



GUW fights at the National Congress

On October, 7, union leaders from the **General Union of Workers (GUW)** and other union centrals, participated in a National Congress activity where, through a conversation with deputies and senators, they pressured on the approval of projects that concern the working class.



The activity started in the morning, by the time the congress opened up. The main objective was to discuss the policies of increasing the minimum wage, reduction of working hours for shift work from 44 weekly hours to 40 hours, the pre-salt layer and the enlargement of rights and achievements.

The **Constitution Amendment Proposal (PEC) 231/95** reduces the working shifts down to 40 weekly hours without reducing the salaries and raised to 75% the payment value for extra hours.

The approval of these two measures, apart from making less exhaustive the shift, will improve the health conditions and safety at work, decreasing the number of accidents caused by fatigue, and enlarge the time the workers get to spend with their family, improve the professional capacitation and leisure, according to the **president of GUW, Ricardo Patah**.

Besides that, according to Patah, the reduction of shifts might create more than two millions job positions all over the country, according to studies from Dieese, which will elevate the salary masses and strengthen the internal market, accelerating the development in our country.

The **GUW** activity took place in the World Day for Decent Job, assembled by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and by the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)**, mobilized unions all over the world on October, 7.

March to Brasilia for 40 weekly hours will happen on November, 11

Union centrals defined that the **6th March March of the Working Class** will happen on November, 11. The **General Union of Workers - GUW**, along with other centrals, hopes to take over to Brasilia 30 thousand workers from all over the country so that it is approved, still this year, the reduction of working hours for shift works from 44 to 40 weekly hours without reducing salaries.

GUW also began, in São Paulo, the distribution of 500 thousand newspapers in defense of 40 hours, containing the names, phones and e-mails of the deputies from São Paulo that still haven't defined themselves favorably to the project. In other capitals and main Brazilian cities, GUW will also hold mobilizations aiming to denounce to the population who are the parliamentarians of their states that are against the project of reducing working shifts.

GUW Bank workers end strike

After 15 days of strike, bank workers voted yesterday for the end of the downtime and private banks reopen their doors to the public.

The negotiation was tough. In the beginning, the National Federation of Banks (Fenaban) stuck to the proposal previously done, a 4,5% readjustment, which the class didn't accept.

The fight arrangement of bank workers, according to the national command, forced banks to negotiate. A new proposal was done to a 6 % readjustment, with a real raise of 1,5% - if compared to the inflation measured by the National Index of Consumer Prices (INPC) in the period of September, 1, 2008 to August, 31, this year.



Bank workers from all the unions affiliated with the **General Union of Workers (GUW)**, after doing assemblies, decided to take the proposal. They were on strike since September, 23, when they went on strike for an undetermined time.

Bank workers rejected the proposal that was then offered by Fenaban - a 4,5% salary readjustment. The raise in their salaries being above the inflation and other achievements represent a great victory to the class.

Employees from the bank Nossa Caixa remain on the fight

"In the mobilization, bank workers from Nossa Caixa also played their part with a large adherence to the strike". David Zala, president of Feeb SP and MS, commented. "In our foundation, it was the bank that closed more bank agencies during the 15-day strike. Congratulations to our employees on the adherence to the movement even though we're living the doubts of the incorporation", he concludes. *(Susan Meire)*

Siemaco and GUW revert 2.706 dismissals

GUW, since its foundation two years ago, keeps a direct and organic linking with its unions and supports them in every conflict situation. This kind of integration, through Siemaco from São Paulo, the union of urban cleaning workers, and the General Union of Workers (GUW), that allowed us to revert, so far, 2.706 dismissals.

We remind that the 20% cut announced by the city hall of São Paulo in expenses of town sweeping led companies (irresponsibly) to start an accelerated process of dismissals.

After 15 days of a sustained dismissal, with the help of GUW, we were able to touch the mayor Gilberto Kassab and the city hall technicians convoked us for a meeting. At this point, 568 colleagues had been summarily fired. And the companies kept on with dismissals, that would come up, in over a week, to 3.274 workers. That is, 568 that had already been fired and another 1.300 that had already received advanced notices plus 1.406 colleagues that the companies found idle.

It was necessary, at that time, a one day protest strike, that happened on September, 21.

The result was a retreat from Kassab, after understandings with the governor Serra. Both mayor and governor acted worried about the effect of our movement in the public image they are trying to preserve.

Now, we are under a negotiation level, being the reverse of 568 dismissals our main demand. But we can, already, account with pride, that we were able to revert 2.706 dismissals, out of which 1.300 were under advanced warning.

