



GUW nurtures seminar on Political Brazil

The national directorship of **GUW (General Union of Workers)** got together on June, 29, at its headquarter, in São Paulo at the seminar "Political Brazil and the role of the Union Institutions" to discuss its participation on the partisan politics. The meeting started at 9:30 with an opening speech made by Ricardo Patah and counted on the presence of state chairpersons.

The morning was distinguished by lectures of representatives from the three political parties and evaluations of the juncture by national leaders of GUW. During the afternoon, the meeting was used to debate the issue at an internal level. When the time is right, a document on what was decided will be issued. All of the lecturers defended the idea that GUW should participate in the political/ electoral process, mainly to what concerns the legislative sphere, what would guarantee better conditions to defend the interests of workers in the governmental sphere.

The president of the National Board of the PPS party, Roberto Freire, the president of the National Board of the PV party, José Luiz de França Penna and the National President of the PMDB party union division, Washington Aparecido dos Santos, participated as special guests..



GUW repudiates once again the military coup in Honduras

The **General Union of Workers (GUW)**, through its president **Ricardo Patah**, repudiated this dictatorial action of the militaries that usurped on the power in Honduras, deposing the president Manoel Zelaya, democratically elected by the Honduran people. Through a note distributed on July, 6, **GUW** regrets that these episodes have been happening especially in a nation that signed, freely, the Inter-American Democratic Letter along with all the countries from that region and that such oppressions constitute a serious rupture to the constitutional order.

GUW, as well as all the democratic countries in the world, had already taken a position against the military coup that culminated in the deposition of the president Zelaya. "It's inconceivable that this pseudo new government doesn't have the sensitivity to see and listen to the clamor of the democratic world, through their governments and civil societies, condemning vehemently their actions that defile the good image that Honduras has besides affronting to the citizens rights of their people", reminds **Ricardo Patah**.

Aécio Neves receives the visit of G UW leaderships

The **governor Aécio Neves** received in his cabinet, on Wednesday, July, 1, the president of G UW (General Union of Workers), Ricardo Patah, and several leaderships of the institution, that gathers 5 million affiliates all over the country. In Minas, G UW represents almost 700 thousand workers connected to 16 metallurgic trade unions and also belonging to the services and commerce sector. They asked the governor for support to projects developed by the union central, among them, the one related to the capacitation of hotel workers in Minas Gerais aiming the Soccer World Cup of 2014 and also the implementation of a state minimum wage, following the example of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Paraná.



The support to projects of capacitation of hotel workers was one of the topics of the meeting. mpeonato internacional.

The governor stated that the initiative is important to ensure high quality customer services to the tourists that visit the state during the international championship. He also said that the Social Development State Department supports programs of workers capacitation in several regions of Minas and might sign a partnership with **G UW** with the goal of enlarging the range of the programed capacitation courses.

The secretary of the Social Development Department, **Agostinho Patrus**, also participated in the meeting at the Palácio da Liberdade.

G UW Bahia participates in commemorative manifestation of July, 2, 1823

Just like every year, the population of Bahia went out in the streets of the historical center of Salvador to celebrate the July, 2, with the same strength of Native-Americans and African-Americans that in 1823 defeated the Portuguese troops and consolidated the independence of Brazil. And **G UW (General Union of Workers) Bahia** was present with its militancy at this democratic party of Bahia.



G UW gathered around 100 activists swaying banners and flags creating a very positive impact. This was the first parade of G UW - Bahia at the largest democratic party of the state. The outstanding part of G UW members was due to the participation of colleagues from almost all the affiliated institutions, from unions until two federations related to G UW, Fecombase and Fenasetran.

End of unemployment and racial inequality were our words of order on July, 2, according to Mágnio Lavigne, Secretary of the Diversity Issues Department, of G UW

Reduction in working time for shift work is a victory of GUW

Workers filled up the auditorium of the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia

The approval of the reduction of working shifts, from 44 to 40 weekly hours, at the special committee of the Chamber of Deputies is a great victory to the working class and to the **General Union of Workers - GUW**.

The report presented by the deputy Vicentinho (PT party - São Paulo state) favorable to the proposal of the constitution amendment 231/95, was approved unanimously and represents a rescue to the citizens rights and hope to the working class.

The proposal, following legal channels for 14 years under the National Congress, also raises the value of the extra hour of 50% of the normal value to 75%. "This is the third time, in 100 years, that the working hours in Brazil are reduced. The first one was in 1943, then in 1988 and now, in 2009. It is also a victory of GUW, that in this two years since its foundation has been preaching the reduction of working time for shift work and social inclusion, with the enlargement of job positions", said Patah that was at present at the poll, accompanied by more than 300 workers and union leaderships from GUW, assuring that with the reduction of the working time for shift work it is possible to create more than 2,2 million jobs.

After the poll, Ricardo Patah said that the expectation is that the PEC gets voted by the plenary in early August. Patah assures that the central will talk to the deputy Michel Temer, president of the congress requesting urgency at the poll. He reminds that two months ago, when there was a public hearing with Temer, the deputy assured that in case the PEC was approved, it would be voted in the plenary as soon as possible.



"GUW sees Brazil in the right track to create new job positions and proportionate better life quality to the working class."

