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A great bench of workers

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT

After the first days of the tragedy that bereaved the Brazilian society and political world went by, it is time to consider the current Brazilian political conjuncture.

The death of **Eduardo Campos**, "a great leader and a loyal friend of workers", well defined by the condolence note of UGT, shall bring changes to the prognosis for the elections of October 3, especially to a higher probability of a run-off.

The first times of the campaign evidenced which values that are strategic for Brazilian workers, which were achieved in early XXI century, might be threatened depending on the electoral results.

Trade unionists and activists gathered at UGT, a multiple and democratic trade union central, have different presidential candidates chosen according to their beliefs and their dreams.

This is good because it shows the force of the democratic belief towards citizens of our trade union central. Despite these different choices, trade unionists and militants of UGT share a common goal in these elections: the election of a strong bench of workers in the federal Senate and House of Representatives and in state legislatures.

There is no way of disagreeing with Toninho (Antônio Augusto de Queiroz), director of the Interunion Department on Parliamentary Consultancy (DIAP) who, in a recent news conference in Sao Paulo, warned the need of a large bench of workers in the national Congress.

We all know that an economic crisis is coming up, perhaps at a rapid pace. Different solutions to solve it will depend, whatever the presidential result is, on the balance of forces in Congress. If the presence of workers is weakened in that big house, solutions that will push the costs of the economic crisis to workers and to the poor will prevail.

There is a large business and corporate offensive that wants to remove workers' rights at any cost, and not only in Brazil as we have seen in the recent ILO conference. There is a portion of the Brazilian business that is not conformed with the new social face of Brazil.

The recent tragedy should be used, and this will be the biggest tribute to Eduardo Campos, as a key element to group our forces to elect a great bench of unionists and workers on 3 October.

Condolence note: Eduardo Campos

UGT deeply feels sorry for the tragic death of the presidential candidate Eduardo Campos and the other passengers of the flight that accidentally crashed on August 13, in Santos.

Our country is politically impoverished with the loss of one of its most promising representatives, whose familiar history is intrinsically connected to the fight in defense of democratic aspirations.

While still young, Eduardo already had a solid career: state deputy, secretary of State of Pernambuco, federal deputy, minister of State and governor of Pernambuco twice.

Brazil loses a great leader and workers lose a loyal friend.

In this moment of pain and sorrow, we sympathize with family members, friends, admirers, as well as we externalize our condolences to relatives of other victims of this tragedy.



In Memoriam
Eduardo
Campos
1965 - 2014



Interunion Department of Parliamentarian Consultancy

Employers offensive will be 'scary'

"If the workers bench in the congress does not grow in the next legislative period, there will be a risk of losing the rights even in a possible second government of Dilma Rousseff", warns Antônio Augusto de Queiroz, director of the Interunion Department of Parliamentarian Consultancy. "The employers move after next year against workers will be scary."

The issue is in the distribution of benches in the parliament, currently with an employer's majority. "There are projects that are extremely diversified and made to damage workers. If there is not a social grassroots, even in the Dilma government the possibility of resistance will be lower", stated the political analyst during an interview to alternative communication means on August 06, in an event organized by the Trade Union Agency and by the Center of Studies Barão de Itararé.



The Law Project 4330, on outsourcing, should be discussed once again in the beginning of the next legislative year. He affirms that the regulation of outsourcing "in precarious bases" is one of the three priorities of the business sector, along with the Labour Simple and with the veto to the Convention 158 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) against unjustified dismissal.

Former union request, the reduction of working hours for shift work is a possibility with Dilma, as long as it is negotiated. "With Aécio, there is no way of happening," said Queiroz. The alternative, in the first case, would be reducing shifts slowly - Queiroz cites, as an example, a reduction of one hour every two years, to reach 40 hours weekly hours in eight years.

The end of the security factor, another item on the agenda of trade union centrals, is also a difficult issue to be solved. "The union movement insisted on a pure and simple annulment", recalls Queiroz, adding that this alternative would prove unfeasible to Social Security. An idea that was even discussed was establishing a transition, as the 85/95 formula (sum of service times and age of women and men, respectively).

He notices that, currently, the correlation of forces is already unfavorable to workers, with a three times higher business bench in Congress (273-91). Still, there were a number of advances in the current administration. "The trade union bench was very active. None of them stopped rejecting threats or supporting measures. If there was no unified agenda of trade union centrals, probably many of these rights would not be real." (Vitor Nuzzi, Brasil Atual Network)

Trade union centrals have a meeting with Levenhagen

On August 13, Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, and Canindé Pegado, UGT's secretary general, attended a meeting in Brasilia with minister Antonio José de Barros Levenhagen, president of the Superior Labour Court (TST) and of the Superior Council of Justice and Labour (CSJT).



To the president of TST, the major lesson from the Consolidation of Labor Laws (CLT), "which we celebrate 70 years", is that everything has to go through a negotiation. "The basic principle of CLT is placing work as a basic and necessary tool in the social relationship. And the principle of work as valuation of workers cannot be driven away". He agreed that CLT needs an update, "since everything changes". However, he warned that we cannot forget the principles and values that were enshrined in it.