Federation and unions of secretaries affiliate with G UW

Fenasec (National Federation of Secretaries) and other five unions from the same class affiliated with **G UW (General Union of Workers)**. The solemnity happened on Thursday morning, September, 24, at the national headquarter of **G UW**, with the presence of its operational board led by the **president Ricardo Patah**.

The option for G UW, according to the president Maria Bernadete Lieuthier, happens due to its "philosophy of work that coincide a lot with our federation and its 24 affiliated unions", she said.



State unions of secretaries from Bahia, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro and the Federal District joined **G UW**, besides the one from Campinas and metro region. This class is represented by 2 millions workers all over Brazil, according to a research done in 2002.

While saluting the new affiliated institutions, the president Patah made a synopsis of the activities developed by G UW in its two years of existence and the ideals it defends inside an ethic and innovative unionism, and also towards citizens. He quoted the campaigns to improve workers life conditions in the education, health and transports area, and the fight against women and gender discrimination, giving the example that the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo, which is also affiliated with G UW, and already managed to acquire great advances, regretting that currently, it is still hard to find African American workers in a mall, "because employers rather pay twice the salary to a white employee than hiring an African-American one", the president Ricardo Patah explained it.

The president of Fenasec said that, currently, there are 24 affiliated unions, out of which at least 15 are already affiliated with G UW, "but I hope, when the time is due, to bring them all in", she declared. In Rio de Janeiro, according to the president Geralda Ribeiro de Freitas, there are at least 400 workers on its foundation. The **General Secretary, Canindé Pegado** made an illustrated exhibition via slideshow on the growth of G UW.

Medeiros delivers at G UW union letters for motorcycle couriers



The **secretary of Labour Relationships, Luiz Antonio de Medeiros**, went over to the national headquarter of **G UW** on September, 24, to deliver union letters to the motorcycle couriers unions of Santos and Guarulhos. He was received by the president Ricardo Patah and the General Secretary, Canindé Pegado.

While opening the solemnity, the president Patah highlighted the importance of motorcycle couriers, regretting the fact that it is an ungrateful profession as a consequence from several accidents, many of them resulting in deaths.

Through a short speech, Luiz Antonio de Medeiros said that the motorcycle couriers class has a differential and it is recognized under the law. After that, he called the presidents Paulão and Robson, respectively from the unions of Santos and Guarulhos, to deliver a Union Letter, "a document that gives juridical conditions of this institution to represent the class", reminds Patah. **Gil, president of the Union of Motorcycle Couriers of São Paulo**, said that other unions, such as the one from Jundiaí, Osasco and Mogi das Cruzes, are also waiting for this document.

G UW state branch of Paraíba is born

On September, 23, in João Pessoa, it took place the Foundation Congress of the **G UW** state branch of Paraíba.

G UW Paraíba is born with 27 unions, and it elected as its **president José Silva Vieira, president of the union of DETRAN Paraíba**, "Vieira", as he is called, emphasized in his tenure speech that he will spare no effort to elevate G UW-PB as the largest G UW central in northeast.



We must also highlight the massive presence of political leaders from the state of Paraíba, such as the State Deputy Branco, natural of Aguiar and the State Deputy Lindolfo Pires, city councillors and mayors from cities and towns of Paraíba were also present at the event.

The congress also counted on the presence of the National President of G UW, Ricardo Patah; Chiquinho Pereira, Secretary of Political and Union Organizations at G UW and President of the Union of Bakers of São Paulo; the president of G UW Santa Catarina, Mazinho; the president of G UW Pernambuco, Gustavo Walfrido, who was accompanied by the president of the Commerce Workers Union of Pernambuco, Severino Ramos. We highlight the presence of the president of FETAG-PB, Federation of Agriculture Workers of Paraíba, Liberalino Ferreira aka "O Caboclinho" whose federation counts on 223 rural unions.

G UW participates in Native-American walk in Bahia

Nearly 900 people participated, on September, 27, in the 9th Martyrs Walk, promoted by the Tupinambá community, from Olivença, that had the support of G UW (General Union of Workers) Bahia. The event is a remembrance of facts that happened in the 1930s.

The **General Union of Workers, through its secretary of the Human Diversity Issues Department, Magno Lavigne**, affirms in its speech that "native American land demarcation will be fruit of the unit of leaders and the pressure we will make along with the government. G UW will always be on the side of fair fights so that the Brazilian society makes reparation to the ones that historically suffered".

Plenary session gathers 75 unions in Jaú

The **General Union of Workers (G UW)** promoted on October, 1, in the city of Jaú, the plenary session of rural workers of the state of São Paulo.

The event had discussions on the main demands of rural workers unions of the state of São Paulo and gathered 75 unions of rural workers of the state.



"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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