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## ALWAYS IN THE FIGHT!

UGT and the election runoff 2014

### Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT

First and foremost we must, as workers and as members of UGT, express our recognition of all colleagues who were candidates in this election. We also appreciate all of those who performed their role as militants in search of votes for candidacies identified with the ideals, proposals and commitments of UGT with the Brazilian working class.

We congratulate those who were elected on October 05 and we give all our support for them to develop their tenures with dignity and productivity, tenures that were given to them by the ballot boxes. For those who were not elected, we express our gratitude and respect to the effort of each one in facing the huge difficulties of an electoral campaign, moved by the will and vocation in serving well the Brazilian society.

Elections and governments go by, but the needs and struggles of the workers stay. Unionism exists to build bridges that make the working class overcome the obstacles on the path towards its emancipation. In UGT we have the goal of becoming builders, not destroyers or saboteurs of these bridges.

The time of the final vote in the 2nd round is coming up. The name chosen by the Brazilians to preside over our nation for the next four years will come out of the polls. The two major Brazilian political forces are facing each other. It is time for each one to make their electoral choice.

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Internally, it is time UGT reaffirmed its unity in diversity, keeping the principles of respect for democracy and of fraternal coexistence in the plurality of ideas and policy options. Above and beyond the electoral preferences, which are depleted in the election, we will not lose track of what really unites us, which is the struggles of workers and, more and more, the strengthening of our trade union central to better represent them.

As an institution, UGT is not engaged in any specific candidacy. We defend concrete ideas and demands of the workers, not the party acronyms. No official statement will be made on behalf of the trade union central, but each worker/member of UGT, it could be a director of the central, an officer of an affiliated trade unions or a grassroots worker continue to be independent, under the principles of UGT, to participate in campaigns and also to ask for votes in the runoff, which will be held in October 26, for the candidacy with which they identify the most.

Finally, whatever may be the elected government, UGT and our unions existed and will continue to exist and fight for the strengthening of the Brazilian working class and for better social justice.



*" , it is time UGT reaffirmed its unity in diversity, keeping the principles of respect for democracy and of fraternal coexistence in the plurality of ideas and policy options "*

**Ricardo Patah**



## ALWAYS IN THE FIGHT!

### The struggle of motorcycle couriers

Minister of labour regulates hazardousness for motorcycle couriers and mototaxi drivers

Through ordinance 1,565 of October 13, 2014, Manuel Dias, minister of labour and employment, regulated that professional activities performed on motorcycles are dangerous and, thus, every worker who rely on their motorcycle to work will earn a 30% additional on their wage.

According to Gilberto Almeida dos Santos (Gil), president of the Union of the Messengers, Motorcyclists, cyclists and mototaxi drivers of São Paulo (SindmotoSP), an institution affiliated with UGT, this is a great victory for the class as it benefits the professionals around the country. "All workers who use their motorcycle as a work tool will receive the benefit, this is a great advance."

In June, President Dilma Rousseff had already sanctioned the so-called Law of Motorcycle Couriers, but in order for this law to enter into force it was necessary that the Ministry of Labour launched the ordinance.

At the time Rousseff was presented with a helmet and a vest and commented: "I am now a version of a motorcycle girl. I was, right? Because currently I no longer have the time to be riding a motorcycle. "



The extra will be paid for all formal workers (those who are under the regime of the Consolidation of Labor Laws -CLT) and that use motorcycle or scooter on public roads. However, it is worth to emphasize that it is not considered dangerous if the use of these vehicles is exclusively for the route between home and the workplace, in private places or only sporadically.

To Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT this is a fundamental achievement. "Respect for workers who risk their lives every day working on two wheels in the traffic of big cities. That is what this legislation represents.

For many years these professionals worked on the margins of society, being marginalized and suffering from every kind of prejudice, despite the importance of their activity, since it is common knowledge that cities like São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasília, for example, stop without the couriers," explains Patah, who concludes: "Congratulations to the workers of this sector, especially to all of those who fought for this victory to take place". (Fabio Ramalho - UGT newsroom)

### Another victory of bank workers

Over the last ten years, from 2004-2013, the class of bank workers achieved a 18,33% raise in real terms (adjustment above inflation). The new work contract will bring a 2,02% raise in real terms - therefore, they will earn more than 20% of raise above inflation.



The **Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies - CONTEC**, its affiliated federations and trade unions signed with Fenaban, on October 13, the Collective Bargaining Agreement of bank workers related to the National Campaign of 2014, which guarantees raises in real terms for the 11th year in a row, besides advances in requests concerning working conditions, such as mechanisms to fight against abusive goals and moral harassment, as well as equal opportunities.

The CONTEC is headed by **Lourenço Ferreira do Prado** (in the picture), who is vice president of UGT

After a seven-day nationwide strike that paralyzed 10,335 branches and administrative centers of federal and public banks in 26 states and in the Federal District, the assemblies approved the proposal of Fenaban, which adjusts wages and other funds at 8.5% (real increase of 2.02%), the wage floor at 9% (2.49% above inflation) and food stamps at 12.2% (5.5% real gain).

