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Zero tolerance for corrupt people

Ricardo Patah
National president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT

Brazil is in crisis and it is a fact. And that can be attributed to mistakes and errors the government made while leading the economy. The accusations on money diversions and payment of kickbacks of contractors that Petrobras had contracted have boosted the crisis and led the government to discredit and the country almost paralyzed due to lack of investments.

The result has been devastating on the higher heritage of workers: their jobs. Thousands of job positions are being closed in all parts of the country, recession is knocking on our door and there is no perspective of improvement at a short term. Besides, the accusation of whistleblower Julio Camargo that Eduardo Cunha, speaker of the house of representatives, demanded 5 million dollars as kickback, was just like throwing a bucket full of gas on the fire.

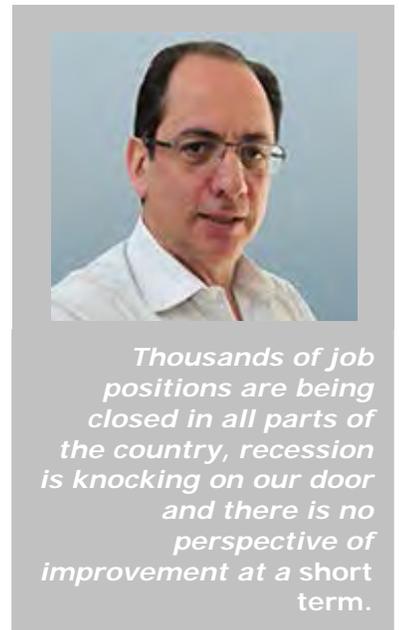
To workers, who wake up early everyday and have to sweat a lot to earn their salaries in the end of the month and pay all the taxes, it is outrageous to hear that one deputy, elected to represent the people and who is third in the presidential line of succession, demanded kickback due to the business of Petrobras. It is as though as corruption is rooted in the Brazilian society. Anything goes

Reality, however, is another. Brazilian people are worker, honest and repudiate corruption. It actually is the great evil of our country. And that is why the mechanisms to tackle corrupters and corrupted must be perfected everyday. Most developed countries show that ending all corruption is impossible, but decreasing it to levels next to zero is essential to provide a worthy life to the people.

In Brazil, many people practice illegal acts because they believe they will never get caught. Unfortunately, impunity and the fragility of our supervision organs end up being a stimulus to wrongdoers. But all of us know that the development of a nation necessarily goes through tackling corruption. A corrupt country will never be developed.

The prison of powerful people involved in the scheme of money diversion and kickback payment by Petrobras show that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that Brazil can be fixed. By watching major businessmen form the largest contractors of Brazil behind bars (some of them were convicted to up until 15 years in prison), it is very likely that some who have the habit of making improper use of public money think and think a thousand times before committing a crime.

Zero tolerance to corrupt people must be a goal to be followed. It will take Brazil to better days.



Increase in Real Terms and Better Conditions

Bank workers request a 5% increase in real terms plus INPC rate and better working



On August 11, **CONTEC (Confederation of Workers in Credit Companies)** delivered to Fenaban – National Federation of Banks, the request agenda of bank workers.

Through this Wage Campaign 2015, workers demand a 5% adjustment of increase in real terms **plus INPC (National Consumer Price Index)** rate of the last twelve months (September 2014 to August 2015); wage floor based on the value calculated by Dieese (R\$ 3,299.66 in June).

Higher profit share; tackle abusive goals and moral harassment; end of outsourcing and bank dismissals; improvement of security in bank agencies and in the working environment to prevent and tackle occupational diseases: these were the axes, demands, schedule and strategies of the Wage Campaign that were defined in the XLIV National Meeting of Trade Union Officers from the Bank and Insurance Sectors, held last week in Foz do Iguacu.

Six hundred delegates participated in the meeting organized by CONTEC, besides dozens of observers. Lourenço do Prado, president of CONTEC, positively evaluated the event. "We held a participative and motivating meeting. Our action will be firm to be able to achieve a victorious wage campaign", he said.

