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Against precarious Work

UGT condemns project that withdraws workers rights

On August 30, Ricardo Patah, national president of **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, accompanied by representatives from the trade union centers Força Sindical, NCST and CSB, had a meeting with Rodrigo Maia, president of the House of Representatives, to discuss issues related to the labor and social security reforms.



Patah expressed the main concerns of workers to Mr. Maia, which are related to projects that are in the agenda of the congress and that, if approved in their original form, will alter rights that were achieved by workers.

“On behalf of 10 million workers that UGT represents, I want to make it clear that we are not going to accept any labor or social security reform that would withdraw rights achieved by workers. Besides, the outsourcing law project, as it was written, is a violence against the consolidation of labor laws, since it allows that all professional activities are outsourced. Outsourcing is a reality in Brazil. We can and we must improve the legislation without implying on precarious employment”, Patah said.

The president of UGT said that the trade union center does not accept the imposition of measures and projects without consulting society and workers. “After this meeting, I am going back to São Paulo sure that we are going to prepare a major fight day.

Our country is going through a difficult time, but by withdrawing workers right we are not going to solve these adversities”, he said. Congressman Roberto de Lucena and Ademir Camilo, UGT's vice-presidents, and Miguel Salaberry, UGT's secretary of institutional relationships, were also at the meeting.

Catastrophic situation

Unemployment reaches 11.8 million and the income of workers is back to the 2013 level

The line of unemployed people already has 11.847 million Brazilian workers throughout the country. The unemployment rate once again hit a record in the quarter that ended in July: 11.6%, the highest level ever to be recorded by the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (Pnad), published yesterday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).



UGT reports anti-unionist practice

UGT reports anti-unionist practice in a seminar dedicated to the social dialogue in civil construction

By organizing the Seminar of Valuation of Labor and Life, on August 23, the Trade Union of Construction Industry Workers of Porto Alegre (STICC) fulfilled its role of gathering leaderships of this segment to search for solutions to decrease the risks of life in the construction sector.

The magnitude of the meeting, already in its fifth edition, and the topic "Social Dialogue in the Construction Industry" mobilized personalities and entities such as UGT, present in the figures of Ricardo Patah, national president; Miguel Salaberry Filho, UGT's national secretary of Institutional Relations, and Paulo Barch, president of UGT's state branch of Rio Grande do Sul.



"Anti-union practices in Brazil and in the World" was an issue covered by Ricardo Patah, who presented cases that were identified in multinational companies such as Walmart, Nissan and McDonalds. Patah accused such companies of restricting trade union activity and he is suspicious on the intention of the provisional government of Michel Temer preparing labor reform against the interests of unionism.

The leader of UGT pointed out the existence of anti-union practice when companies step pressure against unionization, pointing out that the daily struggle of the trade unions is the only thing keeping labor rights from being extinguished.

Salaberry also used the opportunity to reiterate the report that he has made against Grêmio Soccer Club, which has persecuting and firing trade union officers who were elected with employment stability. Salaberry not only is UGT's national secretary but also presides the Trade Union of Employees in Sports Clubs and Federation of Rio Grande do Sul, and emphasized the determination of the class to move this issue forward until it reaches the International Labor Organization (ILO), in an unprecedented case of labor relationships in Brazil.

Dismantling of Labor Court

Proccupation with the situation of the Labor Court is discussed in a hearing at the ALMG



On August 24, UGT's State branch of Minas Gerais attended a public hearing summoned by the State Labor, Social Security and Social Assistance Commission of the Legislative Assembly to discuss the current situation of the Labor Court.

Judge Ricardo Mohallem (in the left in the picture) said that the number of labor lawsuits rose 15%.

The reasons are related to cuts of resources directed to the Labor Court, which were drastically reduced in the 2016 Annual Budget Law, recently approved by the National Congress. There was a 30% reduction in the expenses for maintenance expenditures (rent, consumption material, hired services, water and electric bills, among others) and a 90% decrease on investments (rennovation work and computer expenses, for example).

According to the participants of the public hearing, those who will lose more with this decision are workers - especially the poorest ones-, who seek the labor court because they had their rights denied or threatened.

Antonio Fabrizi, president of OAB (Brazilian Bar Association) State branch of Minas Gerais, considered the budget cut as discriminatory and ideological, since it was much higher than those of the other branches of the judiciary.

Ricardo Antonio Mohallem, President of the Regional Labor Court (TRT) in Minas, believes this reduction of resources is "irrational." He objected the manifestations of Congressman Ricardo Barros, budget cut rapporteur who pointed out the measure as a reflection of stimulus for the modernization of labor laws.

"We accept critics, we agree that we can modernize the labor court, but we have to separate the wheat from the shaft", he argued while adding that this is a discussion that should be collective, which means it should include the participation of trade union institutions. "Individual interest cannot surpass the collective", he considered,



UGT's Institute of High Studies IAE

Roberto Santiago, president of the IAE

Since its creation in 2007, UGT has been marked by being an innovative trade union center. Innovative in its trade union project that promotes the relation of trade union movement with a diversity that characterizes several social and political subjects in the XXI century. Coherently to its innovative path, UGT decided to create its Institute of High Studies, IAE, in 2011.



