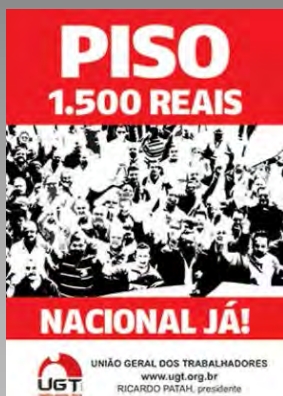




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National wage floor: R\$ 1,500 Now!

Patah visits several States in defense of the R\$ 1,500 national wage floor

Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president, began a wide journey to publicize the campaign "National wage floor: R\$ 1,500 now". UGT's leader is visiting Brazilian States to talk to grassroots unions and show what is the view of the trade union center in the current political situation that Brazil is experiencing, as well as announcing the actions that this institution is promoting in order for its country to restore the growth path.



The unionist was in Rio Branco, Acre, where he talked to the governor Tião Viana and to Marcos Alexandre (mayor of the State capital Rio Branco), and attended a meeting with students and professors at the Federal University of Acre, after having participated in the Forum of Engineer and Development organized by the Acre's Trade Union of Engineers.

He also visited the Federation of Employees in the Trade of Goods and Services of the North and Northeast regions (FECONESTE), in Recife, Pernambuco, to attend the regional launching of the "campaign for an immediate national wage floor". Before that, though, he participated in a meeting at the Commerce Worker's Union of Recife, with more than 80 unionists of trade unions affiliated with UGT's State branch of Pernambuco.

On June 22, his destination was the State of Tocantins, where he attended a meeting with the governor, Marcelo Miranda. Afterwards, the president of UGT had a meeting with trade union leaderships of that State and talked about the political situation that Brazil is experiencing. He was deeply concerned about the weakening of the labor bench at the National Congress and about "the fact that the wildest and most annihilating form of capitalism is non-stop".

Ricardo Patah will be in Curitiba, Paraná, on July 06 and 07, for another stage of the national promotion of this campaign that has the goal of improving the income distribution and increasing the purchasing power of the population, which promotes an internal market heating and creates jobs throughout Brazil.

No agreement concerning Social Security

Trade union centers discuss social security in a meeting with ministers

On June 28, trade union centers had a meeting at the Palácio do Planalto with Eliseu Padilha, minister of the Civil House, and with Ronaldo Nogueira, Labor minister, to discuss the social security reform and its negative impact on the workers lives.

During the meeting, DIEESE showed its diagnosis, taking a position completely opposite to the one of the government and CNI (National Industry Confederation), which is one in favor of a minimum age for retirement and removal of rights.

Miguel Salaberry Filho, UGT's secretary of Institutional Relationships, represented the trade union center.

Congressman Roberto Lucena, UGT's vice-president, Natal Leo, president of Sindiapi (UGT's Trade Union of Retired Workers, Pensioners and Elderly People) also attended the meeting



During this new round of talks, trade union centers and the acting government of Michel Temer did not come into an agreement. The government decided to create a new workgroup to discuss the Social Security reform and did not compromise to a deadline to present a proposal to the government, only mentioning that an approval ought to take place by the end of the year.

The only topics that they agreed on were the review of the exemption rule for philanthropic institutions, which was already announced by the government Temer, and the process of speeding up the sale of INSS properties, which should profit R\$ 1.5 billion and represents nearly 1% of the expected deficit for 2017 (over R\$ 150 billion). The first measure still needs to be approved by the Congress.

Social Security

Trade union are against equal conditions for men and women

Trade union centers that are discussing the proposal of Social Security with the government not only disagree with the topic of a minimum age for retirement, but also disagree with equal rules for male and female workers.

The idea of matching the access to retirement for men and women, another pillar of the reform that is intended by the government does not please them. Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, said: "from the demographic and longevity points of view, this idea might make sense, but as long as there is not equality of opportunity, I am against it."

On one hand, those who defend a lower retirement age for women than for men argued that they work more – if domestic chores are added – and earn lower wages over their professional lives.

On the other hand, their life expectancy is higher than that of men (78.8 and 71.6, respectively). Thus, they would receive the benefit longer than male workers.

A research of IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) shows that, from 2000 to 2010, the female labor market participation and their wages have increased, but they continue to be lower than the ones paid to men.

The average real income of the female population went from R\$ 959, in 2000, to R\$ 1,074 in 2010, while the wages of the male population increased from R\$ 1,471 to R\$ 1,587, according to the study Gender Statistics.

As for the activity level – proportion of employed people or people looking for a job, the position of women raised from 50,1% to 54.6% in this period, while the one of men declined from 79.7% to 75.7%.

At the same time, the total amount of worked hours – including domestic chores – comes to 56.4 weekly hours, almost 5 hours higher than male activity, according to data of IBGE (based on Folha de S. Paulo).

Brazil and Argentina discuss Confederation

Unionists from the border Brazil-Argentina talk over confederation

On June 16 and 17, there was a meeting with representatives of several trade unions located in the border region of Argentina and Brazil. This meeting took place at the head office of Federación Argentina de Empleados de Comercio y Servicios (FAECYS) and had the goal of debating over Mercosur's Confederation of Commerce Workers.

Avelino Garcia (UGT's assistant secretary general), **Leocides Fornazza** (UGT's secretary of anti unionist practices and labor relationships), **José Cloves** (UGT's secretary of Trade Matters), **José Carlos** (Accredited Director of Mercosur's Decent Work Observatory) and **Osmar Barbosa** (director of the Observatory and president of the Commerce Workers Union of Assis Chateaubriand) attended the meeting.



Unionists discuss actions of the Decent Work Observatory

On June 16, there was a meeting with representatives of the Decent Work Observatory in Buenos Aires, at the head office of Federación Argentina de Empleados de Comercio y Servicios (FAECYS).

Actions towards commerce workers

Trade union and city hall promote combined actions in the areas of health and security of commerce workers

The Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo and the Municipal Health Department (SMS) of São Paulo City Hall have developed, since November 2015, combined actions with the goal of following and supervising the execution of the municipal health policy of workers in the trade area.

It was identified that there are high indexes of irregularities in commerce in São Paulo over this period. These abnormalities not only take place in the health and security areas, but also in other areas that damage labor and constitutional rights.

Many of these problems were detected in major supermarket and mini market chains and the goal of the cooperation term between the trade union and the city hall is developing activities that are established in the Program of Health of Commerce Workers of Trade Markets, monitoring risks and strengthening the concept of prevention of labor accidents and diseases.

Protecting social achievements in Latin America

ILO: Labor market policies in Latin America must be reoriented to protect social achievements and address productivity gaps

At a time when governments in the region face the dual challenges of creating quality jobs and safeguarding achievements in social inclusion and work quality, an ILO report highlights the need for a new approach based on active labor market policies to address the current economic slowdown.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has urged Latin American countries to carry out a "strategic reorientation" of their labor market policies in order to increase productivity and to address rising unemployment and informality resulting from the economic slowdown.

A report warns that "the achievements made since the 2000s, in terms of social inclusion and work quality have stalled and are even beginning to reverse," which can lead to a dangerous "structural stagnation" in labor markets that could, in turn, generate an increase in inequality and informality and erosion in the middle class". (ILO News)



Active labour market policies in Latin America and the Caribbean

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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