Note from UGT

Government makes a mistake by sanctioning outsourcing Bill

By sanctioning the Bill that regulates the unrestricted outsourcing of all business activities, president Michel Temer made a mistake and an ugly one. Since it is an old project from 1998, workers should have been heard because they are the most interested and the most impacted part.

UGT is against the Bill the way it was approved. Outsourcing is a reality in this country. UGT has always defended a project that gives security and wide guarantees to workers, which could be an employment opportunity, but this is not the case. The approved Bill makes it possible to outsource any activity in the companies, including the end-activity, which contributes to precarious labor relations.

The trade union movement works with realities and now our means joining forces and organizing ourselves against the possibility of precarious employment, ensuring that technological advances and globalization, which generate business models that are dangerous to workers, respect the fundamental rights of the working class. The government makes a mistake mainly because it did not request the participation of the workers in the elaboration of a Bill that is vital for all of us.

We, from UGT, are in favor of outsourcing projects of companies to be negotiated in conventions and collective agreements, in the spirit of the prevalence of the negotiated over the legislated and that companies that outsource their activities are jointly responsible for the payment of salaries and collection of labor costs of outsourced workers. We also defend the maintenance of current legislation (Law 6019/74) that regulates temporary work. A fair society is only built when the worker is viewed with respect and is safe.

Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores

Temer receives the visit of UGT in Brasilia

Michel Temer, president of Brazil, heard from Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, and from UGT’s officers that the organization has studies that point out that the Social Security Reform, as it was referred to Congress by the Government, is harmful to workers and that this institution recorded a surplus in recent years.

Patah also stressed that the outsourcing project is detrimental to workers and the president should veto it. In addition, he asked workers to be consulted regarding the Labor Reform, as it “tears the CLT (Consolidation of Labor Laws)” and eliminates all the achievements of workers.

Regarding all the arguments of UGT leaders, President Temer said that it is not the intention of the Government to bring injury to the workers and that points of the outsourcing project will be corrected to safeguard the rights of workers.
April 28

National Day of Fight against Reforms

Trade union centers establish April 28 as national stoppage day against reforms

Officers from all Brazilian trade union centers and representatives of several union institutions, such as subway and electricity, reinforced the unity of struggle of the entities and defined that new demonstrations will take place against the proposals of social security and labor reforms, as well as outsourcing, which were approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

At the meeting, which took place in the national head office of União geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT on March 27, unionists analyzed the serious political, social and economic situation that the country is undergoing and emphasized that at the moment it is essential to get institutions to be united. "I think it is fundamental to show that we stand firm in our unity and that society supports us," explained Ricardo Patah, UGT’s president.

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The unionists reinforced that the set of measures proposed by the government is retrograde and put an end to consecrated social and labor rights, damaging workers and society. "Population is realizing that these measures will indiscriminately target the whole society, but especially the poorest, so we, from trade union centers, have their support," says Patah.

The leader of UGT said that people on the streets are indignant and already made comments that this government does not want anyone to retire, that if the Bill on outsourcing is approved it will remove labor rights, that is, it is only penalizing society.

To Patah, it is critical that trade union centers expand their communication to spread the risks that society is undergoing if these reforms are approved. "We are regaining the confidence of the population, because the theme of removal of rights as it was presented by the government is unhappy and without proper dialogue with society it ended up unifying us," he concluded. (Fábio Ramalho, UGT Press/ Picture: FH Mendes)

Outsourcing is also theme of fight

Trade union centers criticize approval and plan to use this issue against reforms

After the Bill that frees unrestricted outsourcing of work activities was approved, trade union centers affirm that they will concentrate efforts to mobilize workers in the demonstrations against the labor and social security reforms. Experts in labor economics also criticized this measure and said that flexible labor rules have no technical foundation and represents a major social setback.

"Workers will earn less, work harder and be exposed to work-related accidents. The government of Temer and the Congress serve only the interests of the business class," says Ricardo Patah, president of União geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT. "We remain firm in organizing our bases, demanding open negotiations and the maintenance of the prohibition of outsourcing in the end activity," says a note signed by the six largest Brazilian trade union centers.

Vagner Freitas, president of CUT, recalls that the law of outsourcing was approved with a tighter margin than the government anticipated and says the result serves as fuel for its base to continue pressuring congressmen with acts and demonstrations. "We will make it clear that they will lose voters if they do not vote for the workers."

The incentive to outsourcing will not create jobs and will even weaken the collection of social security, which makes the logic of approval "absurd", according to the researcher Denis Maracci Gimenez, director of the Center of Trade Union Studies and Labor Economics (Cesit), Institute Of Economy of Unicamp. For the researcher, "it would be more efficient to reduce business costs, lower interest rates and promote a tax reform that would reduce the incidence of indirect taxes on production, for example."
**Unicom Mercosur**

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT participates in the Unicom Mercosur Trade Union Meeting**

UGT, represented by Avelino Garcia, assistant Secretary General, participated in the Trade Union Meeting of Unicom Mercosur on March 30 and 31, in Argentina.

