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## Democracy and Corruption

**Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT**

Recently, from October 10 to 12, the International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC, gathered its executive committee in São Paulo. The Confederation, which is presided by João Felício, from Brazil, represents thousands of trade unions and millions of workers worldwide.

ITUC's board of executives discussed and deliberated over many issues that are essential for workers and UGT shares many of the concerns and decisions that were taken at the meeting.

For starters, this meeting adopted [a resolution in defense of democracy in Brazil](#). The official statement of ITUC shows that "the popular will expressed in the polls, which elected president Dilma Rousseff with 54.5 million votes, is sovereign and must be respected by all powers of the nation, as well as by opposition groups that were defeated in the 2014 pleading". And there is more, ITUC extended the issue by stating that "democracy and freedom of speech, as well as an in the increase of labor rights and income distribution, are basic premises for the construction of a fairer Brazil"

The same way, this meeting adopted a report called "[Freedom](#)", which identifies a global tendency of closing the democratic space that has been causing the conflict and the displacement of people, corruption, impunity and violence and, especially, inequality and disrespect to workers rights.

This report is very important to us, Brazilians, for it shows that many problems and changes that we face may be found in the lives of workers in many parts of the world. ITUC asks for "more control for the power of companies that corrupt the political system and promote tax evasion worldwide". This is what we must do in Brazil.

UGT shares the concerns of the International Trade Union Confederation, including the ones related to the role of unions discussing and proposing solutions for these national crises. The best example of the importance of trade unions in the Noble prize of this year, which awarded the Tunisian quartet that solved the profound crisis in that country. Houcine Abassi, secretary general of the General Union of Tunisian Workers, participated and was honored in the meeting.

During the meeting, **Sharan Burrow, secretary general of ITUC**, mentioned ITUC's World Research 2012, which showed that only 13% of the people believe that electors can impact economic decisions. The same research in 2013 also showed that only 13% of the people believe that their government is worried about the interest of working families. And, in 2014, there was not one single country where the majority believed that the economic system was fair. This is a threat to democracy worldwide. And this unrest certainly is no different than what is going on in Brazil.

To UGT, corruption, selfishness, the defense of specific interests, must be eradicated of the political life in all scopes – from municipal to federal, and in all powers – executive, legislative and judiciary.

The medicine for all of that is democracy. UGT believes that only democracy can bring long lasting changes and the resolution of problems that Brazil has been discussing.



Freedom



Know more

## Victory in the strike of bank workers

After a long strike that lasted 21 days (the fourth largest in the history of the class), bank workers approved the proposal of the National Federation of Banks – Fenaban – of wage adjustment of 10% and 14% in food and meal vouchers.

Even though the government and private banks put pressure for the reduction of salaries in the negotiating table, bank workers were firm in the proposal of developing the index that was negotiated. Fenaban started with miserable 5.5%, almost half of the inflation rate recorded by INPC, which was 9.88%. Bank workers immediately rejected and went on strike on October 06. On October 20 (Tuesday), in the third week of the movement, which grew day by day, Fenaban came with the lowered offer of 7.5%, immediately rejected at the table.

Bank workers began to string along and the goal of not even providing a raise equal to inflation increased the proposal to 8.75%, which was also rejected. The strong-arm lasted until Friday (23), when they offered 10%, but the negotiation of the other clauses was only concluded on Sunday. "They tried to suffocate the class in every possible way, but we resisted", said Ricardo Saraiva Big, president of the trade union of bank workers of Santos and surrounding area.

The adjustment for employees of institutions of the public sector is the same for wages (10%) and benefits (14%). What is different is the value of the negotiated participation in profits and results in each bank. In the case of Caixa and Bank of Brazil, besides the basic rule of Fenaban, there will be an additional participation in profits and results of 4% of this year's net profit, equally distributed for all employees. (CONTEC)

### Wage Campaign of Bank Workers 2015

10% wage adjustment, out of which 0.11 of increase in real terms. With the approved adjustment, the class accumulates an increase in real terms, in 12 years, of 20.83% in wages and 42.3% in wage floors.

