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Workers march against the crisis, for the end of dismissals and for the decrease in the interest rate

It was the "International March of the Workers Fight against the crisis". "No to dismissals", "Workers are not going to pay for the crisis of the financial capital".



These were the main words of order of the working class, that sent the message out loud during a conjunct manifestation of the union centrals.

Thousands of workers got together on March, 30, in the morning, at the Paulista Avenue, and the march continued through the downtown streets of São Paulo, the final destination was Ramos de Azevedo Square, where an ending act of the "**International March of the Workers Fight against the crisis**" took place.

Around 10 A.M., rioters were already localized in front of the headquarter of the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (Fiesp), at the Paulista Avenue. From there, workers proceeded through the avenue, stopping in front of the Central Bank and Caixa Econômica Federal, where they kept on marching until Ramos de Azevedo Square, in front of the City Theater where the act came to an end.

To the president of **GWU**, **Ricardo Patah**, the act was able to show the unsatisfactoriness of the working class towards the aggravation of the crisis. The president said that it is necessary to stop the wave of dismissals, reduce the interest tax and assure the labor and social rights. These items are part of the set of proposals to fight the crisis that **GWU** already presented to the federal government.

GWU participates in a Great Manifestation in Bahia

The union movement of Bahia went through a great moment on March, 30. The **General Union of Workers (GWU)** and other Brazilian union centrals, combined with a wide variety of the popular and student's movement, made a walk through the streets of Salvador.

The walk started around noon, leaving from Campo Grande, a traditional stage of popular manifestations, and covered all the commercial heart of the city coming to an end at the Municipal Square, where after more than two hours the centrals celebrated the success of their union against the international crisis that afflicts all workers in Brazil.

At the sound truck, GWU was represented by **Magno Lavigne** - member of the National Executive Board (**Secretary of Human Diversity Policies**) and by **Álvaro Rios** (**President of GWU - Bahia**).



In his speech, **Magno** reminded that "this crisis was not created by workers and we cannot afford to pay for the irresponsibility of the international financial casino, we have to maintain our rights and we need to fight even more so that there is more control of the state and workers over the financial system".

Álvaro Rios said that "we need to fight for the inclusion of many informal workers" and in the presence of hundreds of barkers that occupy the region of the São Pedro clock, complemented "whoever done wrong has to pay, because we cannot stand to pay for the employers mistakes".

GWU militancy also showed all its vigor and strength, spreading the words of order intoned by Joselino, Mário and Cristal, along with the other marches "**United Worker will never be defeated**" and "**Worker out in the street, it is the speculator's fault**" highlighted the frontline of the manifestation, represented in the act by several classes, such as: pharmacy, assemblage, radio, insurance, commerce and highway workers; public servants from the department of transportation, technicians of safety at work and others.

Unions ask G20 to incentivize recover of economy

Institutions also state that the G20 summit is an opportunity to advance towards a more just and sustainable economic model

Union organizations from all over the world expect that the G20 meeting in London (United Kingdom), incentivize the recover of economy and request to the governments to nationalize bankrupt banks and toughen the financial regulation, says a statement from ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation) and from the union consulting committee to OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Institutions also state that the G20 summit is an opportunity to advance towards an economic model more just and sustainable.

"If G20 doesn't act under a decisive way in London, there will be no State up to its responsibilities", said today, in a memo, the ITUC general secretary, Guy Ryder. He insisted that only such forum is able to substitute the "unsuccessful neoliberalism from the past by a new direction to the globalization process". According to the unions, the economic recover is possible, but only if work and public investment become priorities and if there is a special support to the economies. (EFE, 24.03.2009)

GWU signs protocol with the State of São Paulo in the professional capacitation area

GWU (General Union of Workers) and the State Secretaryship of Economic Development signed this Thursday (26) afternoon a protocol directed towards education, through capacitation courses. GWU signed it through its president, **Ricardo Patah**, and the government of the State was represented by **Geraldo Alckmin**.



To the president **Patah** the act, though emblematic, comes from a fundamental strength, "because through this activity combined with the Secretaryship of Development GWU takes an important step by interfering in the policies of capacitation of these institutes that have formidable courses that, will certainly bring to the workers learning and opportunity of jobs", he said.

Ricardo Patah reassured that with the signature of this document GWU takes a decisive step in favor of workers acting towards education, information and professional capacitation that are the essential elements to get over the crisis.

To the secretary Geraldo Alckmin, the accord has two objectives. One is related to measures to preserve jobs and generation of new job positions. He quoted some initiatives of the current state administration such as exemption of investments, support to exportation, public investments, support to small business and creation of the Aval Fund. "Another measure is related to professional education. The State of São Paulo has the largest network of technical schools and colleges of technology and its courses have a high employability. Out of five young people from Fatec, four of them graduate employed and out of 10 from the ETEC course, nine get a job", he cleared out.

As stated with the signed accord, Secretaryship and GWU will start to discuss which courses should be implemented or raised to meet the demand. In the State of São Paulo there are 46 Fatecs functioning and other 157 technical schools.

Social Security factor: writer resists to unionist pressure

At the public hearing, such issues as lack of workers stability at the private initiative were debated

Unionists that were heard at the public hearing on March, 31, pressured the deputy Pepe Vargas (PT party from Rio Grande do Sul), writer of the Law Project 3299/08, to eliminate the social security factor, as foreseen under the original text from the Senate. The parliamentary, however, reassured that, instead of doing so, will suggest the adoption of the so called factor 95/85.

This criteria from the writer gives the right to retirement, and with the entire amount, since the sum of contribution time per age stipulated is 95 for men and 85 for women. It is necessary that the insured had contributed during 35 years (when it comes to men) or 30 years (women).