Important non-economic clauses of "tackling abusive goals," "in favor of homosexual couples" and "campaign on sexual harassment," among others, were approved.

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Em defesa dos direitos  
dos bancários e  
seguritários brasileiros!

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## ILO discusses work challenges

ILO meeting in Peru has discussions over the labour challenges in Latin America

The International Labour Organization (ILO) held its 18th Regional American Meeting in Lima, Peru. This event began on October 13 and lasted until the 16th.

Representatives from governments of Latin America, the Caribbean, from Canada and from the United States will attend this meeting.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT was elected representative of workers from South America and he will speak on behalf of workers. André Menegotto, from the ministry of labour and employment, represents Brazil in this event.



This meeting intends to discuss the main challenges in the labour world and it is considered the most important meeting on this issue in the continent. "The average rate of informal work in the Americas is nearly 47%. This rate has decreased, but it continues to be high. With such rates of informality, it is not a surprise that the Americas are still the region with the highest inequality rate of the world", said Ryder, in a press conference this afternoon in Peru.

Ryder recognized the advance of Latin America in the achievement of fundamental workers rights, in the fight against child labour, but he emphasized the importance of dialogue among different actors in the work field.

"Not only there is a need of structural reforms as there is a need to improve productivity and competitiveness of our structures reforms. This happens in a moment in which people talk a lot about this region and it is important to understand that dialogue among governments, businessmen and workers is a tool, and not an obstacle, to stimulate improvements in these fields".

This event was attended by representatives from American governments, trade union organizations and workers representatives from the Americas, as well as by representatives from France, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

## From unionist to prime minister

Sweden elects former metallurgist for the post of prime minister



Stefan Lofven is the head of one of the largest and most important unions in the country, representing 350 000 workers

After eight years of conservatism in power, the Swedish voters once again elected a representative of the left. Stefan Lofven was nominated by the Social Democratic Party to form a new government to replace the cabinet of Fredrik Reinfeldt.

Löfven is proud of the lack of political experience until becoming the leader of the Social Democratic Party two years ago. "I have a different experience and I am proud of it. The question is: can I lead a large organization? I did it for years as a trade unionist Much of the work of a union leader is to build and develop things."

The victory of Löfven in the elections represented a return to tradition for a country where prime ministers were social democrats in more than 60 of the past 80 years.

Löfven is eager to get Sweden to return to traditional policies focused on social welfare and on the public sector. Over the past eight years, the center-right government in Stockholm has implemented numerous tax cuts and put private companies to manage schools and hospitals in an unusual degree in Europe.

Löfven, 57, inherited a shattered Social Democratic Party in 2012. He had lost two elections in a row for the first time and his performance at the polls had fallen. Löfven has been trying to stabilize the party and avoided making many promises during the campaign, in a strategy that many describe as sensible, though cautious.



## World Day for Decent Work

Union of trade union centrals mark the World Day for Decent Work



With the motto "justice for workers and climate justice", the world day for decent work, an event that took place on October 07 and was organized by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), gathered hundreds of people in front of the Regional Labour Superintendence, in downtown Sao Paulo. UGT and other trade union centrals affiliated with ITUC, delivered an official document with an agenda of demands of the working class.

## UGT in the Pink October

Amazonas hosts march against breast and cervical cancer

On October 11, UGT's State branch of Amazonas (UGT-AM), in a partnership with the Basic Health Unit (UBS) Josephina de Melo and with Nova Central held a march against breast and cervical cancer

Com o slogan "uma viagem contra o câncer de mama", o ônibus rosa da empresa Eucatur, que acredita na importância da campanha, circulou pelas ruas e contribuiu para a divulgação do programa, pois a informação é a principal arma da população.



This event took place in the east side of Manaus and marked the beginning of the activities that UGT-AM will hold in support of the campaign Pink October, which has the goal of strengthening the fight against breast cancer and tries to raise awareness on the female population concerning the importance of prevention, which only happens thanks to medical assistance.

## LGBT rights in the labour world

Manual to promote LGBT rights is released in Sao Paulo

On September 30, Rogério Sottili, municipal secretary of human and civic rights, attended the release of the manual "Promotion of Human Rights of LGBT People in the Labour World", an initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), of the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS (UNAIDS), with support of local partners.

This event took place at the Carrefour Institute, in São Paulo, and it is part of the United Nations actions under the campaign free & equal, which was released in Brazil in April 2014 in a partnership with the city hall of Sao Paulo, through the municipal departments of human and civic rights (SMDHC) and of international and federative affairs (SMRIF).

Aimed at employers and workers in a general way, this book presented guidelines to promote human rights of LGBT people in the labour world, from real stories of people who suffered discrimination in the professional environment.



Manual to promote LGBT rights (portuguese)



Campaign material

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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