In defense of Bank Workers of HSBC

CONTEC asks Bradesco to keep employees of HSBC

CONTEC sent a letter to the Glaucimar Peticov, Human Resources director of the Bank Bradesco, requesting the maintenance of HSBC employees in the staff of that institution. This request was motivated by the confirmation of the sale of HSBC to the Bank Bradesco.

In this letter, Lourenço Prado, president of CONTEC, makes a request justifying the need to guarantee "justice" to workers who, over the years, acted for the success and profit of HSBC. The board of directors of CONTEC waits for an immediate meeting with Bradesco to deal with the bank mergers and consequent changes in the routine of employees of HSBC. The press already publicized that Bradesco will maintain the structure of HSBC's employees.

The great profits of banks

Together, Bradesco, Santander and Itaú profit R\$ 12 billion in the trimester

Banks have full conditions to answer the demands of their workers. Despite all difficulties of the current situation and the worsening in default, the increase of requests of legal recovery and the deterioration of the economy, Banks continue to earn a lot of money, perhaps more than ever.

Private banks continue to keep the growth rate aiming to the previous trimester, with a slight slowdown. Together, Itaú Unibanco, Bradesco and Santander presented a net profit of R\$ 12 billion from April to June, an amount 17.7% higher than the one presented in a year, of R\$ 10,3 billion. In the adjusted concept, not considering the reversion of provision of the Spanish bank, the result grew 22.1% and reached R\$ 11.7 billion.

The even shy demand for credit made banks reinforce more the offer of products and services and also the sale of insurances that is benefitted from the low penetration in Brazil. Bradesco watched these profits grow 14.8% in a year, against a 9% increase of Itaú and 8.5% of Santander.

Besides, the tariffs of services provided by banks have increased more than the inflation measured by IPCA. According to researches of Idec (Institute of Consumer Advocacy) in 12 months, measured from March 2014 and February 2015, the service packages rose 75.2%, while inflation was 7.7%. Check the results in our infographic at the side.



Veja Check the results in our infographic

Ministries of Dilma make a visit to UGT

Through a dialogue with union centers, the government tries to create a positive agenda

On August 5, **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)** UGT received, in its head office in São Paulo, the visit of ministries Miguel Rossetto, from the General Secretariat of the Presidency, and Carlos Gabas, from Social Security. In the meeting, the government pointed out a higher approach of trade union centers in the development of a positive agenda of economic growth and dialogue with workers



The government will address in two major issues, which are the issues of Social Welfare and Job Market. "We are going to debate the economic agenda, since it was requested by trade union centers, we are going to debate this policy, this economic moment for our country, the situation of growth and the job generation of Brazil and we are going to advance in an agenda of development for the country", Rossetto announced.

Among the issues of income redistribution and the Brazilian wage floor, it was emphasized that the government will guarantee the salary adjustment of retired workers, which will be corrected according to inflation, besides social security rights to workers. The social security factor 85/95, which follows the rule of progressivity, was also debated with trade union centers. "We are open, we presented a proposal of a provisional measure following a pattern of progressivity, we preserved the 85/95, but we are open to discuss a pattern of progressivity, one that creates a higher environment of a possible agreement with the Congress and with trade union centers", the minister informed.

It was a very transparent dialogue, we clearly expressed our dissatisfactions concerning certain measures of the beginning of this year, such as the Law Project 4330, which deals with precarious employment via outsourcing, generalizing to all workers. Despite such a serious situation we are experiencing, we are optimistic that the Forum might build a positive agenda and might definitely begin a possibility of generating decent work and eliminating these possible ghosts", Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, stated. (Mariana Veltri, UGT's press)

Against Slave Work

The International Labor Organization (ILO) nominated Wagner Moura as an ambassador on the fight against slave work. The actor will promote a campaign to end modern slavery, a cause he has fought for a long time..