The general-secretary of the **General Union of Workers (GWU)**, **Canindé Pegado**, stated that not only he wants to "tear down the social security factor". GWU, according to him, also defends the approval of a law that restore the rights of those who retired with a reduced income. "Those who were damaged cannot sleep with this loss", he affirmed. (Jorge Campos) (Agência Câmara, 31.03.2009)

President of GWU delivers folder of claims to Michel Temer

The national president of the **General Union of Workers (GWU)**, **Ricardo Patah**, qualified as “very good” the public hearing held with the president of the Chamber of Deputies, **Michel Temer**, Thursday (April, 2) afternoon, in Brasilia.

On the occasion Patah delivered the document containing the main claims of the working class and the preoccupation of the union movement towards several dismissals that have been happening in the job market, “in many of these cases, truly blackmail from businessmen that insist on imposing a reform on the Labor Laws, due to the financial crisis”, reminded the president of GWU. The president of the Chamber also received from Patah a report with the suggestions of GWU to fight the crisis. The same document was already delivered to the president Lula last month.



Patah participated in a meeting with the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Michel Temer accompanied by the GWU vice-presidents Antonio Carlos dos Reis, aka “Salim”, Enilson Simões de Moura, aka “Alemão” and the Federal Deputy José Roberto Santiago Gomes as well.

Another topic that was discussed at the meeting was the amendment project to the Law 8.036, that deals with the FGTS (severance pay indemnity fund) that, was even undersigned by the deputy Luiza Erundina. The project, according to Patah, was already passed by Chamber committees and GWU expects that it will be included in the voting board. Ricardo Patah explained to Temer that the FGTS remuneration is a genuine robbery to the Patah also presented to Temer a series of projects that regard the working class and that are following legal procedures under the Chamber, but they didn't go under the agenda for voting yet.

The deputy made compliments to the initiative of the president Ricardo Patah for the preoccupation with the national problems and the defense of the workers rights, promising to engage at the most so that theirs claims are met as soon as possible.

In defense of social rights, GWU participates in public hearing in Brasilia

On March, 24, **Lineu Neves Mazano**, representing **GWU**, along with the other members of the **Movement in Defense of Basic Social Rights under Threat in the Tax Reform**, delivered to the Minister of Institutional Relationships, José Múcio Monteiro, a manifesto signed by over 80 institutions to request that the debates involving the amendment proposal to the constitution 233/08, that institutes the Tax Reform, get deepen, avoiding, this way, that exclusive financing sources of the social politics get extinguished.

The hearing was made viable through the deputy Darcísio Perondi (PMDB party from Rio Grande do Sul) that has been accompanying the institutions during several visits to Legislative and Executive authorities.

The minister explained that the current moment is uncertain and insecure to make the tax reform and, by receiving the manifesto, said that he'll engage in favor to the institutions cause.

Electricians of São Paulo affiliate with PSI

The president of the **Union of Electricians of São Paulo**, the colleague **Carlos Alberto dos Reis**, **Secretary of the Urban Worker** and the colleague **Robson Silva Thomaz 1st Adjunct**



Secretary of Capacitation of GWU participated in the meeting of the Inter-American Regional Committee of **PSI (Public Services International)**, held on March, 31 and April, 1, in São Paulo, occasion of the affiliation of this union with this important international organization.

According to the **general secretary of PSI, Peter Waldorf**, the institution has the preoccupation of getting to know how the population receives the public sector, and that is why, it is vital that

the union of electricians is part of it. "To guarantee quality to the population we are against privatizations in all of the sectors, when the nationalization cease to occur the values become more expensive and services offered become precarious".

By organizing the public workers and defending the universality and quality of these services PSI contributes to strengthen the workers fight and the construction of a more just and equitable society, that are also some of the principles that guide the foundation of the General Union of Workers.

One of the topics covered at the meeting was the growth of violence and anti-union practices in Latin America, the colleague Robson reminded that the Secretary of International Relationships of GWU was elected to represent the workers at the ILO Administration Council. In this sense GWU can contribute so that these formal accusations reach a higher level.

Besides union representatives from Brazil, there were also representatives from USA, Canada, Caribbean, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Chile and Argentina at the seminar.

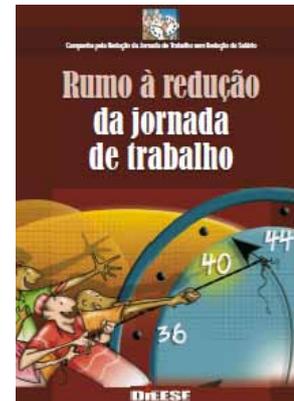
Dieese publishes booklet "Towards the reduction of work shifts"

Dieese (Inter-union Department of Statistics and Social-Economic Studies) just released an illustrated and good-humored booklet with the support of GWU and other Brazilian union centrals to divulge the campaign for the reduction of shifts without reducing salaries.

With a screenplay developed by Caco Bisol, illustrations of Vicente Mendonça and with a colloquial language, the booklet tells the story of a workman that wakes up early to work, doesn't have time to pay attention to his children and faces a fatiguing work shift, because the company raised the production, forcing workers to work overtime so that they don't have to hire new employees.

The booklet also breaks the myth that the reduction of work shifts would have exorbitant costs to the employers. According to the Dieese studies, the increase in the cost would be represented by only 1,99%, that would be covered by gains in productivity in six months.

[Click here to read the booklet \(portuguese\)](#)



"The General Workers Union reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just." Ricardo Patah – UGT's President

UGT World – the International Newsletter of the UGT - General Workers Union

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