Clerk wage floor after 90 days: R\$ 1,976.10 and bank teller wage floor after 90 days: R\$ 2,669.45 (which includes a R\$ 470.75 bonus and R\$ 222.60 of cash allocation).

Correction of benefits such as food and meal vouchers in 14%

Participation in Profits and Results with a basic rule that establishes 90% of wage plus R\$ 1,837.99 (which could reach 2.2 minimum wages) and additional share of 2.2% of net profit equally divided among workers

Meal voucher: R\$ 572.00

Food stamps: R\$ 431.16

Daycare allowance. Children younger than 71 months: R\$ 330.71. Children aged 71-83 months: R\$ 282.91

## UGT in defense of Workers health

UGT and other trade union centers that are part of the Forum of Trade Union Centers of Workers Health showed their concern regarding the deepening of precariousness in labor relationships, especially with the deconstruction of rules of workers health and with the fragility of policies of prevention and health promotion held by the State".

Trade union centers denounced the "employers maneuver to suspend, via House of Representatives, the achievement of the Regulatory Rule 12, on security of machines and equipment, restoring the of discussion on the controlled use of asbestos and other setbacks in rights in the field of the relationship health-work", which leads to the trivialization of risks that "mutilate, kill and sicken thousands of workers in the productive age".

For trade union centers, "it is unacceptable that State institutions, especially those of the Labor, Health and Social Security areas, which should be responsible for ensuring the development of policies of prevention and health promotion in the workplace, are out of this frame, as well as society continues to absorb the social and economic costs of a problem that is absolutely avoidable".

Trade union centers ask for the rescue of the "commitment that was assumed in the National Policy of Health and Security at Work, in the Policy of Workers Health of the SUS (Brazilian Health System) and in SUS's Conferences of Workers Health, to develop an intersectoral action, strongly articulated within the government, which reinforces the regulation of the State in this area, keeping in mind the sovereignty of the right to life and health".



Read: Safety standards have joint actions of centrals and tripartite commission

## Pink October in Defense of Women

More than 70 thousand people in the Pink October 'Mulher ComVida', in Curitiba

Mulher ComVida (Women with Life), the largest event of the Pink October of Brazil was recorded in Curitiba, Paraná, on October 25. More than 70 thousand people (according to the newspaper Gazeta do Povo) attended several civic actions; actions of breast cancer prevention; employment fairs, drawing for awards and musical events, in downtown Curitiba. UGT's state branch of Paraná and its affiliated institutions promoted this act

"Undoubtedly UGT shows, in practice, its concept of civic unionism, by promoting the Pink October in Curitiba, with a whole day dedicated to women and to the restless fight against breast cancer", Paulo Rossi, president of UGT's State branch of Paraná, said while showing to be moved.

Rossi opened the event with a tribute: "UGT's State branch of Paraná thanks all the colleagues that are here today and are sympathetic to this initiative of civic rights, who are currently here, doing voluntary work to answer this great crowd that occupied this true "street of civic rights of the Pink October".



After 9 A.M., a large number of workers who were looking for a job gathered in front of the mobile unit of SINE-Paraná and in the stands of the human resources companies that provided job positions. In the stalls of the State Health Department several exams of STD, AIDS and hepatitis were provided; in the area of Coren – Regional Nursing Council of Paraná, volunteer nursing scholars gave lectures and lessons on the prevention and self-analysis of breast cancer; the municipal department of women of the city hall of Curitiba took its mobile unit to promote campaigns of violence against women; and the State Provopar made an exchange of food for vouchers, to perform a prize draw, raffling, among others, two brand new cars and five brand new motorcycles.

Cida Borghetti (PROS party), vice-governor of the State of Paraná, touched the audience while talking about breast cancer and about her restless fight to promote preventive actions. "Firstly, I would like to thank UGT from the bottom of my heart, which is making this terrific work on this special day for Curitiba and Paraná. Undoubtedly this is the largest event of the Pink October ever held throughout Brazil".