Ricardo Patah, president of the General Union of Workers (GUW)

GUW participates along with the government of the announcement of new measures to fight the crisis

The **General Union of Workers (GUW)**, represented by the **vice-president Lourenço Ferreira do Prado**, participated on Monday morning, June, 29, in the meeting with representatives of the Federal Government, when new measures to fight the crisis were announced. At the meeting held in the Itamarati headquarter, in Brasilia, the minister of Finances, Guido Manteda, announced the reduction of the Long-Term Interest Rate (TJLP) and the prolongation of the IPI in several products.

1. reduction of TJLP from 6,25% to 6%
2. prolongation of the reduction on the tax load related to IPI under the following way: trucks: until December/2009; vehicles: another three months; products of the white line (fridges): until October, 31; construction materials: until October, 31; motorcycles: another three months; wheat, flour and bread: during 18 months of tax exemption to 70 items of the so-called capital goods.

At the event, presided by the President of the Republic, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the ministers Dilma Russel - Chief of Staff Ministry, José Múcio - Institutional Relationships, Paulo Bernardo - Planning, Budget and Management and Franklin Martins - Communications.

Women represented G UW in Paraguay

An expressive delegation of women from **G UW (General Union of Workers)** participated in the **Regional Union Conference "Labour, Decent Life to Women and Men"** held in Asuncion, Paraguay. The main topic of discussions is the equality of gender opportunities.

In the picture, the Women's Affairs Minister of Paraguay, Gloria Rubin, Cassia Bufelli and the General Secretary of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, Victor Baez.



When the labour item was being discussed, the participants evaluated issues on the fight against sexual and moral harassment. The conference defends the equality in the access to work and the affirmative actions on the control of occupational diseases, besides equal salaries to jobs of equal values as recommended by the ILO (International Labour Organization) Convention No. 100.

As for the life issue, the women's discussion dealt with the fight against all kinds of discrimination and violence against women. Issues related to productive and reproductive labour are also being covered as well as family responsibilities, part of the ILO Convention No. 156.

The participation of women in the Union Movement was also discussed through the topics: "Guarantee of Shares in Union Leaderships" and "Unionize Campaigns", both towards women.

The coordination of the Regional Union Conference on Gender is under the responsibility of the Brazilian Cássia Bufelli Macari, adjunct secretary of the National Department of International Relationships of G UW and that also has the position of coordinator of the Women's Affairs Committee, from the Union Centrals Division of the Southern Cone.

G UW was present at the II CONAPIR

G UW was represented by the colleague **Cleonice Caetano Souza** and by **Patricia Santos** from the Diversity Affairs Department of the **Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo** and by the colleague **Ana Cristina dos Santos Duarte** from the State G UW division of Rio de Janeiro at the **2nd National Conference on Promoting Racial Equality (CONAPIR)**.

The Conference had its opening on June, 25, amongst presentations of gypsy music, Native American rites, Palestine dance and to the sound of Ilê Ayê. The debates happened until June, 28, with the participation of 1,3 thousand delegates elected all over the country, in which they discussed issues such as the formalization of former African-American lands, shares in universities, African related religions, politics to Native-American populations and the fight against the institutional racism.

"The politics on promoting racial equality are a crucial element in the process of the Brazilian development", stated the ministry of the Special Department on Politics on Promoting Racial Equality, **Edson Santos**.

General Secretary of ICEM visits G UW



G UW received in its headquarter, on July, 1, the visit of the general secretary of the **International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM)**, **Manfred Warda**.

Accompanying the general secretary was **Carol Bruce**, an ICEM Gender Issues Officer in South and Central America and the Caribbean.

The members of ICEM were received by the National Vice-President of G UW, **Laerte Teixeira da Costa**, **Marcos Afonso de Oliveira** (Secretary of Publicizing and Communication), **John Fernandes** (Secretary of Economic Issues), **José Gonzaga da Cruz** (Executive Board) and **Avelino Garcia** (Fiscal Council), among other chairpersons. The visit reached an invitation of the president of Fentec (National Federation of Industrial Technicians), **Wilson Wanderlei Vieira**, who also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, **Marcos Afonso** made a quick presentation on how G UW was founded. The secretary emphasized that, although being a new institution, with a little over a year since its foundation, G UW has already consolidated itself as the third largest union central of Brazil. **Manfred Warda** highlighted that the unification of unions and smaller institutions has been a trend. "In this globalized world, small unions are hardly prepared to face all the challenges", stated **Manfred**.

G UW supports course nurtured by bank workers from Franca

On June, 26, the Union of **Bank Workers of Franca and Surroundings (SEEBFR)** nurtured a solemn ceremony to congratulate 151 professionals graduated in its continuing education course. "So when you take a continuing education course it is accepted with so much joy, Because you realize that people want to learn, because learning, is never enough." he stated.



"We want, through the Union of Franca and surroundings, to extend these courses to other professional categories", **Salim** added. According to the president of the Union of Bank Workers of Franca, **Édson Roberto dos Santos**, the union counts on 1.280 affiliates, and an average of 70% participates in the courses. This course is accomplished by the Union of Bank Workers of Franca in a partnership with the Franca University, only to workers from this class. Among some of the courses given there are the ones of financial mathematics and credit analysis.



"The General Union of Workers (G UW) 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

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Adress : Rua Formosa, 367 - 24º andar Centro
Code 01049-000 São Paulo SP Brasil

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