The actor has collaborated with ILO since 2013, when he supported the campaign Red Card against child labor.

"**Wagner Moura** is recognized for his involvement in the fight against forced work in Brazil, that is why we are very happy to have his help in raising awareness on this issue", **José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs**, **ILO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean**, said.

"Modern slavery is the most primitive disrespect to the right of a person", Wagner Moura evaluated. "It is something that touches us deeply, because I grew up in the countryside of Brazil and I saw how poverty forced people to work under conditions of exploration, of abuse. That is why I have been advocating with my colleagues from MHUD (Right Humans Movement), especially Father Ricardo Rezende, or in a partnership with political leaders who are sensitive to this subject to step pressure for concrete laws and actions to tackle forced labor", he added.

In June 2014, the International Labor Conference of ILO decided to provide a new stimulus to the global fight against forced labor by adopting a new international tool, the Protocol to the Forced Labor Convention of 1930. On June 12, 2015, ILO launched the [the campaign 50 for Freedom](#), with the goal of raising awareness on forced labor and mobilize the support of the audience to get at least 50 countries to ratify the Protocol until 2018. (Picture: Bob Wolfenson)



Ministries of Dilma make a visit to UGT



50 for Freedom



Protest for more employees at Caixa

The Trade Union of Bank Workers of Goiás and Trade Union of Bank Workers of Franca held protests for an increase in hiring at Caixa Federal. This bank had, until last year, 101 thousand workers, as for June 30, it informed that its current staff is 97,975.



The **Trade Union of Bank Workers of Goiás (SEEB-Goiás)**, together with APCEF-GO, employees and those who were approved in its public tender, held a public act of protest on August 06, aiming to intensify the mobilizations so that CAIXA increase its pace of hiring. During the event, the bank branch where the superintendence of Caixa Econômica Federal is located in Goiânia, was paralyzed from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M.

The Trade Union of Bank Workers of Franca and surrounding area also made a protest in the bank branches of Caixa Federal of Franca. The directors of the union handed in a protest to employees of Caixa and also to clients and users, denouncing an overload of work and a high number of sickness of employees that took place in the company due to that.

Protests are also taking place throughout Brazil and have the goal of charging Caixa for more hiring, as well as drawing the attention of society to lousy working conditions and service provision of the bank, due to lack of employees.

Confederation of Mercosur's Commerce Workers

UGT and UNI-Americas debate the creation of a Mercosur's Commerce Confederation

On July 30 and 31, UGT attended a meeting in Salto, Uruguay, and it was represented by Luiz Hamilton, director of the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo and regional commerce director of UNI-Americas, and by Julio A. Gevaerd, president of the Commerce Workers Union of Brusque, Santa Catarina. This meeting gathered border commerce unions of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.



It had the goal of creating Mercosur's Commerce Confederation, an initiative that came up during a meeting of the national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, and Rubens Cortina, president of Uni-Americas.

According to Cortina, Uni-Amricas is connected to European commissions, to the International Labor Organization (ILO) and to international trade union movements, that is why the creation of a confederation is essential, since UGT is the trade union center that aggregates most institutions that represent commerce workers in Brazil and that strengthens their fight. .

Difficulties deepen

A Situation Report of DIEESE – The increase in the basic interest rate and the fiscal tightening, implemented to reduce inflation and indebtedness, are further and further away from reaching these goals. Economy is in slowdown and the job market is suffering from its impacts.

“On one hand, commerce sales slowdown, indicators of industry negatively fluctuate, unemployment rates grow in most of the metropolitan regions, an adverse external situation. The economic policy implemented since the last two months of 2014, featured by an increase in the basic interest rate and by the fiscal tightening, can already be evaluated by the achieved results so far”. (...)

“On the other hand, the economic slowdown and the increase of unemployment rates continue to bring impacts to the job market, not only in numbers, but in the interaction with an open offensive action of employers”.



Difficulties deepen

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

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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