This meeting was the perfect opportunity to exchange experiences and develop strategies to fight the challenges that are proposed for the working class in several South American countries.

Avelino emphasized that the labor struggle cannot have borders. "We live in a globalized world with a global economy, so it is essential that the workers' struggle does not stop in borders or due to language barrier. We have the same goal, which is to demand respect for workers and improve the distribution of income," he concluded.

**UGT’ gets ready for trade union BRICS**

UGT’s department of International Affairs (SRI) has been proceeding with the arrangements for a meeting of the Trade Union BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), which will be held on May 10. These arrangements have the goal of organizing the participation of the Brazilian Trade Union Movement at the BRICS Trade Union Summit next September in China.

In addition, SRI is seeking to hold a seminar in July on topics discussed by the BRICS for the final preparations of the Preparatory Seminar for the Delegation that will represent UGT at the 106th International Labor Organization Conference, from June 5 to 16 in Geneva.

Colleagues Lourenço Prado (Secretary), Wagner (1st Assistant), Professor Anselmo (Assistant) and Mirella (Auxiliary) participated in the activities.

This meeting also dealt with preparations for the Preparatory Seminar of the Delegation that will represent UGT at the 106th ILO Conference. This seminar will take place on April 11, 2017, starting at 10:00 a.m., at the head office of CONTEC, located at Avenida W/4 Sul SEP EQ 707/907 Conj. A/B - Brasilia/DF.

UGT’s International Affairs Department has already forwarded to the Ministry of Labor and Employment the first list of people from UGT who will attend the 106th ILO Conference.

**Goodbye to our friend Eduardo Pavão**

Smile for life, since life is joy.

União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) dawned sadly on March 25.

We, from the trade union movement and from the communications area, have lost a fighting partner and a great professional. At the age of 54, Eduardo Pavão, a journalist, consultant and union adviser at the UGT, passed away, leaving a very large gap in our lives.

Pavão was a cheerful, lively, whole and coherent person. He leaves two children and an immense legacy that gives pride to all who had in him a true friend.

When we remember him, one of the musical quotations he has always liked to use and it was practically his daily motto: "Smile for life, since life is joy."

The staff of World UGT is sympathetic to his relatives and friends and shares the pain of all members of the great UGT Family.
Minister of Culture receives the visit of president of UGT

On March 28, Roberto Freire, Minister of Culture, received the visit of Ricardo Patah, president of União geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT, and confirmed his presence in the commemorations of Labor Day, organized by UGT to be held on May 1. The minister will attend the inauguration of the photographic exhibition that marks the opening of the festivities on April 23, in São Paulo.

Program of Strategic Trade Union Education

UGT’s National Department of Trade Union Education, with the support of the Institute of Higher Studies (IAE) and the Institute of Social Promotion (IPROS), presents the Strategic Trade Union Education Program.

The goal of this program is to enable union leaders to understand the contemporary economy and its implications in the world of work, forming workers' advocates, strengthening dialogue and, consequently, union action - so necessary in the struggle for social justice.

It is necessary to know the history, understand the political situation, understand the functioning of the economy, know the labor rights and achieve the real dimension of the difficulties and needs of the society in which one lives to fight for each of these items.

And these are the tools provided by UGT’s Strategic Trade Union Education Program. By discussing the main current issues that reach the population in general, it is intended to prepare union leaders to form and inform the basis of their category and, thus, reach an increasing number of active participation in society.

In order to get to know more and take this opportunity of knowledge to your trade union organization, contact UGT through its National Trade Union Education Department - formacaosindical@ugt.org.br.

Churches are against the Social Security Reform

The "Nota da CNBB sobre a PEC 287/16 - Reforma da Previdência", (Note of CNBB - National Conference of bishops of Brazil - on Bill 287/16 - Social Security Reform) of March 23 calls on Christians and people of good will "to mobilize to seek the best for the Brazilian people, especially the most fragile". Evangelical churches took a similar initiative, on March 31, in the "Pronunciamento das Igrejas Evangélicas Históricas do Brasil e Aliança Evangélica sobre Reforma Previdenciária" (Statement of the Historical Evangelical Churches of Brazil and the Evangelical Alliance on the Social Security Reform).

CNBB gathered a collection of considerations of churches, organizations, ecclesial groups and bishops in a notebook, which was launched on March 23 and has the goal of contributing to the debate on the Social Security Reform. This collection is worried about the initiative following legal channels at Congress, which it considers "a choice of the path of social exclusion".

On the other hand, the presidents and representatives of the historic evangelical churches, faced with the proposals for changes in the Brazilian social security system contained in the proposed amendment of the Constitution PEC 287/16, made their critical statement "in the fulfillment of their prophetic duty and in the exercise of the Christian faith".

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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