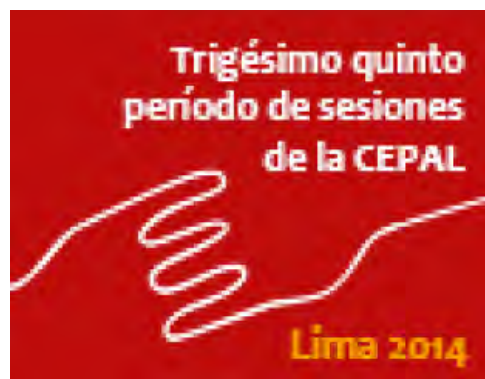
Gains in real terms reduced inequality

Cepal determined that the contribution of the raise of the Brazilian minimum wage to the reduction of income inequality of labour was one of the highest among Latin American countries

by Marcio Pochmann*

Since it came up, in 1940, the value of the national minimum wage followed three distinct phases. During the first phase, which took place in the decades of 1940 and 1960, the value of the minimum wage was higher, since it was linked to the goal of the government of covering the basic needs of workers.

In the second phase, from 1960-1990, the value of the national minimum wage abandoned this goal. For example, it achieved relevance in the commitment of turning the minimum wage, especially, and other wages, in general, into a key element of the national policy of fighting against inflation, identified, back then, as fundamentally related to high costs.



Finally, the third phase of the minimum wage is the one taking place in Brazil since the 2000s. This happens due to the fact that it is a bailout of the real value of the minimum wage, since the government option has been to make the national wage floor go back to cover all the basic needs of workers. The concrete result has been the growth of the minimum wage as a proportion of the per capita national income.

According to information recently publicized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Brazil recorded the third largest increase in the real value of the minimum wage between countries of the region. Only the increases of the minimum wage in Argentina and Uruguay during the years 2000-2012 were higher than the ones in Brazil.

For the same time period, ECLAC also found that the contribution of the increase of the Brazilian minimum wage for the reduction of inequality of labor income was one of the highest among related Latin American countries. While the minimum wage explains 84% of the decrease of the Gini index of income inequality in Brazil, raising the minimum contributed with 32% of the decrease in income inequality in Argentina.

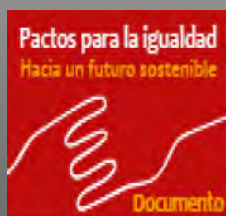
In Uruguay, the increase in the real minimum wage accounted for only 7% of the reduction in the inequality of labor income. In short, it is clear that the difference between the behavior of the minimum wage and income inequality possibly refers to the different national components that operate within the income concentration process.

We can also observe that raising the minimum wage in recent years has been accompanied by a decrease in both unemployment and informal jobs. Unlike what critics say concerning the rise in the minimum wage in Brazil, the current policy of recovering the value of the minimum wage contributed simultaneously to the reduction of 10.3% of informal workers.

In an election year, we can note that voices of opposition to the government of President Dilma, as in the past, seek to spread the old recipes of adjustments to the current economic situation in Brazil. Propositions that include the reversion of the increasing of the minimum wage policy as well as the decrease of unemployment.

Comparing the advances of Brazil over time helps to avoid confusing pig in a poke. Keen eye and acute noses in 2014 to prevent getting lost in the occasional arguments.

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Cepal:
[Pactos para la igualdad](#)



More security for motorcycle couriers

The trade union of motorcycle couriers and moto-taxis of Sao Paulo is organizing a major protest of the class for August 26 to lodge a protest against the city hall of Sao Paulo, which is ceasing the exclusive lanes for the traffic of motorcycles in the city.

To Gil, president of the union, Sao Paulo has the largest fleet of motorcycle drivers of Brazil - "if we only consider motorcycle couriers, there are more than 220 thousand driving around such a chaotic traffic". Our major concern is with the security of motorcycle drivers: Gil warns that "500 of them die every year and more than 20 thousand are hospitalized due to accidents with motorcycles".

"Sindimoto SP not only vehemently repudiates this act of the city hall (and worse: it was made in the dead of the night) as it is preparing a HUGE protest for the next days with motorcycles coming out of all regions of Sao Paulo and driving until the city hall in downtown Sao Paulo, in order to revert this situation", Gil ends.



August 12 - World Youth Day

12 DE AGOSTO
Dia Internacional da Juventude

Today is the World Youth Day, moment to pay tribute to young people worldwide, youth that build mobilizations that change our world. Whether in Brazil, in which protests with thousands of young people and workers rekindled the popular leading role, whether in other parts of the world, the youth is an important actor of new times. We are the force of transformation. Make yourself heard!

World report on social protection

Building the economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice.



More than 70% of the world population needs adequate social protection. A new ILO report presents the last tendencies of social security and observes that most people do not have adequate social protection in the moment they need the most.

The ILO report shows information on the systems of social protection, its coverage, contribution and expenses of social security in more than 192 countries.

[Full report in English](#)

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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