Manassés Oliveira, president of Siemaco, Trade Union of Cleaning and Conservation Workers of Curitiba, and Solomar Rochemback, president of Sintec-PR, Trade Union of Industrial Technicians of the State of Paraná (both institutions are affiliated with UGT), presented the event with Paulo Rossi, drawing prizes and presenting the artistic and musical performers. Manassés Oliveira emphasized the massive participation of the population of Curitiba.

## Enem strengthens the end of violence against women

### Regina Pessoti Zagretti, UGT's National Secretary of the Women's Department

We, women, engaged in the fight for tackling violence against women, were strengthened on Sunday, October 25, when the 2015 National Exam of High School had as "The Persistence of Violence against women in the Brazilian society" as the theme of its composition. Possible solutions for this sad reality were also demanded. According to the Ministry of Education, more than 7 million students took this exam. That is, a quite reasonable number of people reflecting on the importance of ending this aggression.

Many people were not aware of the data presented in the text of the composition until last Sunday. Now, these data are in social networks, in newspapers, in the media and in the houses of Brazilian families. Data are frightening.

We took another important step. The awareness on this evil is our major ally. We are not alone. We, as representative of women, have the duty of continuing the fight, and the intention is zeroing inequality, violence, discrimination and statistics with a lot of work and awareness, showing that men and women can, indeed, develop the same tasks at home and give the example to their children, for this is the first step to tackle violence. Denounce. 180 – absolute privacy.

**Regina is also president of Sincomerciários from Ribeirão Preto**



CONTEC Pink October



[Read full article](#)



## UGT attends preparatory event for COP 21

UGT already put its mark in sustainable causes. On the way to COP 21 (United Nations Conference on Climate Change), which will be held in December, in Paris, when the agenda post 2015 will be developed, UGT will settle its ideals and the first steps will be taken. On October 27, UGT attended the event “Climate, Water and Borderless Peace”, a preparatory meeting for the 21st Climate Conference, held in the Brazilian Institute of Environmental Protection (PROAM), through a partnership with the Federal Prosecutor’s Office and the Public Defenders of the State of Sao Paulo.

This event gathered representatives of the government, of Brazilian bodies related to the environment and major specialists in the subject to elaborate a document with recommendations and policies addressed to COP 21.

## Female workers define fight agenda

Actions have the goal of dialoguing with society, with the government and with the grassroots.

UGT’s National Department of Women attended the **National Forum of Female Workers of Trade Union Centers**, held at the head office of CTB, in São Paulo, on October 18, to organize activities of the women’s fight, among them, to follow the process of State and national conferences and issues related to the campaign for the legal ratification of **ILO Convention 156**, which divided the family responsibilities.



“All these activities will culminate in one single goal we have, which is: working against social inequality and show society we have the same needs as men. It is the beginning of a major fight”, Regina Pessotti, secretary of UGT’s Women’s Department, emphasized.

The following items were in the agenda: dialogue with unionists, march of black women, seminar of the city hall of São Paulo on moral and sexual harassment in the workplace, besides the 16 days of activism to tackle violence against women and the public hearing that will take place in Brazil. Occasion in which the advances in gender equality in labor relationships over the last 20 years will be discussed, contemplating matters related to this issue since the World Conference on Women of Beijing, in 1995.

## 3rd Plenary Session of UGT’s Officers of the Commerce

On November 25, 26 and 27, the 3rd Plenary Session of UGT’s Union Officers of the Commerce area, in Fortaleza, Ceará.



## Reform and Tax Justice

DIEESE Technical Note number 150 – Reform and Tax Justice

The Technical Note 150 discusses the Brazilian tax system, which imposes a strong burden of taxes on workers and the on the poorest and a lighter burden and easiness for the richest and capital to evade the tax office.



DIEESE NT nº 150

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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.

Communications Director: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira

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