UGT's IAE is a think tank intitute. Among its goals, there are: arbitration of the relationship civil society and government; identification and evaluation of public policies issues, proposals and programs; turning emerging ideas and problems into public policies and interpreting events and policies for an easy understanding of the organized segments of workers and civil society in general.

By creating an institute of the kind "idea laboratory", UGT is next to major international trade union centers which also have their institutes, such as the Hans-Böckler Foundation, in Germany, the Economic Policy Institute and the Institute for Policy Studies, both in the US.

It is the role of the labor organization to develop high level reflections on the international and Brazilian realities at all aspects that are considered relevant. Only through deep analyses UGT will be able to give opinions, deliver projects, proposals and solutions for issues that are important for the Brazilian society.

Using a network of highly qualified academic collaborators, UGT's IAE fulfills an essential role in the production of ideas, studies and reflections that are part of the raw material of UGT's innovative action. There are still many challenges, many topics and problems that need to be discussed, as well as there are many solutions that need to be created for a society with a high social welfare, especially for workers

International Labor Conference under discussion

Representatives of International Departments of Trade Unions, Federations and Trade union Centers have a meeting at UGT

Colleagues that work in the international departments of UGT, Nova Central Sindical, CSB, FENAJUD, SINDIJUS/ Espírito Santo and SINDECON were invited by UGT's International Affairs Department for a meeting at its head office on August 16. This was an informal talk to evaluate the action of the workers world bench at the 105th International Labor Conference and to discuss the situation of the labor world, with the goal of enabling a better representation at the 106th conference.

To **Wagner Souza**, "workers' representatives have done an excellent work in the 105th ILC, actively participating in committees and debates." The leader of UGT said that the meeting has the goal of "examining the practical results of our work, and of starting to plan our activities to discuss topics that are already proposed, as well as others that are still to be proposed for the 106th ILC in 2017".



Among the topics already proposed, there are: 1) Decent Work for the security of peace and resilience against disasters: review of the Recommendation 71, development of standards, procedures and double discussion, as discussed in the 105th ILC-2016; 2 - recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work, under the supervision of the Declaration on Social Justice, already discussed in the 104th ILC 2015, with the proviso of worker protection. "The remaining issues will be decided after the ILO meeting, which will be held from October 26 to November 9, in Geneva, on the occasion of its 331st session".

Nilton Rocha, UGT's assistant Secretary of the International department, said that "the first event that brought together people involved in the International Area had a very good result because the ultimate goal is to strengthen this group, giving subsidies to adequately prepare ourselves for the 106th ILC".

With the need of a new meeting, though informal, they unanimously decided to schedule the next meeting for November 8.



IAE has a new webhouse. Visit it



Sinthoresp is the newest institution to affiliate with UGT

Through a disputed assembly that took place on August 30, in São Paulo, workers that are affiliated with the Trade Union of Workers of Hotels, Apart Hotels, Motels, Flats, Restaurants, Bars, Snack Bars and similar activities of São Paulo, Sinthoresp, approved the affiliation of this institution with UGT. Sinthoresp is the largest one of this segment in Latin America.

“UGT has always helped us and was always around. This created a friendship and similar ideals. We held an assembly and, unanimously, workers that are affiliated with our trade union voted for its affiliation with UGT. For all of that, today is a historical



“Sinthoresp officers are partners on UGT’s daily fight for quite some time. Now, its affiliation is an enormous gain since it is a trade union that has been militant in the fight for workers rights. That is what UGT needs. This is our profile. In times of crisis, as the one we are currently experiencing, joining forces is essential”, said Chiquinho Pereira, UGT’s secretary of Political Organization, who was representing Ricardo Patah, UGT’s national president.

Sinthoresp’s board of directors, workers who are affiliated with this institution and representatives of UGT’s trade union attended the event.

“This achievement – from both parts – is a sign of unity. And unity is a sign of focus on the workers, and not on a specific trade union center, or a specific ideal”, said Gonzaga da Cruz, vice-president of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, institution affiliated with UGT.

Trade Union of Real Estate Brokers creates UGT’s Lounge

UGT’s State branch of Rio de Janeiro has just been granted an exclusive lounge at the head office of the Trade Union of Real Estate Brokers of Rio de Janeiro (Sindimóveis). UGT’s Lounge, as it was baptized, was inaugurated on August 27 and, according to Zaldo Natzuka Jr, president of Sindimóveis, it has the goal of publicizing the work of UGT with this class, as well as bringing information on actions and fights performed by the trade union center for its affiliated members.



“The idea of creating this lounge came up during UGT’s last national congress, in São Paulo. UGT has supported us a lot and has provided us knowledge through the courses it offers and through discussions that were made,” Zaldo stated.

This event, which even had champagne, was held through a quick ceremony and was attended by directors of UGT who had just got out of a meeting with the board of directors, in which UGT was highly praised.

The consequences of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is configured into of the attempts of reorganizing the World Economy in favor of developed countries, especially in favor of the hegemonic country, the United States.

Although the TPP is presented by Public Opinion as a major agreement on free trade of goods, it is in the services sector, mainly concerning new rules of patent and intellectual property, that the world will feel its consequences.

This publication, produced by UGT’s High Studies Institute (IAE) and under the technical direction of Roberto Nolasco, shows to the “working class that the TPP means a double defeat, both for developed and underdeveloped countries and is a warning on its danger to Brazil”.

[Read other publications of IAE](#)



The consequences of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

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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