Workers of the State of Sao Paulo). During this event, that took place in Sao Paulo, the new board of directors was empowered and Luiz Carlos Motta was reappointed president of this institution.



"We have based our management in the power of unity and in the participation of 68 affiliated unions, of course it is a dream of ours that our class achieve an increasing purchasing power, we will continue on struggling, more than ever from now on, that this profession is regulated, in order to achieve the reference date and the wage floor is nationally unified," explained Motta

The following people attended this date that is so important to commerce workers of Sao Paulo: David Zaia, state deputy, secretary of public management in Sao Paulo and vice-president of UGT; Valmir Andrade Silva, president of the Federation of Employees in Trade of Goods and Services of the North and Northeast Regions; Vicente da Silva, president of the Federation of Commerce Workers of the State of Paraná; deputy Severino Ramos (PMN party-Pernambuco State); Gustavo Walfrido, president of UGT State branch of Pernambuco, Lourenço Ferreira Prado, president of the National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies (CONTEC); Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT; Alckmin, governor of São Paulo State, among other officials and leaders from several unions that are affiliated with this Federation.

Meeting with the president of the Supreme Labour Court

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, along with officials from this central, had a meeting in Brasilia on April 11, with Antonio José Barros Levenhagen, president of the Supreme Labour Court, in order to talk about the trade union costing.



Patah explained to the minister that the trade union movement has been suffering pressure from public prosecutors, who are interfering in the trade union costing in many States.

"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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